

September 10, 2006

Arroyo de la Laguna Streambank Restoration

The Zone 7 Water Agency, Alameda County Resource Conservation District, and the S. F. Public Utilities Commission have begun work on a restoration project aimed at battling serious streambank erosion along the Arroyo de la Laguna between Pleasanton and Sunol, using bioengineering techniques such as anchoring logs and tree roots to reduce stream velocity and control erosion.

The Arroyo is being severely impacted by runoff from the upstream Tri-Valley watershed, with several feet of streambank eroding each year. The project is a collaborative effort by local, state and federal agencies to demonstrate a series of "biotechnical" stream restoration practices not often used in a semi-urban area. The idea is to protect the streambank and water quality in a way that also improves and creates wildlife habitat. Construction is underway and is planned to be completed by Oct. 15.

The project is located along a 1,000-foot section of the Arroyo de la Laguna, owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, about a half mile south of the Verona Road bridge between Pleasanton and Sunol. The Arroyo is the main tributary to Alameda Creek, the second largest drainage to the San Francisco Bay. The Arroyo de la Laguna drains approximately 400 square miles of the upper Alameda Creek watershed in the Tri-Valley region, and provides habitat for the California red-legged frog, the Western pond turtle, migrating song birds, and other local wildlife.

The project will also improve habitat for steelhead trout, once downstream barriers to fish migration are removed, by reducing streambank erosion, controlling sediment, creating pool habitat, and restoring riparian vegetation.

This project is a collaboration among the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Alameda County Resource Conservation District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Livermore-Amador Valley's Zone 7 Water Agency, Alameda County Public Works Agency, and the Dublin San Ramon Services District.

Read a press release about the project at
http://www.alamedacreek.org/Press_Releases/index.htm

Sunol Dam Removal Celebration September 21

A reminder that there will be a public celebration and BBQ luncheon for the removal of Sunol Dam from Alameda Creek on **Thursday, September 21st**, from noon to 1:30 p.m., at the SFPUC's Sunol Headquarters off Highway 84.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to me by September 19th.

See
http://www.alamedacreek.org/Fish_Passage/Niles%20Canyon/Sunol%20Dam%20invite%209-21-06.pdf for more information about the event.