

Niles Canyon Victory for Residents

December 22, 2011

Plans to widen Niles Canyon Road have been put on hold as a result of the involvement of the public.

When residents witnessed trees being cut down, they went into action. They picketed along the roadway while the trees were being removed. Alameda Creek Alliance sued CalTrans over concern that the plans would cause damage to trout habitat in the nearby creek. A court settlement has not only stopped further work on a first phase, but also has required CalTrans to return the road to its former status.

CalTrans argued that the changes were necessary to improve safety. Residents declared that the changes would increase speed on the road reducing safety.

CalTrans has agreed to work with local residents over future plans for the road.

Residents are to be applauded for taking action to stop what they saw as a project with negative consequences. They will need to keep an eye on CalTrans to make sure that the agency lives up to its agreement to fully involve the public.