

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## PETALUMA'S WATER STREET TRESTLE SET TO CARRY ANEW THE WEIGHT OF HISTORY AS THE CALIFORNIA STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY GREEN LIGHTS REHABILITATION PLAN FUNDING

### \$500,000 Rehabilitation Design Grant Sets Stage for Restored Public Access and Possible Future Return of Trolley Service to Petaluma

PETALUMA, CA (Oct. 28) - On Thursday, October 21st, the State Coastal Conservancy approved a grant of \$475,000 to the City of Petaluma to complete necessary analysis and engineered designs for the rehabilitation of the historic trestle along the Petaluma River in downtown Petaluma. One of Petaluma's most significant historic landmarks, the 1920s railroad structure has come to symbolize Petaluma's unique charm and its history as the shipping corridor of Sonoma County. The Water Street Trestle is slated for half-million dollar assessment and engineering designs as early as January 2011, pending approval by Petaluma's Mayor, Pamela Torliatt, who worked hard to obtain this grant, and the City Council when it convenes to consider accepting the Conservancy's \$475,000 grant. The Trestle last transported freight locomotives in 1994, after which time it was closed to rail transportation. The trestle enjoyed use for river-related events for roughly the next five years until it was deemed unsafe for public access. It has quietly continued to deteriorate since that time. Until now.

According to Sam Schuchat, executive officer for the Conservancy, "The Petaluma trestle played a key role in linking people to the river up until a few years ago and, with some planning and effort, it can do that again. This historical public waterfront can find a new life in our time."

Petaluma's Mayor, Pamela Torliatt, says: "This is a great example of what we can accomplish by working together to invest in Petaluma's economy. This project will help create jobs now, and restoration of the trestle will allow us to eliminate blight and provide economic revitalization for the City. I am grateful to the Coastal Conservancy, SMART, Petaluma Trolley, and other stakeholders for working with the city on this great project."

A vital step toward rehabilitating this historic structure, the restoration planning process, of which the Conservancy will fund 95%, will take 18 to 24 months and will produce final engineered designs and permits for the rehabilitation of the in trestle for public access. The design will restore bicycle and pedestrian access to the trestle as a section of the Petaluma River Trail. The design is also anticipated to support rail use over  
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## CALIFORNIA COASTAL CONSERVANCY APPROVES TRESTLE GRAND – Add Two

the 500-foot trestle for the potential return of the historic trolley. The Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART), which owns the structure, and the City of Petaluma will provide the \$25,000 (5%) of the funding to complete the trestle rehabilitation design. PETALUMA TROLLEY and supporters see the City and SMART's rehabilitation design as the first phase of a six-phase plan, developed by PETALUMA TROLLEY to restore historic trolley service on a 3-mile stretch of rail from downtown Petaluma to the Petaluma Premium Factory Outlets.

PETALUMA TROLLEY's Managing Director, Christopher Stevick, who, along with organization president Lauren Williams has spearheaded a non-profit corporation that lead to the opening of the Petaluma Trolley Living History Railway Museum in the DeCarli Trolley Barn at Baylis and Washington Streets, says: "In 1998, we first floated the idea of bringing back the Trestle and historic trolley service, and then assembled a team to see the vision through. We received immediate support from Pam Torliatt and have since amassed a level of support from Petalumans that might only be trumped by the clarion call of the trolley bell when trolleys roll out of the station within five years. We are honored and thrilled by the State Coastal Conservancy's decision to give

the ‘Go-Ahead’ to funding the design, engineering and permitting to enable the Water Street Trestle restoration.”

The non-profit PETALUMA TROLLEY Living History Museum, says that restoration of the Water Street Trestle will produce a number of proactive cultural and economic benefits for the City. Among them:

- Trestle restoration is projected to create an additional 10,000 square feet of public access to the River;
- Trestle restoration will reveal and celebrate Petaluma’s historic link to, and dependence on, its River;
- It will encourage the completion of the River Walk, a section of the Petaluma River Trail, as defined in the Petaluma River Enhancement Plan by adding ‘a jewel to the heart of downtown;
- It will stimulate River recreation and exploration and increased visits from the boating community;
- A restored Trestle will serve as a town square for outdoor civic events and a balcony for River-related events;
- The presence of a restored Trestle will educate locals and visitors to the importance of environmental management and help develop an understanding and respect for sensitive ecosystems.
- As a symbol of Petaluma’s unique charm, the restored trestle will secure Petaluma a historic destination as a gateway to Sonoma County.

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#### CALIFORNIA COASTAL CONSERVANCY APPROVES TRESTLE GRAND – Add Three

The PETALUMA TROLLEY Living History Railway Museum, located at 110 Baylis Street, Petaluma, California, is an all volunteer public benefit, 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation whose goals include: interpreting to the public the Petaluma & Santa Rosa Railway and its Northern California agricultural and cultural history; restoring historic railcars at the museum’s downtown Petaluma and Willits, California trolley car yards; and returning historic trolley service to the City of Petaluma. For more information, or to join the Museum, please contact: Leslie Wietinger, membership chair at: [lweitinge.petalumatrolley@gmail.com](mailto:lweitinge.petalumatrolley@gmail.com) or visit: [www.petalumatrolley.org](http://www.petalumatrolley.org).

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