

# Cottonwood Creek and You

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### Mission Statement:

*"The Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group will work to preserve the environment, protect property and water rights, and economic resources of Cottonwood Creek watershed through responsible stewardship, liaison, cooperation, and education. CCWG IO/27/99 and education.*

**CCWG IO/27/99**

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## 1. Watershed Assessment is underway!

The Watershed Assessment has been awarded to CH2MHill. The work includes gathering existing data (historical and present) to identify the areas of concern and then prepare draft reports which will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and the Technical Advisory Committee before the final document is prepared. The items which the consultants will focus on are: Hydrologic Regime; Soil and Vegetative Cover; Sediment (sources and transportation rates & extractions); Water Quality Conditions; Fishery Resources; Land use and Ownership; Fluvial Geomorphology; Riparian Community; Endangered Species and Wildlife Resources. This final document could have recommendations for some pilot projects, as well as set the stage for a watershed restoration plan.

## 2. From the Board of Directors

By Phillip Grossberger, BOD member

The Board is pleased to announce the final approval of our 501-c-3 status which grants CCWG with federal non-profit status. This status significantly lowers the cost to the group of among other things, our monthly mailing to our over 2,400 stakeholders.

Future funding for CCWG looks promising with President Bush having approved the continuance of the CALFED Bay Delta Program. Also, in our effort to provide our stakeholders with better and timelier watershed information, a web site for CCWG is currently under development by Evergreen School.

Remember, it's an exciting time to be living in our watershed, so come to the stakeholders' meetings and get involved in guiding our future!

## 3. Photos Needed! Photos Needed!

We are collecting old and new photographs of Cottonwood Creek. These photos will be scanned by Mr. Dennis Mitchell's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Environmental Committee at Evergreen Middle School. The scanned photos, which will give visitors an insight on our creek, will be displayed in the CCWG office in Cottonwood. The photographs can be anything that shows what is happening (including historical) on Cottonwood Creek. They could show the creek flooding, erosion problems on the creek, animals around the creek, people using the creek for recreation, etc.

Please bring your photos to the Evergreen Middle School Office or the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Office. Be sure to include your name and address and Mr. Mitchell's Environmental Committee will return the pictures once they have been scanned. Thank you!!

## 4. What is a watershed?

By Karli Gurrola and Kelly Sullivan, Evergreen Middle School

A watershed is the land that water flows across or under, on it's way to a stream, river, or lake.

You and all the people who live in your watershed have a great influence on it. The way you take care of the wildlife, air, and water influence how your watershed runs. If we don't pollute the environment around our watershed it stays in good shape. If the watersheds that feed into larger watersheds are healthy than the larger ones that feed into the ocean will stay in good shape. That's why we should take good care



Example of a watershed

*"What is a Watershed" continued*

of our watershed communities.

Watersheds are an important part of our environment. They create habitats for many plants and animals and they are important to our communities and ourselves. For more information on watersheds visit these websites:

<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/ead/>

<http://www.sfwb.com/index.htm>

<http://www.cwp.org/protectingtop.htm>

<http://ees-1.com/shed.htm>

## 5. Crisis brings back talk of Auburn Dam

Excerpts from Sacramento Bee - 3/5/01. Story in Bee by David Whitney, staff writer

WASHINGTON -- Five years after a bipartisan effort to build an Auburn dam so failed in Congress, talk is resurfacing about the need to complete the massive American River project. A small but vocal group of Republicans in Washington and Sacramento is pushing hydroelectric generation for California as the dam's third leg of justification. So far, the only bill pending is in the State Senate, where Sen. Rico Oller, R-San Andreas, has introduced legislation calling for a statewide vote on issuing state revenue bonds to build the dam. The measure would require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

Oller's bill would pay off construction bonds for the dam, now expected to cost as much as \$2.5 billion, with revenues from selling the power and water. But Congress first would have to approve some sort of land transfer or lease of the dam site and lake-bed property for the project to proceed under state authority.

When originally authorized in 1965, the dam was envisioned as a provider of flood protection for Sacramento, plus a new supply of power (a generating capacity of about 300-500 megawatts) and water. The multipurpose project would back

water for 20 miles up the lower and middle forks of the American River. Roughly \$300 million in federal money already has been spent on the dam. Construction began in 1967 but was halted a dozen years later after an earthquake raised questions about design safety. Those were resolved a few years later, but by then the free-flowing river was becoming an important recreational area.

Environmentalists teamed up with fiscal conservatives to create a formidable bloc of opposition that persists, and may be even stronger, today. There has been no new storage capacity built for water in California since 1976, while demand has grown dramatically because of a surging population and new environmental restrictions.

## 6. Check it out!! Web pages to explore

California Data Exchange Center.

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov>

California water page:

<http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov>

Official California Legislative Info:

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>

Watershed Management Council (CA) website:

<http://www.watershed.org/forums/ForumsToC.htm>

## 7. Questions and Answers

Please provide feedback to Vieva on the following questions via phone, mail or email:

**Is there a better day of the week other than Tuesday for stakeholders' meetings?**

**What types of subjects/speakers do you want to hear from?**

**What goals would YOU like to see accomplished in the watershed?**

## Upcoming Events

CCWG Stakeholder's Meeting

Schedule:

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:15 pm

Where: Room 18 at Evergreen Middle School, 19500 Learning Way, off Bowman Road, Cottonwood, CA

April 24<sup>th</sup> (Speaker not yet selected)

May 22<sup>th</sup> (Speaker not yet selected)

June 26<sup>th</sup> (Speaker not yet selected)

May 17-17, 2001: Introduction to California Water Management and Ecosystem Restoration, Berkeley, CA. For more info visit

<http://www.unex.berkeley.edu/cat/266049.html> or call (510) 642-4111.

Permitting Overview Workshop for Stream Restoration Projects  
April 27, 2001, Red Bluff, CA

9:00-4:00 Fee: \$30.00 (includes lunch and materials). For more information and a registration form please contact Dana Helfer at 916-447-7237 or [cacrmp@ca.nacdnnet.org](mailto:cacrmp@ca.nacdnnet.org)

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Thank you to the following authors for their articles:

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