

Action Alert: Stop Caltrans from Destroying Trout Habitat in Alameda Creek



Please contact your legislators immediately to request they stop Caltrans from any further destruction of trout habitat along Alameda Creek in Niles Canyon.

Despite assuring the public last month there would be no more tree cutting until another public meeting is held, Caltrans continues to kill trees alongside Alameda Creek in lower Niles Canyon for phase one of the Niles Canyon highway widening project.

Caltrans plans to further damage trout habitat this summer by filling portions of the creek channel and floodplain in lower Niles Canyon with concrete and armoring with rip-rap boulders. Then, phase two of the project in the middle of the canyon would take out nearly 500 more trees and permanently degrade even more steelhead habitat by adding nearly two more miles of retaining walls and rip-rap in the creek corridor. This will severely damage the riparian corridor along Alameda Creek in Niles Canyon, eliminate trout habitat and lead to erosion of unarmored stream banks.

Please ask your elected representatives to get Caltrans to immediately stop phase one of this destructive project and reopen the environmental review and public comment period for phase two. A sample letter and contact information for target legislators are below.

See the Alameda Creek Alliance [web page](#) on the project for more background information.

The Alameda Creek Alliance, Save Niles Canyon, Save Our Sunol, Friends of Coyote Hills, Southern Alameda County Group of the Sierra Club, East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, Tri-City Ecology Center, and Local Ecology and Agriculture Fremont are all opposing the project.

Come to the protest in Niles Canyon this Saturday, April 9th, at 3pm at the corner of Mission Blvd and Niles Canyon Road. See the Save Niles Canyon [web site](#) for more information.

Stay tuned for an upcoming Alameda Creek Alliance protest at Caltrans' offices in Oakland. We are not going to let Caltrans continue to destroy Alameda Creek habitat.

Sample letter

Please intervene immediately to stop Caltrans from destroying trout habitat in Niles Canyon.

I oppose the unnecessary, destructive and wasteful Caltrans highway widening project in Niles

Canyon, promoted as a safety project. This project will actually make Niles Canyon more dangerous for drivers and bicyclists, waste \$76 million in public funds, degrade important trout habitat in Alameda Creek and jeopardize a decade of restoration efforts, blight a designated scenic highway, and ruin the natural beauty of Niles Canyon.

Caltrans refused to conduct a transparent and thorough environmental review of the project and has not been forthcoming in disseminating information to the public. Despite assurances there would be no more tree cutting until another public meeting is held, Caltrans continues to destroy trees alongside the creek, and has not yet scheduled a public meeting.

Caltrans has yet to answer the public comments and questions posed to them by your constituents and conservation groups, and refuses to put the project on hold despite severe inadequacies in the environmental review process and failure to adequately notify or inform the public of the project. Controversial issues regarding state safety data, the purported safety benefits, severe environmental impacts, flagrant waste of \$75.9 million in public funds, and potential economic and aesthetic impacts on the communities of Niles and Sunol were not properly evaluated in the environmental review for phase one.

Please assist the community in convincing Caltrans to put this project on hold. We ask that you pressure Caltrans to stop the phase one project immediately until the areas of controversy are resolved and to reopen the environmental review and public comment period for phase two.

Send your letter or e-mail to:

Congressman Pete Stark

39300 Civic Center Drive, Suite 220
Fremont, CA 94538

If you live in the 13th Congressional District (Alameda, Cherryland, Fremont, Hayward, Newark, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Sunol, Union City, and parts of Oakland and Pleasanton) you can send Congressman Stark an e-mail message at the following site:
<https://forms.house.gov/stark/webforms/contact.htm>

State Senator Ellen Corbett

39155 Liberty St., #F610
Fremont, CA 94538
E-mail: Senator.Corbett@senate.ca.gov

If you live in State Senate District 10 (San Leandro, Hayward, Union City, Newark, Fremont, Pleasanton, Milpitas) you can send Senator Corbett an e-mail message at the following site:
http://dist10.casen.govoffice.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={7AA698F8-93BA-4092-A431-BAB3C7EF7E46}

State Senator Mark Leno

State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

If you live in State Senate District 3 (San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma) you can send Senator Leno an e-mail message at the following site:
<http://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=SD03&>

State Assembly Member Tom Ammiano

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0013

If you live in State Assembly District 13 (San Francisco) you can send Assembly Member Ammiano an e-mail message at the following site:
<http://lcmsubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=AD13&>

Alameda County Board of Supervisors

County of Alameda
Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, #536
Oakland, CA 94612
E-mail: district1@acgov.org

