Stop CalTrans From Cutting Trees Along Alameda Creek – Protest Saturday

CalTrans has begun cutting down native trees along Alameda Creek in lower Niles Canyon, as part of a misguided project that will destroy the scenic beauty of Niles Canyon, take out nearly 500 trees and harm creek habitat.

Contractors working for the California Department of Transportation began an act of environmental vandalism late Saturday night along Alameda Creek, cutting nearly 50 native trees along the creek corridor in lower Niles Canyon. Cutting continued Monday night and is scheduled to continue throughout this week, including on Saturday. Local Niles residents held protests Saturday and Monday nights during the tree cutting and are picketing every week night. Join our protest next Saturday!

CalTrans is pursuing a project to kill hundreds more trees along the creek throughout the scenic canyon as part of an unnecessary, controversial and environmentally destructive road widening of Highway 84 through Niles Canyon. 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.

Read the ACA press release: Caltrans Killing Native Trees in Niles Canyon, More Destruction of Alameda Creek Environment Planned

See the Channel 7 news story: Activists Fight for Niles Canyon Road Trees

Read the San Jose Mercury News article: Fremont Hopes Truck Ban Will Spare Scenic Road

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1) Click on this action alert to send a letter to CalTrans and your city, state and federal officials opposing this unnecessary destruction.

2) Join the protest this Saturday evening March 5 in lower Niles Canyon! Click here for information.

3) Join the ongoing evening picket at both ends of the canyon. Click here for information.

Alameda Creek News

Caltrans Killing Native Trees in Niles Canyon, More Destruction of Creek Environment Planned
Alameda Creek Alliance press release – February 28, 2011

Good News for Steelhead from SFPUC
Revised Calaveras Dam Project to Benefit Fish
Bay Nature Magazine – February 2011
http://baynature.org/articles/web-only-articles/good-news-for-steelhead-from-sfpuc

Shadow Cliffs Land Use Plan
The East Bay Regional Park District has prepared a draft Land Use Plan for Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area in Pleasanton. The Land Use Plan includes restoration of the Remillard Marsh area, upgrade of the trail system and addition of interpretive panels along the 6.8 miles of trails. The Friends of Shadow Cliffs are advocating for an interpretive center at Shadow Cliffs. See www.FriendsOfShadowCliffs.com

Regional Salmon News

**A Small Compromise in California’s Water Wars**

**Delta’s survival more important than saving some fish species, researchers say**
Contra Costa Times – February 24, 2011
http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/02/24/2082563/deltas-survival-more-important.html#

**Peripheral Canal Foes Introduce Bill to Protect Delta**
 IndyMedia – February 24, 2011

**Delta fish may not be “too far gone” after all**
San Francisco Bay Guardian – February 23, 2011
http://www.sfbg.com/politics/2011/02/23/delta-fish-may-not-be-%E2%80%9Ctoo-far-gone%E2%80%9D-after-all

**Reckless House GOP Reopens Water Wounds**
Sacramento Bee editorial – February 20, 2011

**Surprising Development: Guess Who Is Willing to Risk Having the Delta Pumps Shut Down?**
Planning and Conservation League Insider – February 18, 2011
http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5056/t/0/blastContent.jsp?email_blast_KEY=1154200

**House Republicans’ Bill Would Gut Decades of Environmental Protections**
Center for Biological Diversity press release - February 16, 2011

**Delta Fish May Be Too Far Gone to Save, Plan Hints**
San Francisco Chronicle – February 16, 2011
http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/02/16/MNK91HNI9T.DTL

**Draft Plan on Delta Paints Bleak Picture**
Bay Citizen – February 15, 2011
http://www.baycitizen.org/water/story/draft-plan-delta-bleak-picture/

**Council Releases First Draft of Delta Plan**
IndyMedia – February 15, 2011

**GOP Plan Could Endanger Delta Fish Restoration**
San Francisco Chronicle – February 15, 2011
http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/02/15/MNL01HN13L.DTL

**Proposed Funding Cuts Threaten Jobs, Wild Salmon**
Save Our Wild Salmon press release - February 15, 2011

The House Bill to Block Bay-Delta Protections - A Tea Party Mirage
NRDC BLOG – February 14, 2011
http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/bnelson/the_house_bill_to_block_bay-de.html

GOP Trying to Kill Delta Restrictions Meant to Preserve Salmon, Other Fish
San Jose Mercury News – February 14, 2011
http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_17385393?nclick_check=1

Back Off!
Salmon Water Now response to Congress
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46XAiqDdv6o&hd=1

House of Reps Funding Measure Attacks Salmon
Golden Gate Salmon Association press release - February 13, 2011

Reckoning Looming For Salmon in Columbia Basin
Oregonian opinion piece - February 12, 2011
http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2011/02/the_reckoning_a_looming_decisi.html

Brown Turns Peripheral Canal Into Metaphor For Budget Ballot Measure
IndyMedia – February 11, 2011

EPA Launches Investigation into Toxins and Stressors Impacting Fish in the Bay-Delta
EPA press release – February 11, 2011
http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/7559BD24641A0C4F852578320076CFBC

CA Delta Chinook Salmon Run Bigger, But Still Low
San Francisco Chronicle - February 8, 2011
http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/02/08/MNVB1HJSDF.DTL

Big Salmon Run Spawns Profits
Wall Street Journal – February 7, 2011
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704124504576118462016940744.html?KEYWORDS=bigsalmonrun

Sarah Palin’s Bait
The Boston Phoenix – February 5, 2011
http://thephoenix.com/BLOGS/talkingpolitics/archive/2011/02/05/sarah-palin-s-bait.aspx#ixzz1DI1NgWzU

Brown’s Water Chief Wants Delta Water Diverted to Southern California
Contra Costa Times – February 4, 2011

Longfin Smelt Could Cause New Water Restrictions
Bay Citizen – February 4, 2011
http://www.baycitizen.org/environment/story/longfin-smelt-could-cause-new-water/

The Wrath of Grapes
North Bay Bohemian – January 26, 2011