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8 February 2016

City of Sunnyvale
Members of the City Council

Stevens Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project Next Steps

Dear Members of the City Council,

We appreciated the attendance of Mr. Steffens and Ms. Marshall of your staff at our February 8, 2016 meeting where we presented our proposal for conducting a feasibility study of alternatives to improve steelhead trout fish passage on Stevens Creek. We have assembled an excellent consultant project team to conduct the study and are planning to move ahead with a grant application to fund the project.

Also attending were representatives of Mountain View, Cupertino, the Open Space District, and CALTRANS, all of whom expressed support for the project concept and interest in exploring possible options for support of the project.

The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail will be applying for a grant prior to March 18, 2016 from the Santa Clara Valley Water District for evaluating alternatives and recommending a preferred alternative to improve fish passage at 5 locations along Stevens Creek. The Water District has been recently involved in projects in Stevens Creek, including the just completed Evelyn Avenue Fish Passage Improvement Project and the funding of the Stevens Creek Fish Passage Assessment Project, scheduled for completion in April 2016, the latter being the project previously proposed by the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail last summer. The Water District Board also voted on December 8, 2015 to include planning studies as eligible projects for the March 18 grant cycle; so the Water District has officially opened the door to the type of project that we proposing.

Creating conditions conducive to steelhead trout sustainability in Stevens Creek would be an excellent way to further enhance the creek habitat along Stevens Creek Trail in Sunnyvale and we request your consideration of ways to support this project.

We request that Sunnyvale become a partner in the project and provide \$1,500 to \$9,800 towards the \$19,140 needed as the 25% local share of the \$76,237 total cost. The project only involves the planning phase of the work; we will not request City funding for the construction portions of the project as we expect the construction will be funded under the District's FAHCE Settlement Agreement.

Best regards,

Aaron Grossman, Executive Director
Friends of Stevens Creek Trail

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