

June 29, 2006

Dear Resident,

As you may be aware, the Alum Rock Avenue entrance to Alum Rock Park (Park) has been closed since September 21, 2000. Following the heavy winter rains of 1997 and 1998, the stability of the roadway leading into the park was compromised due to the deterioration of a pre-existing landslide near Crothers Road. This resulted in Penitencia Creek Road becoming the primary vehicular entrance to the Park.

Past geotechnical studies have indicated that relocating Penitencia Creek near the bottom of the landslide could possibly help to alleviate the existing landslide and move us one step closer to the eventual re-opening of the Alum Rock Avenue entrance. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the status of this effort and to make you aware of an upcoming meeting on this subject by City staff at the Dr. Roberto Cruz Alum Rock Branch Library.

In 2005, the City of San Jose completed a study to ascertain the viability of relocating a portion of Penitencia Creek and of building a high-water bypass channel. After a thorough review of this alternative, regulatory agencies, most notably the National Marine Fisheries Service Division of the United States Department of Commerce, indicated that they would oppose any modifications to Penitencia Creek. Among the reasons they have cited include:

- Both the creek relocation and high-water bypass channel would have substantial adverse effects to threatened Central California Coast steelhead and their habitat;
- Past reports have indicated that the creek relocation and high-water bypass channel could be only a partial solution to the problem and may not lead to full stabilization of the landslide.

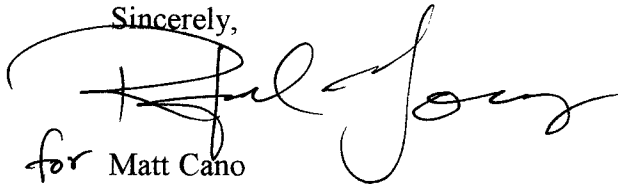
As a result of the regulatory agencies' comments, City staff is recommending not currently proceeding with the creek relocation or the high-water bypass channel, as it is extremely unlikely the City would receive the necessary permits. However, the City is committed to creating a safe environment for both park patrons and the surrounding neighborhoods. To this end, the following actions are either ongoing or are underway in the area:

- The San Jose Fire Department tests their equipment on a yearly basis to ensure that emergency access is available from Alum Rock Avenue;
- Pedestrian safety improvements are currently in the planning stages along Penitencia Creek Road near the main vehicular entrance to the park. In addition, several other projects have been completed in or near the Park over the past five years, including:
 - The installation of the speed humps to the park entrance;
 - Enhancement of the park entrance at Penitencia Creek Road;
 - Trail improvements in the Park;

- Replacement of Quail Hollow Bridge in the Park;
- Berryessa Branch Library and Noble Park renovation;
- Dr. Roberto Cruz Alum Rock Branch Library completion.
- City maintenance staff is performing routine maintenance along the Alum Rock Avenue entrance to the park in order to ensure that pedestrians can continue to access the park along this entrance, even though vehicle access is still prohibited;
- The County of Santa Clara and the City of San Jose staff are continuing to monitor the existing landslide.

City staff will be available to discuss the status of this effort at the **Dr. Roberto Cruz Alum Rock Branch Library at 5:30 pm on Thursday, July 20, 2006**. If you have any questions regarding this please do not hesitate to contact me at matt.cano@sanjoseca.gov or at 535-3580.

Sincerely,



for

Matt Cano

Division Manager

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services