



Promoting the bicycle for everyday use.

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Dear Sirs,

**NOTICE OF DANGEROUS CONDITION**

Under California Government Code Section 835.2, you are hereby placed on actual notice of dangerous conditions of public property. The following conditions on your property create a substantial risk of injury when your property is used with due care in a manner in which it is reasonably foreseeable that it will be used:

Storm drain grates on Purissima Road present extreme hazards to bicycles. There are at least 3 grates which will allow a bicycle wheel to fall through, and may cause the bicyclist to crash and sustain serious injury. These grates have bars that run parallel to the direction of travel, with gaps that are in excess of one inch.

Known locations of these grates are: one at the corner of Purissima and Arastradero, and two, on opposite sides of the street, approximately 1600 ft further southwest on Purissima. There may be other hazardous grates in this area.

On page 3-3 of the VTA Bicycle Technical Guidelines (December 13, 2007) (see [http://www.vta.org/schedules/bikeways\\_program.html](http://www.vta.org/schedules/bikeways_program.html)) it states:

**3.2.2 Design of Drainage Grates**

Only drainage grates depicted in Caltrans Standard Plans D77B-Bicycle-Proof Grate Details or otherwise known to be bicycle-safe may be used on all roadways per HDM 837.2. Regardless of type of roadway or placement on the roadway, all grates on the roadway should be bicycle-proof.

It goes on to say that attempting to retrofit grates by welding on crossbars is generally an unsatisfactory solution.

This issue was first brought to your attention in an email from Steve Hubbell to Richard Chiu on July 4, 2009, and then in subsequent phone calls to a Mr. Johnson in Public Works.

If you have any questions or need further information, do not hesitate to contact me at [paul@svbcbikes.org](mailto:paul@svbcbikes.org).

Sincerely,

Paul Goldstein  
Policy Chair, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

cc: Steve Hubbell <[hubbellsj@gmail.com](mailto:hubbellsj@gmail.com)>  
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