

*The Contra Costa Watershed Forum Presents*

**West Contra Costa County**  
**Creek and Watershed Symposium**  
April 5, 2006

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## **I. Acknowledgements:**

The organizers of the Symposium wish to thank all sponsors, the speakers and presenters, the participants, and members of the audience, for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend this symposium on the health of creeks and watersheds in Contra Costa County. The following individuals and organizations deserve special recognition for their efforts to host this event.

### **Host:**

Contra Costa College

### **Symposium Planning Committee:**

Carol Arnold, Mary Grim, Jessica Hamburger & Carla Koop (Contra Costa Resource Conservation District), Bethallyn Black (UC Cooperative Extension CCC), Josh Bradt (Urban Creeks Council), Harvey Ceaser (Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation), Kelly Davidson Chou (Mt View Sanitary District), Sandra Dare (CREEC), Jeff Gilman (Lafayette Creeks Committee), Jim Hale (CCC Fish and Wildlife Committee), Lesley Hunt (Friends of the Creeks), Karin Korda (Friends of Rodeo, Refugio and Carquinez Watersheds), Melanie Mintz (City of El Cerrito), Elizabeth O'Shea (the Watershed Project), Beth Pardieck (Muir Heritage Land Trust), Sarah Puckett (Natural Heritage Institute), Mitch Schweickert (Los Medanos College), and Igor Skaredoff (Friends of Alhambra Creek).

## **II. Symposium Sponsors:**

CCC Board of Supervisors, Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, Lafayette Creeks Committee, Epona Environmental Consulting, and Starbucks Coffee (South and East Bay, Food Service Division).

## **III. Purpose of the Symposium**

Contra Costa Watershed Forum organized two Creek and Watershed Symposium events in 1999 and 2003 during day-time hours. While both events had more than three hundred attendees, day-time events restrict attendees to those people who have jobs in the field of watershed management as well as people who are retired or who could take time off to attend these events. In 2001, to capture the audience who are interested in watersheds but are not working in the field and cannot attend daytime meetings, an evening mini symposium was held at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek. Many people from the local community came to observe stories from local watershed groups on what they were doing to protect and improve watersheds in their own communities. Before the third Quadrennial Creek and Watershed Symposium in 2007, the CCWF is hosting another series of evening Creek and Watershed Symposia on the following dates and locations:

March 28	Lindsay Wildlife Museum, Walnut Creek,	6:30 registration begins
March 30	Pittsburg City Hall, Pittsburg,	5:30 registration begins
April 5	Contra Costa College, San Pablo	6:30 registration begins

The main goals of the symposia are listed below:

- to present the results to date of the Citizen Creek Monitoring Program (Global Positioning System creek data and Benthic Macroinvertebrate data collected between 2001 and 2005 by local volunteers);
- to introduce the Contra Costa Watershed Forum; and
- to encourage awareness of and participation in local creek and watershed activities.

*Thank you for your attendance!*

*--- Kae Ono, John Kopchik, and Abby Fateman (CCC Community Development Dept.),  
Symposium Coordinators.*

*The Contra Costa Watershed Forum Presents*

# West Contra Costa County Creek and Watershed Symposium

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Contra Costa College, Liberal Arts Building Room 100

2600 Mission Bell Drive, San Pablo

Admission is FREE.

## Agenda

- 6:30 Registration, Information Tables and Poster Session.** Light refreshments will be served.
- 7:00 Welcome Remarks** by the Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia (*confirmed*) and the San Pablo Vice Mayor Paul Morris (*confirmed*).
- 7:10 Overview of the Contra Costa Watershed Forum** by Abby Fateman and Kae Ono (*County Community Development Department*).
- 7:20 Presentations by the Local Watershed Groups on their Activities in West Contra Costa County.**
- Baxter Creek by Apple Szostak, *Friends of Baxter Creek (El Cerrito)*.
  - Rodeo, Refugio and Carquinez Watersheds by Karin Korda, *Friends of Rodeo, Refugio and Carquinez Watersheds (Hercules, Rodeo and Crockett)*.
  - The lower San Pablo, lower Rheem Creek and North Richmond shoreline by Whitney Dotson (*San Pablo, Richmond and North Richmond*).
  - San Pablo Creek by Elizabeth O'Shea, *San Pablo Watershed Neighbors Education and Restoration Society (San Pablo, Richmond and El Sobrante)*.
  - Rheem Creek by Rich Walkling, *Natural Heritage Institute (Richmond and San Pablo)*.
  - Pinole Creek Watershed by Drew Goetting, *Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed (Pinole)*.
  - Wildcat Creek by Josh Bradt, *Urban Creeks Council (Richmond, San Pablo and North Richmond)*.
  - Updates and Announcements from the Cities and Local Agencies in the Attendance.
- 7:40 Stories of Fascinating Wildlife in Local Creeks** by Roger Hartwell (*East Bay Municipal Utility District*).
- 7:55 Presentation on the Contra Costa County Volunteer Creek Monitoring Program.**
- Overview of the Global Positioning System and Benthic Macro Invertebrate data collection that has been performed by local volunteers since 2001 by Aspen Madrone (*County Community Development Department*).
  - Presentation of the booklet summarizing interim data collection results.
  - Presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award to Mr. Bill Voigt (*Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed*).
- 8:15 Stories of Progress in West Contra Costa Watersheds.**
- Baxter Creek – a successful story of citizen volunteers working with the City of El Cerrito to plan and implement a major restoration project in northern El Cerrito, *presented by Apple Szostak (the Watershed Project) and Melanie Mintz (City of El Cerrito)*.
  - Pinole Creek Watershed – retrofitting a flood control channel to provide habitat and recreation while further reducing the threat of flood damages, *presented by Drew Goetting (Restoration Design Group)*.
- 8:45 Questions and Ideas from the Audience.**
- 8:50 Final Chance to Visit Tables and Posters.** The Creek Databook (the booklet summarizing interim creek data collection results) will be available at creek groups' tables to volunteers who participated in the Volunteer Creek Monitoring Program and people who are interested in creek and watershed data in Contra Costa County (free).
- 9:00 Adjourn.** Creek and watershed groups will be at their tables to answer questions.































