

Alameda Creek Watershed News

Action Alert - Niles Canyon to Become a Freeway?

A proposed CalTrans project to widen Highway 84 would cut hundreds of native trees along Alameda Creek and could forever change the bucolic character of Niles Canyon.

CalTrans has released the Environmental Impact Report for the *Niles Canyon Safety Improvement Project*, which would widen and add shoulders to Niles Canyon road from Palomares Road to Highway 680, construct nearly two miles of retaining walls, and remove over 260 native trees from the Alameda Creek riparian corridor.

Safety statistics show that Niles Canyon does not have higher rate of accidents, but that a high percentage of the accidents that happen are fatal. Widening the road will not change that, in fact it will likely encourage people to drive faster. CalTrans proposes soft median barriers, so there will be no deterrents to head-on collisions.

CalTrans will mitigate for the 5 acres of native trees lost, but at a July public meeting in Sunol on the project, confirmed that much of the replanting will not be along Alameda Creek. If you care about the scenic character of Niles Canyon and the importance of the creek corridor for wildlife, **please write to CalTrans and comment on the project**. There are alternatives to cutting down so many trees and cutting into hillsides to build retaining walls that can improve road safety. The project would turn Niles Canyon into an even bigger funnel for traffic.

Read the [Environmental Impact Report](#)

Comments on the EIR for the project are due by August 23. **Send written comments to:**

Valerie Heusinkveld, Environmental Branch Chief
Attention: Oliver Iberien
Department of Transportation
Office of Environmental Analysis MS 8B
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612

Submit comments via e-mail to:

valerie_heusinkveld@dot.ca.gov

Marin Coho Salmon Action Alert

On August 10th the Marin Board of Supervisors will vote on whether to support a progressive new riparian protection ordinance along San Geronimo Creek in Marin County, to protect habitat for critically endangered coho salmon in one of the most important remaining spawning areas left in California.

Please e-mail the Marin Supervisors and ask them to implement the Salmon Enhancement Plan recommendations immediately, to protect this regionally significant coho salmon population! The local watershed group, SPAWN, has an [action alert web page](#).

Upcoming Events

September 1 - Salmon Month Kickoff Event at San Francisco's Aquarium of the Bay

The month-long SalmonAid Festival begins with the [Go Wild Gala](#) on September 1, featuring sustainably harvested wild salmon prepared by the Bay Area's best chefs and a panel discussion on the State of our Salmon.

Meet local fishing heroes September 10 at the Aquarium. The [Meet Your Fishermen](#) event features acclaimed writer and Alaska Fisherman, Bill Carter.

Join [SalmonAid](#) and its member organizations (which includes the Alameda Creek Alliance) at the [Aquarium of the Bay](#) during September and you and your kids can: participate in discussions with salmon and river conservation experts; enjoy wild salmon feasts; meet real fishermen; experience our film festival; discover the many worlds of Pacific salmon; and more! See www.salmonaid.org

September 25 - Sunol Water Temple Centennial Celebration

The town of Sunol and the SFPUC are planning the 100th anniversary celebration of the Sunol Water Temple for on Saturday, September 25th. More information soon. We still need a few volunteers to help staff the Alameda Creek Alliance table.

September 25 - Coastal Cleanup Day

September 25 is Coastal Cleanup Day, and the Alameda Creek Alliance will host an early morning trash cleanup, for two hours before the Sunol Water Temple event, at two spots: in Niles Canyon and on Palomares Road along Stonybrook Creek. More details to come. Please RSVP if you are interested in helping us remove trash from Alameda and Stonybrook Creeks!

Statewide Salmon News

[State Board Adopts Flow Standards for Bay-Delta](#)

IndyMedia – August 3, 2010

[Delta Water Users Dismiss Call For Steep Cutbacks](#)

Contra Costa Times - August 3, 2010

[Fishing Families Ask State Board to Adopt Science-Based Flow Standards for Bay-Delta](#)

PCFFA/Water4Fish press release – August 3, 2010

[Pivotal Decision for Marin's Coho](#)

Marin Independent Journal editorial – August 3, 2010

[Lawsuit Initiated to Save California Endangered Species From Habitat Destruction Caused by Vegetation Clearing on Levees](#)

Center for Biological Diversity press release – August 2, 2010

[State Report's Recipe for a Restored Delta: More Water](#)

San Francisco Chronicle blog – July 27, 2010

[New Yuba River Fish Study Ordered](#)

Sacramento Bee – July 26, 2010

[California Must Preserve Delta's Health](#)

San Jose Mercury News editorial – July 26, 2010

[Drought's Real Victims: It Was Fishermen, Not Farmers, Who Suffered Most](#)

Chico News & Review Editorial – July 22, 2010

[Sustainability of Pacific Wild Salmon: Why Is It Important to Restore Wild Salmon?](#)

San Francisco Examiner – July 2, 2010