

October 23, 2006

Thank You Members!

A huge thank you to our new and renewing members! We had a fantastic response to our membership drive, and the Alameda Creek Alliance now has 1,225 members.

Stonybrook Creek Culvert Will be Replaced With Bridge

The California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) began environmental review in June of 2005 for the Route 84 Improvements Project in Niles Canyon, which includes adding a turn lane off Niles Canyon Road onto Palomares Road and modifying a CalTrans road crossing culvert at the bottom of Stonybrook Creek. The existing cement box culvert is undersized and a potential barrier to steelhead trout migration into Stonybrook Creek. Lower Stonybrook Creek contains about two miles of potential spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead. The Alameda Creek Alliance and regulatory agencies had concerns that the original project proposed by CalTrans, which would have routed Stonybrook Creek through two concrete culverts under Niles Canyon Road, did not adequately address fish passage up Stonybrook Creek.

CalTrans has recently confirmed that they will replace the existing box culvert with a free span bridge, which will ensure fish passage into Stonybrook Creek, avoid hydraulic constraints that could lead to erosion or limit fish passage, and maintain a natural stream channel in Stonybrook Creek.

Alameda Creek Interview to Air on Channel 29

The League of Women Voters program "Voting Matters" on Public Access TV Channel 29 will air a half-hour interview with me about the Alameda Creek Restoration every Wednesday night in November (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th), from 7:30-8:00 pm. If you get cable TV Channel 29 and are able to videotape this program, please contact me.

YES on Measure K Campaign Contribution Request

From the Yes on Measure K Campaign:

The YES on Measure K campaign is a grassroots movement to provide every Fremont voter the opportunity to have a voice in a major land use decision: Do we want to preserve the rural character of the Coyote Hills Natural Area with its 520 acres of farmland, creeks, and seasonal wetlands, or do we want to heavily develop and urbanize that area? Alameda Creek Alliance's early endorsement of the Protect Coyote Hills Natural Area Initiative, Measure K, has been very important in this campaign and is truly appreciated.

With less than three weeks left in what promises to be a close election, our opponents,

Cargill Corporation and the Patterson heirs, are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to try to ensure that they can pave over the land. The \$75 billion-a-year multinational corporation and the wealthy absentee landowners will likely spend a million dollars on spreading lies and threats through media ads, mailers, and phone bankers.

As this campaign races towards the ballot box, we need to continue to get the word out to Fremont voters about the land protections of Measure K. We ask you to consider giving \$30, \$50, or more to help us accomplish this task. You can make your donation online at www.ProtectCoyoteHills.org

Be a part of making history! Passage of Measure K on November 7th will have a profound effect on the quality of life for residents of Fremont and the entire Bay Area.

Most sincerely,
Elaine Szeto, Ann Rice, and Jana Sokale
Friends of Coyote Hills and Fremont
YES on Measure K Campaign

Sinbad Creek Outreach - October 28 and November 4

Volunteers are needed for door-to-door outreach about our steelhead restoration efforts to residents along Sinbad Creek in Sunol on October 28th and November 4th. Please contact Diana Brumbaugh, ACA Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, for more information: alamedavolunteer@yahoo.com or (510) 794-4252.

San Joaquin River Salmon Restoration

Last month, the Natural Resources Defense Council achieved a historic settlement in an 18-year court battle to restore California's San Joaquin River and revive the southernmost run of Chinook salmon in North America. The agreement with Central Valley farmers and the Bush administration will restore the San Joaquin near Fresno below the Friant Dam, which has diverted nearly the entire river since the 1940s, leaving 60 miles of the river bone dry in most years and completely wiping out its fabled salmon runs. The settlement will be one of the most important river restoration efforts in the nation's history, improving water quality for more than 23 million people and restoring one of California's largest rivers while preserving a major agricultural industry.

The settlement was almost derailed by the efforts of a few water districts and others who oppose restoring water to some areas, who attempted to persuade Congress to change the settlement in a way that could set a dangerous precedent for the Endangered Species Act. The parties in the San Joaquin River restoration settlement satisfied the misgivings of some downstream water users and land owners who had voiced concerns about unintended impacts from the settlement. The agreement clears the way for the historic plan to restore the San Joaquin River to move forward. See <http://www.nrdc.org/media/pressreleases/060927a.asp>

Hatchery vs. Wild Salmon

Hatchery salmon and steelhead threaten wild fish populations in many ways. Recent research shows that captive raised fish do not survive well in the wild, produce few young that survive to breed and do not pass on the instincts and other traits that let wild fish thrive. Read the recent article in the Oregonian about the success of wild vs. hatchery fish:

<http://www.oregonlive.com/search/index.ssf?/base/news/1160535368278230.xml?oregonian?lctop&coll=7>