



Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition

Advocates for living streams

Member Organizations

Friends of Coyote Creek
Western Waters Canoe Club
Environmentalists for Living
Streams
Northern California Council
Federation of Fly Fishers

February 8, 2016

The Honorable Barbara Keegan, Chair
Members of the Board
Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Water District
By email

Re: Request for release for public inspection of the FAHCE Fishery
Habitat Restoration Plan and the Associated EIR

Dear Chair Keegan and Members of the Board,

The schedule contained in the February 9, 2016 agenda packet reflects producing a revised Fisheries Habitat Restoration Plan by May and release of the Draft EIR to the public in November 2016.

We believe that the District would be well served to allow the public to comment on the current version of the Fisheries Habitat Restoration Plan and the Draft EIR so that our suggestions can be taken into consideration in the planned revisions to these documents. We do not believe it is prudent to wait until November and then solicit our comments. If we have extensive comments at that time, it will simply delay the finalization of the documents. Much better would it be for the District to get public comments on the table now so that there is plenty of time to incorporate a response to them into the text of the documents to the extent that staff deem appropriate.

Though the FAHCE negotiations need to be done in private as all litigation or threats of litigation, there is no good reason to prevent the public from seeing the documents that are the fruit of staff's efforts during the past 14 months since the Board adopted the new strategy to resolve the FAHCE complaint. Perhaps public comments will be "Job Well Done – Keep Up the Good Work". Or perhaps the public comments will be constructive suggestions about how to strengthen the documents to achieve the District's multiple purposes of the FAHCE project.

Thank your for considering this request!

Sincerely,

Richard McMurtry
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