

Laura Godinez

From: Andy Wellspring <andywellspring@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 12:26 PM
To: Laura Godinez
Subject: public comment for Public Safety meeting, agenda item 3A. Discussion regarding Suicide Deterrent Net on Noyo River Bridge

To the City of Fort Bragg and Fort Bragg Police Department,

The issue of what to do to prevent suicides on the Noyo Bridge has been on my mind a lot lately. I am happy to see there is already movement on this topic.

I do disagree with the choice of promoting a net though, I believe our community should push CalTrans to install a fence.

Look at all the walkways that go over freeways, Ukiah and the Bay Area are examples, they have fences that prohibit even trying.

I believe a tall chainlink (or CalTrans approved version of chain link) fence will do more prevention, in the moment when someone has these tragic thoughts, they will not be able to go over the railing at all.

A net will cause additional problems, what happens with the person after they are caught in the net? Is jumping illegal and will they now face a fine or jail time? They are already hurting so much to even have this thought of jumping, they do not need legal problems in addition. The police chief's staff report indicates that the net on the Golden Gate Bridge is designed to cause injury so the person will not want to do it again, this will also mean medical bills and a person in this mental state of mind does not need additional health problems nor financial problems.

I think we can enjoy wonderful views of our coast from a multitude of locations and partially obscuring the view for motorists on the Noyo Bridge is even smaller than a small "price to pay" for increased public safety and prevention of suicide in particular. A fence of any CalTrans approved kind will not obscure the view entirely, and furthermore the amount of time it takes to drive over the bridge is very short and drivers should be focused on the road anyways.

In conclusion, a fence brings total prevention with no drawback in my opinion. A net does not bring total prevention and does in fact add a series of other issues that will be difficult to address. I urge the City of Fort Bragg and the Fort Bragg police department to change course and advocate for a fence on the Noyo Bridge instead of a net.

Thank you,
Andy Wellspring