

(letter from Don Fong to Metro Santa Cruz, June 28, 1998)

Editors:

Despite Ron Goodman's obfuscations (6/24), the facts remain as I stated. People Power has consistently supported paving a direct path thru Arana Gulch, putting the interests of bicyclists above the needs of endangered species.

Goodman protests, "People Power still has no resolution in favor of our own plan." But he conveniently neglects to mention that People Power **has** passed resolutions backing **other** plans that cut thru the Gulch and that would be just as destructive.

Goodman says People Power remains "concerned" about

ecological damage. That's about as useful as Bill Clinton saying, "I feel your pain."

Goodman cites People Power's support for the Harbor Bridge option that would spare the Gulch. Yet despite pleas from other supporters of the Harbor Bridge, People Power obstinately refused to rescind their support for a direct path. Their two-faced support effectively undercut the Harbor Bridge and ensured its demise.

Goodman says People Power's new plan avoids areas where the tarplant has been found. That shows about as much ecological sensitivity as a logger leaving one tree standing because it has a spotted owl's nest in it.

I doubt People Power's position even represents their own grassroots membership. In my experience, most People Power members are the kind of folks who want to be models of environmental responsibility --- not the kind who'd want to pave over endangered species habitat just so they could get to Capitola Mall a little faster.

--- Don Fong