

Caltrans Niles Canyon Project Update

Due to our protests, Caltrans has reopened the formal comment period for phase two of the project for 45 days, to "solicit additional input from the public in determining the possible scope of a modified project."

<http://www.alamedacreek.org/Alerts/Niles%20Road%20Widening/Public%20comment%20reopened.pdf>

Additional public comments on phase two will be taken from May 23 through July 7.

The ACA will have a sample comment letter and talking points posted shortly on our Niles Canyon web page

<http://www.alamedacreek.org/Alerts/Niles%20Road%20Widening/Niles%20Road%20Widening.htm>

The draft Environmental Impact Report for phase two can be found here:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/documents/eir_ea_2a3300_ded_final_web.pdf

Comments can be e-mailed to nilescanyonprojects@dot.ca.gov or e-mailed to: Caltrans District 4, Attn: V. Shearer, PO Box 23660 MS 8B, Oakland, CA 94623-0660.

Read the Alameda Creek Alliance's May 20 legal memo to Caltrans regarding the inadequate environmental review and violation of state permits for phase one

<http://www.alamedacreek.org/Alerts/Niles%20Road%20Widening/ACA%20legal%20memo%20to%20Caltrans%205-20-11.pdf>

Read the City of Fremont's May 11 letter to Governor Brown requesting he intervene to stop the project

<http://www.alamedacreek.org/Alerts/Niles%20Road%20Widening/City%20of%20Fremont%20letter%20to%20Governor%20Brown%205-11-11.pdf>

Save Niles Canyon has analyzed Caltrans' safety data used to justify the project

And disputes Caltrans' figures regarding fatal accidents and concludes that Niles Canyon is safer than the average state road

<http://www.savenilescanyon.org/?p=458>

The City of San Francisco (the SFPUC) transferred title and gave legal easements of 1.7 acres of public lands in Niles Canyon along Alameda Creek to Caltrans in 2010 for construction of phase one of the project, the areas where trees have been cut and further impacts to the creek are planned. Apparently, Caltrans cut trees that were in an area being monitored by the SFPUC as part of a legally required monitoring and mitigation program for impacts from the Niles and Sunol dam removals. We are awaiting a public memo from the SFPUC explaining what exactly happened. The Alameda Creek Alliance is lobbying the SFPUC to ensure no additional public land is transferred for phase two.

Latest media:

Fremont Leaders Disturbed By Niles Canyon Tree Removal - San Jose Mercury News 4-28-11

http://www.alamedacreek.org/Media_Articles/Mercury%20News/Mercury%20News%204-28-11.pdf

Protesters Move CalTrans to Reopen Niles Road EIR Hearing - Livermore Independent 4-21-11

http://www.alamedacreek.org/Media_Articles/Livermore%20Independent/Livermore%20Independent%204-21-11.pdf

Upcoming Alameda Creek Alliance Events

July 30 - ACA Picnic and BBQ - Sunol

The Alameda Creek Alliance will hold a picnic and BBQ for our members and supporters on Saturday, July 30 in Sunol Regional Wilderness. There will be a morning bird-watching hike along Alameda Creek and afternoon tours of Alameda Creek to Little Yosemite with a discussion of planned restoration projects in the area. Please RSVP by July 25, with your food preference (meat or vegetarian).

September 25 – ACA Membership Dinner and Silent Auction – Chouinard Winery

Join the Alameda Creek Alliance on Sunday, September 25th for our annual membership dinner at Chouinard Winery, along Palomares Road in Stonybrook Canyon. Details coming soon. This year we will have a silent auction at the dinner. Please contact Rich Cimino (yellowbilledtours@gmail.com) if you have an item or event to donate for the auction.

Regional Salmon News

Schwarzenegger Screwed Fish, Fishermen and Tribes

IndyMedia – May 18, 2011

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2011/05/18/18679952.php>

Over Half A Million Splittail Taken In Delta Pumps In One Day!

AlterNet – May 16, 2011

<http://blogs.alternet.org/danbacher/2011/05/17/3595/>

Federal Pumps in Delta Are Killing Huge Numbers of Critically Imperiled Salmon and Other Native Fish

Center for Biological Diversity press release – May 16, 2011

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2011/sacramento-san-joaquin-delta-05-16-2011.html

The Bay Institute Warns: Mr. Nunes Strikes Again

Newswire – May 13, 2011

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/the-bay-institute-warns-mr-nunes-strikes-again-121799368.html>

Can Bay Delta Plan Go Beyond Tunnel Vision?

Sacramento Bee editorial – May 11, 2011

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/05/11/3617341/can-bay-delta-plan-go-beyond-tunnel.html>

Brown Administration Looks at Smaller Water Project to Bypass Delta

Sacramento Bee – May 11, 2011

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/05/11/3617577/brown-administration-looks-at.html#ixzz1M5PyvJ3c>

Administration Backs Away From Schwarzenegger's Delta Tunnel Proposal

IndyMedia – May 11, 2011

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2011/05/11/18679432.php>

GOP Tries to Halt San Joaquin River Plan

Fresno Bee – May 11, 2011

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2011/05/11/2385201/gop-tries-to-halt-river-plan.html>

Delta Smelt Defenders Call for More Protection

Courthouse News Service – May 11, 2011

<http://www.courthousenews.com/2011/05/11/36505.htm>

An Unhealthy Trend: Farmers Versus Fishermen Only Enriches Lawyers

Daily Astorian editorial - May 10, 2011

http://www.dailyastorian.com/opinion/editorials/an-unhealthy-trend/article_bbf2f9ca-7b25-11e0-887c-001cc4c03286.html

National Research Council Slams Delta Plan

IndyMedia – May 7, 2011

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2011/05/07/18679139.php>

Irrigation Districts Seek Closure of Commercial Salmon Season Off California, Oregon

Los Angeles Times – May 7, 2011

latimes.com/news/local/la-me-water-salmon-20110507,0,7426238.story

CPUC Endorses Removal of 4 Klamath River Dams

San Francisco Chronicle – May 6, 2011

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/05/06/BADV1JCK83.DTL>

Lawsuit Seeks to Stop Salmon Fishing, Just As Normal Season Gets Underway for First Time in Four Years

Contra Costa Times – May 6, 2011

www.insidebayarea.com/california/ci_18011492

Group Sues to Halt Calif. Salmon Fishing Season

San Francisco Chronicle – May 6, 2011

http://articles.sfgate.com/2011-05-06/news/29519406_1_chinook-salmon-salmon-fishing-season-salmon-in-recent-years

Delta Plan Blasted Over Omissions by U.S. Panel

San Francisco Chronicle – May 6, 2011

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/05/06/MNN11JCKG7.DTL>

Judge Gives More Time for Plan to Protect Smelt

San Jose Mercury News – May 5, 2011

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_18002917?nclick_check=1

National Research Council Panel Harshly Criticizes Draft Bay-Delta Conservation Plan

Bay Institute press release – May 5, 2011

<http://www.bay.org/newsroom/commentary/5511-we-hate-to-say-i-told-you-so-but>

Calif. PUC Endorses Klamath Dam Removal

Associated Press – May 5, 2011

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2011/05/05/state/n135042D47.DTL>

It's Official: Removing Klamath Dams Saves Money for Pacific Power Customers

Karuk tribe press release – May 5, 2011

<http://yubanet.com/california/It-s-Official-Removing-Klamath-Dams-Saves-Money-for-Pacific-Power-Customers.php>

Stanford's Newly Changed Habitat Conservation Plan Flawed...Again

Beyond Searsville Dam press release – May 4, 2011

http://www.beyondsearsvilledam.org/Beyond_Searsville_Dam/Documents_files/PR-Stanford%20HCP.ChangeFinal.pdf

Assembly Committee Passes Bill to Require Labels on Frankenfish

AlterNet – May 4, 2011

<http://blogs.alternet.org/danbacher/2011/05/04>

Delta Advocates Tell Secretary Laird That Actions Must Match Words

AlterNet – April 30, 2011

<http://blogs.alternet.org/danbacher/2011/04/30>

The Once and Future King (Salmon)

Oregon Public Broadcasting – April 28, 2011

<http://ecotrope.opb.org/2011/04/discussion-the-once-and-future-king-salmon/#more-5662>