



**City of  
Santa Clara**  
The Center of What's Possible

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September 3, 2019

Board of Directors  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118

Board of Directors,

This letter is being sent on behalf of the Santa Clara City Council to encourage the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) to work with the Intel Corporation on a plan to preserve the Freedom Bridge. As you are aware, the Freedom Bridge is utilized daily by numerous bicyclists and pedestrians commuting and recreating along the San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail. Late last year, Valley Water issued a letter to Intel indicating Valley Water was terminating Intel's lease agreement for the Freedom Bridge and requiring Intel to remove the bridge.

On June 29, 2018, Valley Water Board member Richard Santos hosted a Trail Summit to discuss overcoming challenges and leveraging opportunities to advance trails along the waterways. The City of Santa Clara City Council believes the preservation of the Freedom Bridge fits within the goals of the Trail Summit and that Valley Water should seriously explore some alternative options with Intel to keep the bridge open as opposed to Valley Water's current direction to remove it. Valley Water has indicated some general reasons for the bridge to be removed, but it appears there has been no significant efforts put forth to evaluate the bridge and work on a plan with Intel to preserve it along with the benefit the bridge provides to numerous people living and working in the Bay Area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Gillmor  
Mayor

Cc: City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney