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Special Edition

November 1979

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the residents of the West Pasadena and San Rafael areas about issues of possible concern. It is the hope of W.P.R.A. to publish this newsletter four times a year. The editors wish to keep the newsletter informal and welcome any news articles, suggestions, comments, and help. Do call us.

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WPRA SEEKS FUNDING FOR COLORADO STREET BRIDGE STUDY

The Board of Directors has approved a solicitation of contributions from WPRA members to fund a professional engineering study of structural problems in the Colorado Street Bridge. The study, which will cost \$4,500, is proposed to be funded by the City of Pasadena, West Pasadena Residents Association, Pasadena Heritage and the Atlantic Richfield Foundation. An independent study of the bridge is needed at this time to determine ways of preserving this famous landmark in west Pasadena.

PLEASE READ THIS SPECIAL NEWSLETTER NOW AND PROMPTLY SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION IN THE ENCLOSED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. Contributions or payments to the City for a public purpose are tax deductible.

Our community is currently facing a dilemma resulting from structural problems observed in the bridge. Built in 1913 of reinforced concrete, it is rapidly deteriorating in a manner which is apparently common in structures of this age and material composition. Demolition of the bridge is being discussed as the only feasible course of action.

The Colorado Street Bridge, an architectural and historic landmark recognized throughout Southern California, is both a City Landmark under Pasadena's cultural heritage ordinance and an Historic Civil Engineering Landmark under citation of the Los Angeles Society of Civil Engineers. It is also eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Funds for rehabilitation are available through the Federal Highway Act, but such funds are extremely limited. Caltrans has advised the Pasadena Public Works Department that the Colorado Street Bridge does not rank highly enough, in terms of priority, to be granted funds for its repair in the immediate future. Public Works has further been advised to seek federal funds for a *replacement* bridge, because replacement funding is more plentiful.

A proposal has been made to commission an independent study and analysis of the bridge to provide recommendations on alternatives to demolition of the structure. Mel Green & Associates of El Segundo, recognized authorities in the field of structural engineering, are available to perform the study. The study could result in new information which is helpful in saving and rehabilitating the bridge.

The total cost of this study is estimated at \$4,500. The Board of Directors of WPRA believes that the members will want to assist in funding this study. Partial funding has been obtained from the Atlantic Richfield Foundation and Pasadena Heritage. Funding is being sought from the City of Pasadena.

If done, the report will be completed for presentation to the City Board of Directors in late January, 1980. It is hoped, of course, that the outcome of the investigation will lead to methods of preserving the structure which is of unquestionable significance. We are certain that it will bring new insight to the problem and provide for a more enlightened decision within the community.

Given the drastic nature of the demolition proposal, widespread support in funding this independent study will demonstrate the community desire to preserve the Colorado Street Bridge.

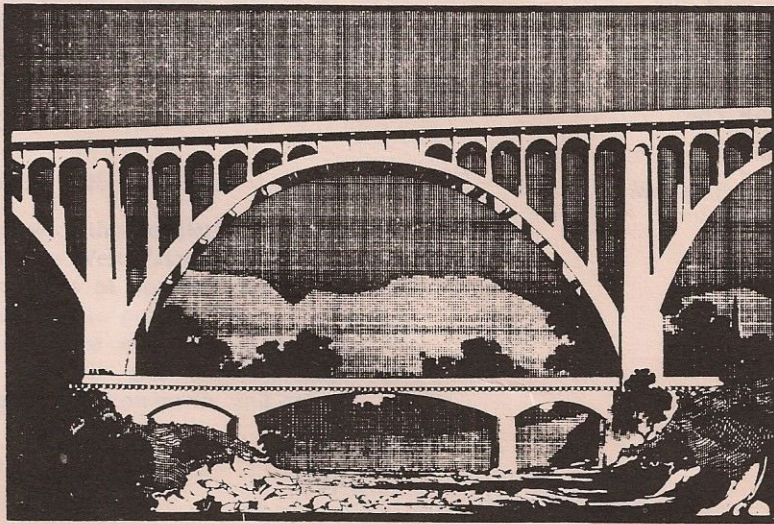
**LETTER FROM
CITY DIRECTOR BILL BOGAARD**

I seek your support for a special engineering study to determine ways to rehabilitate the Bridge. The deteriorating condition of the Colorado Street Bridge is of serious concern to me and to other City Directors. Caltrans has suggested that this structure be demolished and replaced. Before this approach is adopted, every means of keeping it should be considered. My hope is that work can get underway to protect the Bridge from further damage. I trust that you share this desire to retain the Bridge.

William J. Bogaard
Director, District 6

**NOTICE OF
AN IMPORTANT MEETING**

Officials from the General Services Administration and the Department of the Interior will be holding a meeting in Pasadena to discuss the plans for the Vista del Arroyo Hotel Complex. The meeting will occur at Pasadena City Hall, 100 North Garfield, in the City Council Chambers at 1:30 p.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. on November 28. The public is invited to attend either of the sessions to learn more about the disposition of the Vista del Arroyo property and/or to express any concerns.



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