

Public Hearing Tomorrow on CalTrans Destruction Along Alameda Creek in Niles Canyon

Thanks to the hundreds of you who have sent letters or called opposing the Niles Canyon road widening project, and the more than 60 people who were out protesting the destruction on Saturday, state Senator Ellen Corbett's office has set up a public meeting with CalTrans Director Bijan Sartipi for Wednesday, March 9th at 11 am in Fremont to discuss community concerns about the environmental destruction in lower Niles Canyon along Alameda Creek due to the Niles Canyon project.

The meeting will be held tomorrow at 11 am at the Fremont Senior Center, Wing B, located at 40086 Paseo Padre Parkway in Fremont.

If you can attend this meeting please come speak out to insist this unnecessary, controversial and environmentally destructive project be stopped!

If you cannot attend the meeting tomorrow, click on this [action alert](#) to send a letter to CalTrans and your city, state and federal officials opposing this unnecessary destruction.

Be sure to tell CalTrans and your elected officials what you think of the meeting being scheduled on a week day when most people cannot attend, with only two days notice.



As part of phase 1 of a highway widening project supposedly for highway safety, CalTrans has begun cutting mature native trees from along the Alameda Creek riparian corridor in lower Niles Canyon. In this phase they plan to take out 70 native trees from along the creek, permanently damaging nearly 3,000 linear feet of riparian habitat along Alameda and Stonybrook Creeks, and permanently filling and altering 189 feet of Alameda Creek by road widening and placement of destructive riprap (with another 353 feet of creek temporarily impacted).

The proposed highway widening project will not reduce traffic accidents and will actually make Niles Canyon more dangerous for drivers. It will waste \$80 million in public funds, harm Alameda

Creek, degrade fish habitat and jeopardize restoration efforts, blight a designated scenic highway, and ruin the natural beauty of Niles Canyon.

The rip-rap and retaining walls will fill portions of the active creek channel, add impervious surfaces, and change the hydrology of the creek. Although the Alameda Creek Alliance supports the part of the project that will remove a culvert from Stonybrook Creek for fish passage, cutting mature riparian trees is not needed to remove the culvert.

CalTrans is pursuing two more phases of this project, planning to kill nearly 500 more trees along the creek throughout the scenic canyon as part of the road widening. Although CalTrans has slipped approval of this first phase by the public with inadequate notice and an improper marginal environmental review, the Alameda Creek Alliance and other groups are prepared to challenge the later phases of this wasteful project.

Check out the [Alameda Creek Alliance information page](#) on this destructive project and more planned devastation in Niles Canyon by CalTrans.

Also get more information at the Save Niles Canyon web site, www.savenilescanyon.org

