



Rabbit Creek Community Council <rabbitcreekcc@gmail.com>

# Integrity of water supply for Potter Marsh

1 message

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Mon, May 28, 2018 at 2:44 PM

Joe--

The Muni is proposing to change all riparian setbacks, except for those on streams that have an official name, to 25 ft throughout the city. Currently all streams on the south Hillside (Hillside District Plan area) have 50-ft setbacks, by ordinance. Planning & Zoning has approved this amendment to Title 21, so sometime this year it will come before the Assembly.

If passed, this ordinance would compromise protection of the numerous tributaries to named streams on the Hillside. And this would likely reduce quantity and quality of water in those "mainstem" streams. The Muni says another 25 feet outside the setback would serve the same function-- but it would allow lawns (i.e. fertilizer), small structures, and other incompatible uses.

The Muni Planning and Watershed Management offices appear to consider their job to be flood and erosion control, which is important, but not the conservation of habitats immediately downstream. The EPA has even issued "Best Management Practices" for conserving wildlife along with hydrologic controls, which the planners seem unaware of.

ADF&G sent written testimony to the P&Z hearing on Feb. 5 '18-- but they ONLY commented on anadromous streams. They did not mention any need to maintain quantity & quality of water that supplies Potter Marsh. Over 3/4 of this water comes from Little Survival Creek and an unnamed one south of it, as you know-- and these streams are not anadromous.

A small group of Hillside conservationists, including me, are preparing to speak with our Hillside Assembly reps (Weddleton and LaFrance) sometime in the next 2 weeks. I sincerely hope that ADF&G can testify (in writing or in person) regarding Potter Marsh at the eventual Assembly hearing-- or will at least write to the Assembly reps. We need input from the managers of this crucial wildlife and public resource.

Thank you, Joe.

--Vivian

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