

Creek offers no surprises, but needs a cleaning

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There were no surprises found along the banks of the Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio Creek during the recent walk-through. Members of the county, the city of Mill Valley and the Sycamore Triangle Association strolled down the creek on Sept. 1 to see what could be done to prevent future flooding.

“We saw stuff we expected to see and we’re coordinating with the city to organize a cleanup day in the near future,” said Tim Hampton, a county engineer for Flood control District 3. “The creek isn’t in dire need of clean-up, but there are some improvements that can be done to make it more efficient. If the right type of event happens, some stuff could be dislodged and create a block-up, and you never know how bad it could get.”

Hampton said cleanup should be done annually but, since most areas along the creek are privately owned, a cleanup hasn’t been done in quite some time.

Besides Hampton, also in attendance was Bridgett Novak from the STA. Novak posted notes of her experience on the creek walk at [sycamoretriangle.org]. The [official] minutes of the meeting with Supervisor Charles McGlashan preceding the creek walk are also posted on the website.

Novak noted that the group walked the creek from the Valley Circle/Silver Screen Bridge all the way past Park Street Bridge and farther on into town.

“It was noted that the Marin Theatre Company, La Goma, Locust and Willow bridges are not high enough to accommodate the 30-year flood height,” wrote Novak. “The city representative said we’ll have to wait and see what the hydrology study says about that. Significant amounts of debris were still visible in the supporting beams of Willow Bridge.”

Others in attendance for the creek walk included Bene da Silva, engineering technician from the county Flood Control and Water Conservation District; Jill Barnes, civil engineer for the Mill Valley Public Works Department; Maureen Parton aide to McGlashan; and Vera Barad, Catherine Ramberg, and Mike McKay, all from the STA.

According to Novak, Hampton told the creek walkers that in Ross Valley the county is planning to notify homeowners along the creek that they will be cleaning the creek this one time, asking for their permission, then sending them “before” and “after” photos so that they can see what kind of things were done. Hopefully this will encourage private-property owners to clean up for themselves in the future. Novak said they urged Barnes to facilitate a similar process for Mill Valley.

—D. English