



Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition

Advocates for living streams

February 5, 2018

The Honorable Mayor Darcy Paul and Members of the Council
City of Cupertino
By email

Re: Next Steps in Improving Fish Passage on Stevens Creek

Dear Mayor Paul and Members of the Council,

It has been slightly over 2 years since we began our conversations about a community partnership to improve fish passage on Stevens Creek, building on the excellent work done by the City in partnership with the Water District and others.

Since that time, your city has been instrumental in encouraging the Water District to include planning projects in their grant program and then supporting the application of Friends of Stevens Creek Trail to secure a grant to do an engineering evaluation of 8 barriers to fish migration on Stevens Creek.

A workshop was held on January 22, 2018 to discuss next steps in moving forward on the recommendations of the report which was previously distributed to you.

- **Moffett Blvd Fish Ladder in Mountain View:** The Santa Clara Valley Water District has recently released a request for proposal for bids to complete a 10% design evaluation of replacing the Moffett Boulevard Fish Ladder with a more self-cleansing and effective ladder. This is a major change for the better in the approach by the Water District to this facility and we believe that our report had an impact on the timing of the release of this RFP.
- **SFPUC Hetch Hetchy Pipeline Crossing in Mountain View:** NOAA Fisheries, the federal agency in charge of restoring the steelhead trout population in local streams and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission have agreed to meet soon to discuss the fish migration barrier at the Hetch Hetchy Pipeline crossing of Stevens Creek in Mountain View. The PUC staff thanked us for bringing this barrier to their attention and indicated that if action was needed at this location, they would move forward to take care of the problem.
- **Deep Cliff Golf Course in Cupertino:** The Deep Cliff Golf Course in Cupertino had written us granting approval to pursue grants to remove the barrier on their property. This barrier is a barrier to the movement of juvenile trout during the sensitive rearing period during their first two years of life.

We are proud of the activity that our work has generated and would like to move forward on removing the barrier at the Deep Cliff Golf. Unlike the larger barriers owned by the Water District whose remediation will cost on the order of \$1.5 million, the Deep Cliff barrier could be addressed at more modest cost. Our engineers estimate that the cost for removing Deep Cliff barrier would be about \$140-\$160,000. If we could get four agencies to contribute \$9900 each, then this would amount to the 25% match needed to get a 75% grant from the Water District.

We are hoping you could ask staff to agendize a discussion of this opportunity at your next City Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Richard McMurtry
Program Coordinator