Caltrans sued over Fremont road-widening project

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FREMONT -- An environmental group is suing the California Department of Transportation over the agency's plans to widen a highway through Niles Canyon that connects Fremont to Sunol.

The Alameda Creek Alliance says in the suit filed on Tuesday that the Highway 84 project would damage Alameda Creek.

The creek runs through the canyon and serves as habitat for the endangered California red-legged frog.

Alameda Creek Alliance Director Jeff Miller tells the San Francisco Chronicle the project amounts to an assault on the creek and canyon.

Caltrans has been planning to widen Highway 84 for more than a decade. The agency says the project is needed to increase the highway's safety.

It plans to plant three to five trees for every tree it removes from the creek watershed.