

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 5/3/2010

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Association of Bay Area Government (ABAG) Award Received by Albany for Codornices Creek Restoration and Trail Project.

REPORT BY: Judy Lieberman, Assistant City Administrator

PRESENTATION

On April 22, 2010, the City of Albany's Codornices Creek Restoration and Trail Project won the 2010 ABAG Growing Smarter Together Award in the category of "Protecting and Preserving the Environment" for advancing smart or "focused" growth in the Bay Area. As part of the award, a video on the project was developed, and will be placed on the city's website and on KALB. (The video will be shown at the City Council meeting.)

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Codornices Creek Restoration Project has been ongoing since the late 1990's, and involves the City of Albany, the City of Berkeley, and the University of California. Codornices creek forms the boundary between the cities of Berkeley and Albany, and on the north side, the property owner is the University of California (University Village.) The project runs from the Railroad tracks on the west to San Pablo Avenue on the east. Among the many adjacent uses in this area the creek project has restored a native riparian "environmental oasis" in the midst of a very urban and developed setting. The trail connects to local and regional bicycle trail networks, and provides recreational, educational and stewardship opportunities, as well as restoring habitat to native Steelhead Trout, and improving water conveyance capacity next to low income University student housing.

Perhaps one of the most interesting aspects facets is how this project has spurred communication and cooperation between the local agencies and helped to build bridges for other projects. A unique Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2004 between the City of Albany, the City of Berkeley, and the University of California delineating mutual maintenance, monitoring and funding mechanisms. Along with the three primary sponsoring agencies, this project has achieved the cooperation and participation of the United States Postal Service, the Union Pacific Railroad (UPSS), the Albany Unified School District, private property owners, and ball field user groups. The project has worked with local environmental organizations, including Friends of Five Creeks, the Codornices Creek Watershed Council, and Albany Strollers and Rollers on various aspects of design and implementation. Each construction phase has included both grant and local funding. Construction to complete the 6th to 8th street reach will begin this summer. The City has also submitted a grant application for the San Pablo to 10th street reach.