

# Caltrans Rushes Project

June 4, 2011

A long list of community groups have joined the fight against Caltrans' proposed Niles Canyon widening.

They include City of Fremont, Save Our Sunol, Alameda Creek Alliance, Native Plant Society, Sierra Club and others. Their demand is a simple one: halt the project until an adequate environmental review occurs.

As currently planned, the groups contend that the widening will degrade the steelhead trout habitat that watershed agencies have been working to create in Alameda Creek.

The community groups believe Caltrans has been deaf to them, showing "blatant disregard for getting input from the public on this project," in the City of Fremont's words.

Caltrans has agreed to reopen the public comment period 45 days, to July 7.

However, that's not enough. This project must be put on hold until a less superficial environmental review can take place.

Caltrans' planning to date has been characterized by insensitivity toward concerns raised about preserving the natural amenities of Niles Canyon.

What's the rush?