

Trout 3/14/00

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red-legged frog and the Sacramento squawfish to various types of snakes would benefit.

"That area of Alameda Creek is one of the most natural assemblages of fish and amphibians in the entire East Bay," MackKay said. "It's a relatively unspoiled stretch of creek."

He said one of the dams has be-

come so silted that it no longer functions as a dam, and the other has raised some public-safety concerns.

In April 1999, a 7-year-old Livermore boy nearly drowned after apparently becoming trapped in some churning water behind the low-lying dam.

Although the youth did not suffer permanent injury, MackKay said the incident increased the impetus to remove the dam.

"That was certainly a catalyst to get the project done, although it was

not the main reason," he said.

Water department officials said there have been some accidents at the Niles Canyon dam sites over the years, but declined further comment.

One steelhead restoration study estimated costs of removing or modifying the Sunol Dam at \$1.3 million.

The park's district plan to remove the Sunol Regional Wilderness dams will cost an estimated \$100,000, and the district has begun to receive private donations and to apply for various grants.