

## Just Say “No” to Corps Plan: Watershed-Wide Solution Needed

2000

The Friends recommendations for selection of the “Locally Preferred Plan” are made with these goals in mind: flood-risk reduction, improved habitat for native plants and animals, and a more attractive creek corridor. In the process of developing a position, we studied the Screening Report prepared by the Corps of Engineers, but we cannot support any of the alternatives presented in that document.

We strongly support expanding watershed-wide studies to integrate information about the creek channel with the upland part of the watershed into the planning phase of this project. Consideration of fish and wildlife must include measures for protection of steelhead trout and salmon habitats and their immigration and emigration throughout the channel network. Geomorphic studies should include information that will help to minimize upland erosion and seek to increase active channel width. Hydrologic studies should be undertaken to provide information on the groundwater storage potential of upstream reaches and to identify areas where the natural flood plain can be restored and water can be slowed or detained (without the use of dams) to improve the health of the creek and reduce flooding.

Friends advocates a plan that would be designed to:

1. Incorporate instream improvements for steelhead trout and salmon in the existing concrete channel. Improvements are especially necessary in the upstream portions of the channel in Ross and Kentfield where spring and summer temperatures are high and the absence of any structure or cover for protection exposes emigrating fish to increased predation. These improvements should be implemented before completion of the project and as mitigation for the previously completed portions.
2. Leave the natural channel bed and banks in Ross unchanged, but replace the fish ladder at the upstream end of the concrete channel. We do not oppose continued removal of sediment in the vicinity of the Lagunitas Road Bridge.
3. Explore the benefits and constraints of a bypass culvert from just above the Lagunitas Road Bridge to just below the upstream end of the concrete channel. Determine the amount of water the bypass could accommodate, the maintenance schedule that would be necessary to accommodate this flow, the potential impacts on fish and wildlife, and the potential hazards to the health and welfare of the community and consider impacts to residents of the Town of Ross.
4. Remove part of one wall of the concrete channel in Kentfield from the downstream end of the concrete channel to the upstream boundary of the College of Marin if feasibility studies demonstrate that native vegetation could be successfully established on the natural banks and that the natural portion of the creek in Ross would not have to be modified as a consequence.

Any use of text and photographs for other than personal purposes is prohibited without permission from Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed

All photographs © 2004 Charles Kennard unless otherwise credited

Website design by Karen Peterson, San Anselmo

Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed

P.O. Box 415, Larkspur, California 94977 phone: (415) 457-6045 fax: (415) 457-6362

info@friendsofcortemaderacreek.org