



Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District & Cloverdale Fire Protection District



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Subject: **Letter of Support for a Permanent Crossing of the Russian River at
Washington School Road, Cloverdale (Asti Crossing), Sonoma County**

Dear Board of Supervisors:

The Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District and the Cloverdale Fire Protection District jointly submit this letter in support of the effort to replace the temporary (Asti Crossing) bridge with a permanent bridge.

For several years, we have stated that the single most important thing that the County could do to protect the safety of citizens in this area was the construction of a year-around permanent bridge. Since we always put citizen safety above all other concerns, we have been in favor of that solution for quite a while.

We understand there are tensions between the safety of citizens, particularly from wildfire, and the environmental concerns and the damage done by installing and uninstalling the temporary bridge. We are similarly aware that there are tensions between the costs involved and those same safety concerns.

We believe the community has finally arrived at a point where there is a win-win solution. As the costs of annual installation and uninstallation have risen and as the expansion of the beginning and ending dates of fire season has occurred due in part to climate change and resulting environmental concerns so too have the dangers to citizens become more acute.

We believe that the work of the Alexander Valley Citizens League to garner support amongst property owners for a permanent bridge coupled with their funding of a feasibility study showing

the costs of such a bridge suggest clearly that a bridge paid for 20% by a special financing district and 80% by the County would actually save the County money over the next 20 years and would eliminate the environmental concerns completely.

Most importantly, from our perspective, it would be a major boon to providing emergency services support to the citizens on the east side of the Russian River.

We therefore strongly encourage the County to proceed with due haste to support this project before we see another fire like the Pocket Fire endanger both lives and property

Sincerely,



Marshall Turbeville
Chief, Northern Sonoma County
Fire Protection District



Jason Jenkins
Chief, Cloverdale Fire
Protection District