

# Multi-Agency Funding

Bill Jones - New Almaden Resident  
concerned with assignment of cleanup  
responsibility

# Disapproval of Basin Plan Amendment

- I support the general objectives of the Water Board and the SF Regional Water Quality Control Board, but there are strong scientific arguments for NOT adopting an unrealistic TMDL standard for the Guadalupe watershed.
- One is that disrupting the existing creek bed in an attempt to remove inert mercury could cause greater releases of mercury into the Guadalupe river and the bay.
- Another is that the uncontrolled airborne mercury falling into the watershed constantly negates the TMDL standards which you are being asked to approve.

Before you approve  
the Basin Plan amendment...

- Please consider how best to accomplish the Basin Plan's objectives as they relate to the privately owned section of Los Alamitos Creek in New Almaden.

# Who is responsible?

- With a half a million dollars of EPA funded money, the Santa Clara Valley Water District wrote a document entitled:
- *Stream-bank Repair Guidance Manual for the Private Landowner.*
- None of the Guadalupe Watershed landowners have used it!
  - Why not?

# No one can afford to do the work!

- This guide details how an individual homeowner should spend \$100,000 to \$300,000 in order to plan and design, get permits and contracts, oversee the removal of toxins, and restore approximately 100 linear feet of creek bed to a erosion resistant, natural appearance.
- Suggesting that the landowners under take such complex, expensive work was both ridiculous and would have resulted in extremely inefficient use of funds.

# Community is willing to help

- New Almaden is made up of approximately two hundred middle class and retired homeowners, many of whom are very involved with volunteer work.
- The New Almaden Community will help gain access to private properties.

# The Solution is clear

- The Santa Clara Valley Water district has the infrastructure and skills to obtain both funding and approvals. They also have the experience to minimize project costs while performing the calcine removal and creek restoration. The project is three miles of privately owned Alamitos creek.
- The Water District should have very few problems working with private landowner to complete the project.

# ...in black & white please!

- The SFRWQC Board has said that New Almaden
- home owners would be responsible ONLY for approving access to privately owned creek bed. This is not clearly stated in the current Basin Plan Amendment.
- PLEASE MODIFY THE AMENDMENT TO THE BASIN PLAN TO STATE CLEARLY: DOWNSTREAM LANDOWNERS ARE ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR GIVING ACCESS TO THEIR PROPERTIES.
  - **THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION**