

Niles Canyon Update

Over 200 people showed up for the April 14 hearing with Caltrans arranged by state Senator Ellen Corbett and Assembly member Bob Weickowski to address concerns regarding the Niles Canyon Highway Safety Improvement and Widening Project.

Residents and conservation groups eloquently and passionately disputed Caltrans safety data, Decried the severe environmental impacts, and lambasted the agency for refusing to conduct a transparent and thorough environmental review and for not being forthcoming in disseminating information to the public about the project. The public sent a clear message to Caltrans and elected officials to stop the project and prevent more tree cutting and destruction of the creek environment in Niles Canyon.

At the hearing Caltrans agreed to reopen the formal public comment period for phase two of the project for 45 days (stay tuned for comment period date), but refused to put phase one on hold.

On April 26th the Fremont City Council voted to direct the Mayor to send a letter to the Governor objecting to the extreme removal of trees and plants in Niles Canyon and objecting to Caltrans' blatant disregard to get project input from the public and the City of Fremont about the Niles Canyon Safety project. Fremont is requesting that the Governor intervene to review future phases of the project in an effort to reduce the environmental impacts.

We will keep you updated on legal efforts and upcoming protests to stop this project and prevent further damage to Alameda Creek.

Read the April 21 San Jose Mercury News article

Protesters Say "Hell No" to More Tree Cutting in Fremont

http://www.mercurynews.com/fremont/ci_17902605?nclick_check=1

The Niles Canyon protest makes the New York Times – read the April 16 Times article on the Niles Canyon Railway

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/17/us/17bcintel.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=%22niles%20canyon%20railway%22&st=cse

Read the Alameda Creek Alliance April 8 editorial in the Fremont Argus

Must Save Niles Canyon From Caltrans Project

http://www.alamedacreek.org/Media_Articles/Argus/Argus%20editorial%204-8-11.pdf

Read the April 6 East Bay Express article

Destroying Alameda Creek

<http://www.eastbayexpress.com/ebx/destroying-alameda-creek/Content?oid=2561652>

Upcoming Alameda Creek Alliance Events

Creek Alliance Picnic and BBQ in Sunol

The Alameda Creek Alliance will host a membership picnic and hike in Sunol Regional Wilderness this summer. Stay tuned for date and details.

Membership Dinner at Chouinard Winery – September 25

Join us on Sunday, September 25th for the Alameda Creek Alliance annual membership dinner and silent auction at Chouinard Winery, along Palomares Road in Stonybrook Canyon. Details coming soon.

Please contact Rich Cimino (yellowbilledtours@gmail.com) if you have an auction item to donate.

Regional Salmon News

Congressional, Local Leaders Spotlight Threats to Delta

Contra Costa Times – April 27, 2011

http://www.insidebayarea.com/news/ci_17942484

More Flooding, Less Salmon Habitat Predicted for West

McClatchy News – April 25, 2011

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2011/04/25/112779/more-flooding-less-salmon-habitat.html>

Judge Favors Salmon Protection in Northern California Rivers

Klamath Riverkeeper press release – April 25, 2011

<http://yubanet.com/california/Judge-Favors-Salmon-Protection-In-Northern-California-Rivers.php>

Fishermen and Farmers United for a Healthy Bay-Delta

SF Gate City Brights Blog – April 25, 2011

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/zgrader/detail?entry_id=87710

Congressional Leaders to Convene Farms & Salmon Summit

IndyMedia – April 24, 2011

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2011/04/24/18677941.php>

Commission Approves Full Central Valley River Salmon Seasons

IndyMedia – April 21, 2011

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2011/04/21/18677739.php>

Wolves First, Then Salmon to Lose Protections

San Francisco Chronicle – April 21, 2011

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/opinionshop/detail?entry_id=87461

Measure Would Exempt Water Projects From Key Law

Fresno Bee – April 19, 2011

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2011/04/19/2356854/measure-would-exempt-water-projects.html>

Anti-Salmon Mood in Congress Worries Fishermen

UnEARTHED blog – April 13, 2011

<http://earthjustice.org/blog/2011-april/anti-salmon-mood-in-congress-worries-fishermen>

San Joaquin Agribusiness to Receive 75 to 100 Percent Water Allocations

IndyMedia – April 11, 2011

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2011/04/11/18676868.php>

San Joaquin Environmental Groups: 'Man-Made Drought' Claims All Wet

IndyMedia – April 11, 2011

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2011/04/11/18676864.php>

Water 'Dumped Into the Ocean' – Shocking!

Sacramento Bee editorial – April 6, 2011

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/04/06/3530852/water-dumped-into-the-ocean-shocking.html#ixzz1IIW8n5MP>

Delta's Survival More Important Than Fish

Contra Costa Times – March 30, 2011

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_17734522

Salmon Season is Welcome News, But Efforts Needed to Rebuild All Runs

AlterNet – March 29, 2011

<http://blogs.alternet.org/danbacher/2011/03/29/salmon-season-elcome-news-but-efforts-needed-to-rebuild-all-salmon-runs-still-needed/>

Costa Bill Aims to Increase Delta Pumping

Bakersfield Californian – March 28, 2011

<http://www.bakersfield.com/news/business/economy/x233129567/Costa-bill-aims-to-increase-delta-pumping>

Costa Proposes Limits On Delta Pumping Cuts

Fresno Bee - March 28, 2011

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2011/03/28/2327685/costa-proposes-limits-on-delta.html>

Feds Predict Large Ocean Abundance of Sacramento Fall Chinook Salmon

YubaNet – March 24, 2011

<http://yubanet.com/california/Dan-Bacher-Feds-predict-large-ocean-abundance-of-Sacramento-fall-chinook-salmon.php>

San Francisco Court Rules Protecting Delta Smelt Not Unconstitutional

Sacramento Bee – March 25, 2011

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/03/25/3503994/san-francisco-court-rules-protecting.html#>

Appeals Court Upholds Delta Smelt Protections

Los Angeles Times – March 25, 2011

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/2011/03/delta-smelt-protections-upheld.html>

B.C. Salmon Play Hidden Role in Coastal Forest Ecology, Researchers Find

Vancouver Sun – March 24, 2011

<http://www.vancouversun.com/technology/salmon+play+hidden+role+coastal+forest+ecology+researchers+find/4498634/story.html>

Spring Salmon Get Smoother Ride over N.W. Dams

Public News Service – March 24, 2011

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/index.php?/content/article/19102-1>

Spill Announcement for Columbia and Snake Rivers Helps Salmon, Jobs

Save Our Wild Salmon press release – March 22, 2011

http://www.wildsalmon.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=328:press-release-march-22-2011-spill-announcement-for-columbia-and-snake-rivers-helps-salmon-jobs&catid=37:press-releases