

The Alameda Business Association
919 The Alameda
San Jose, CA 95126

www.the-alameda.com

January 28, 2008

Mr. Rod Diridon, Sr.
President and Chairman
California Trolley and Railroad Corporation (CTRC)
c/o Mineta Transportation Institute
210 North 4th Street, Fourth Floor
San Jose, CA 95112

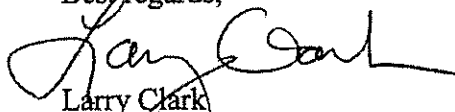
Dear Mr. Diridon:

I represent the Alameda Business Association which is dedicated to the improvement of our neighborhood business district here in the City of San Jose. We have more than 100 active, local businesses that participate in our association. Our geographic area stretches on and near The Alameda from the border of Santa Clara and San Jose to the railroad over-crossing at Stockton Avenue, proximate to the Diridon Station. Our street was established in 1799 when Fr. Catala from the Santa Clara Mission directed his neophytes to plant willow trees along the avenue the shade the way of early inhabitants of San Jose. The street first served as the essential link between early San Jose and the Mission Santa Clara, accommodated the first stagecoach line in California and was home to the first interurban railroad in the state. Our history is inextricably tied to the history of transportation in California. Our history is important to us because it serves to define and differentiate the unique character of our business district. We are working to preserve that history here on The Alameda.

We were very excited to learn of the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation's (CTRC) Historical Restoration Project. The site chosen for the exhibition park is within a mile of The Alameda and this project would contribute to the vitality of The Alameda itself. The concept of such a trolley and railroad park fits hand in glove with what we are trying to accomplish here in our district. We have seen, over the years, a depletion of the historical structures that populated our street. Your Historical Restoration Project reverses that trend in an important way: it brings back to life an important piece of San Jose history and the history of the West. We also think that it is an opportunity that only presents itself today. If we do not act, this opportunity will be gone like many of the buildings here on The Alameda – The Beautiful Way.

Economically, we believe that your project will benefit the small business people in our district. Our restaurants, shops and service businesses will benefit as they accommodate a new crop of destination driven visitors. And if they are interested in the history that the CTRC will showcase, we believe they will be drawn to The Alameda as well. Our organization is unanimous in its support of this project.

Best regards,


Larry Clark
President

Alameda Business Association

cc: Ken Middlebrook