

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thursday, February 28, 2002

**San Francisco Chronicle**

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### QUARRY VS. CREEK

Editor -- I was grateful to see the excellent article and map on the heroic attempt to restore steelhead to Alameda Creek ("Steelhead restoration," Feb. 26).

Those fish will require clean water. The article also notes that dams on the upper creek impound runoff vital to San Francisco's water supply. Some 2.5 million people rely on the Hetch Hetchy-Bay Area system.

Why, then, is San Francisco permitting Mission Valley Rock Co. to gouge out the Sunol Valley east of Niles Canyon for an expanded 40-year gravel pit? The Sunol aquifer adds 5 million to 20 million gallons of filtered water per day to the total supply. That amount will be cut by the quarry and replaced with non-potable swill that may contaminate the creek.

The project (approved in 2000) appears to be yet another triumph of politics over science.

### GRAY BRECHIN

Berkeley