

Best of the East Bay – July 20, 2011

Best Environmentalist

Jeff Miller

At times, Jeff Miller is so active, he seems to be everywhere at once. If he's not traipsing through the Sunol wilderness trying to protect tule elk, eagles, and steelhead, he's in the Delta fighting to protect salmon and smelt, or he's up in Humboldt County trying to block the destruction of redwood forests. He's also very effective, which, when you get down to it, is what you want from an environmentalist. Just last month, his group, the Alameda Creek Alliance, won a court judgment, blocking Caltrans' plans to cut down hundreds of trees along Alameda Creek in order to widen Highway 84. The road project threatened a steelhead run that Miller has worked tirelessly over the past decade trying to restore. And then earlier this month, another group he works with, the Center for Biological Diversity, won a court ruling that blocks Caltrans' attempts to widen Highway 101 in Humboldt, because the project threatens old-growth redwoods in Richardson Grove State Park. In short, if you're a public agency, especially Caltrans, you don't wanna mess with Jeff Miller.