

Beth, Margarete@Waterboards

From: Alexander Matthew Key <akey@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2014 8:19 PM
To: Beth, Margarete@Waterboards
Cc: jpa@sfcjpa.org; Save The Oaks
Subject: San Francisquito Creek Project

Dear Ms Beth,

I am a homeowner in Menlo Park, with a house on the San Francisquito Creek ([REDACTED])
[REDACTED] My home is very close to the Pope-Chaucer Bridge, "a key breakout point during flows above approximately 5,500 cubic feet per second (the 100-year flood event is 9,300 cfs)" (from <http://sfcjpa.org/web/projects/active/101-to-el-camino-real/map>).

I write to do two things:

1. Express my support for work that will prevent flooding.
2. Express my opposition to the possibility of floodwalls upstream of Route 101.

Upstream of Route 101, the San Francisquito Creek winds through residential neighborhoods, providing a vital and public green habitat in the center of the suburban sprawl. Animals live in the creek, fish spawn there in the winter rains, and mature trees line the banks. The creek is a source of great pleasure to all in the vicinity, and perhaps most importantly, a rare space for ecological diversity that is untouched by buildings and people, and yet sits in the middle of those massed buildings and people. There is, should funding become available, great potential for the development of the Creek into a wildlife resource for the surrounding communities.

The prospect of floodwalls along the creek is worrying for those who value its presence. The construction of floodwalls would necessitate the removal of a vast number of mature trees, and would destroy innumerable established hedge and bush habitats. The creek would cease to be a haven for ecological diversity and would become a concrete channel devoid of its established wildlife. Numerous options for flood drains and culverts exist, all of which would remove the need for floodwalls upstream of Route 101.

Floodwalls upstream of Route 101 were mooted in the San Francisquito Creek Flood Reduction, Ecosystem Restoration, and Recreation Project document dated June 2013 and available on your website (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/hot_topics/SFCP/Application_Materials/SFC%20Draft%20RMMP%20060513.pdf).

I appreciate that the SFCJPA, on their website (<http://sfcjpa.org/web/projects/active/101-to-el-camino-real/>), make it clear that no final decisions have been made for the creek upstream of Route 101, and that an Environmental Impact Report will be released for public comment this winter.

Nevertheless, I would like to take the opportunity of your August 13 meeting, and your consideration of the San Francisquito Creek Flood Reduction, Ecosystem Restoration, and Recreation Project, to communicate my concern.

Thank you, and with my best regards,

Alexander

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Alexander Key
Assistant Professor of Arabic and Comparative Literature Stanford University

