

JENNIFER AYDELOTT LAKE



October 8, 2008

Mr. Brooks Firestone, Third District Supervisor
c/o the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
260 North San Antonio Road, Suite B
Santa Barbara, California 93110

Re: Proposed Safety Barrier, Cold Spring Arch Bridge

Dear Mr. Firestone,

I am writing in support of the proposed installation of a safety barrier at Cold Spring Arch Bridge.

My cousin, Matt Aydelott, died at the bridge on September 8. Matt was an exceptional person who made a significant contribution to the lives of countless young people in the state of California. As a teacher at Cuesta College, Matt was directly responsible for developing educational and career opportunities for at-risk youth, and he created a workplace readiness program for students in need.

Matt's death represents a tremendous and devastating loss, not only to those of us who loved him, but to the local community who benefited from his commitment to helping others. This loss could have been prevented by the construction of a safety barrier. I understand that you have been instrumental in the development of the Caltrans barrier project, and I extend my sincere thanks to you for your efforts, which I hope will one day spare others the terrible grief that my family and I have suffered.

In addition to my personal reasons for supporting the barrier, I believe the available facts provide compelling evidence in favor its construction, based on my examination of the arguments and my professional evaluation of the relevant scientific literature in my capacity as a research scientist. I am currently a lecturer in psychology at the University of London, where I am co-director of a research laboratory, and I have a B. A. from Wellesley College and a Ph.D from Brown University.

I have also evaluated the arguments against the proposed barrier project, made by opponents such as the "Friends of the Bridge" organization, and find that these arguments are based on misleading information.

I have attached a document summarizing the evidence in favor of the barrier and responding point-by-point to the objections raised by its opponents. I hope you will consider the content of this document, and make this information available at the SBCAG hearing on October 16.

I urge you to continue your support for the Caltrans barrier project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JAL", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Aydelott Lake