



Date *2.9.2023*
Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program

Johannes Hoevertsz
Sonoma County Public Infrastructure
2300 County Center Drive, Suite B100
Santa Rosa, California 95403

RE: Asti Permanent Bridge Letter of Support

Director Hoevertsz,

We are writing this letter in support of a permanent bridge at the Asti Crossing location on the Russian River, Sonoma County.

A permanent crossing at Asti means shorter transport times for ingress for fire, medical and sheriff vehicles, which we believe will result in better outcomes for medical emergencies, a faster response for wildland or building fires and residents being able to rely on swifter responses by first responders and law enforcement.

More importantly, it means both shorter and in some cases the ONLY means of egress during wildfire emergencies for residents in this area. It is well known that in late summer we often experience wildfires driven by northeasterly "Diablo" winds which can prevent access to the northern bridge escape route. In those instances an Asti bridge is the sole means of escape.

Currently, a temporary bridge is installed by Sonoma County Public Infrastructure every summer and removed every fall. The increasing costs and negative environmental impact of continuously reinstalling/removing a temporary bridge at Asti is of great concern, to include the deterioration of the riverbank and the disruption of critical natural habitats. If a permanent bridge were to be built, these costs and disruptions would cease.

Given the great benefit this project would have on residents and the environment alike, we wholeheartedly support the Asti Permanent Bridge, and hope to see this project completed in the near future.

Thank you,

Judith Johnson RN COPE Lch. Palomino Lopez

Your name

Asti-Cloverdale Communities Organized to Prepare for Emergencies