

CLOVERDALE HEALTH CARE DISTRICT
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Mr. Johannes Hovertsz
Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works
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Subject: **Letter of Support for a Permanent Crossing of the Russian River at Washington School Road, (Asti Crossing)**

Dear Board of Supervisors:

The Cloverdale Health Care District is pleased to submit this letter in support of the effort to replace the temporary (Asti Crossing) bridge with a permanent bridge. For many years we have stated that one of the single most important projects that the County could do to protect the safety and welfare of citizens in this particular area is the construction of a year-around permanent bridge. Since we as a Health Care District, who provides the only emergency medical service, in the north county, always put our citizen's health and welfare above all other concerns, we have been in favor of this solution for many years.

We understand there are tensions between the safety of citizens, particularly those with time-critical health emergencies, and the environmental concerns and the potential damage done by installing and uninstalling the temporary bridge. We are similarly aware that there are hard decisions to be made between the costs involved in a permanent solution and those same health and safety concerns.

We believe this particular rural 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 the expansion of the fire season. Which has become more unpredictable in length and ferociousness, resulting in environmental concerns so too have the dangers to citizens. We as an emergency medical provider can also realize benefits to the health and survivability of our rural patients by this permanent bridge solution.

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

These actions clearly suggest that a bridge paid for by a combination of a special financing district and other government funds would actually save the County money over the next 20 years and would eliminate the environmental concerns completely.

Most importantly, from our perspective, it could be a true lifesaving measure in certain instances while providing emergency medical services to the citizens on the east side of the Russian River. This solution eliminates a long egress out of the area and shortens emergency transport times by 10-15 minutes.

We therefore strongly encourage the County to support this project with time and resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas K. Henn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

On Behalf of the Board of Directors