



COUNTY OF MARIN

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Temporary Closure of Park St. at Redwood Drive for Construction Woodacre Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project

[**San Rafael, CA**] – The Marin County Department of Public Works begins construction work on the Woodacre Creek fish passage restoration project next week, as part of their on-going efforts to restore salmon passage through County culverts. The newly constructed culvert at the crossing of Woodacre Creek with Park Street, will provide coho salmon and steelhead trout unimpeded access to 1.3 miles of stream habitat in the upper Woodacre Creek watershed. The existing culvert is a partial barrier to adult salmon and a 100% barrier to younger juvenile salmon, who spend a year in the stream system before they migrate out to sea. The site was ranked as a high priority in two independent studies conducted by the County of Marin and SPAWN- the Salmon Protection and Watershed Network. *“We watched the crossing during high winter flows as coho salmon repeatedly tried to jump into the culvert in order to travel upstream to spawn, only to be washed back down by the high velocities through the structure.”* (Liz Lewis; Marin County Creek Naturalist).

The Park St. crossing is the second barrier to be removed in Woodacre Creek, and the third barrier to be removed as part of the Marin County Fish Passage Program. In 2003, the County of Marin hired Taylor and Associates, experts on salmon migration, to conduct a comprehensive assessment of fish passage through 90 structures which were primarily County maintained culverts on County roads. Local fisheries experts working in the Lagunitas Creek watershed were convened to review and rank the results of that assessment, and through this process Woodacre Creek was identified as one of the highest priority streams in the San Geronimo Valley for fish passage improvements. The fish passage report supports the decision to focus efforts on Woodacre Creek: *“The County should consider a comprehensive fish passage program to upgrade all Woodacre Creek crossings in this important coho salmon-bearing tributary to San Geronimo Creek”* (Ross Taylor, Fish passage expert).

The project is supported in partnership and funding from the State Water Resources Control Board, American Rivers, the State Coastal Conservancy, Marin Municipal Water District, and the County of Marin. *“We are very proud to be partners in this on-going effort among these agencies in support of the recovery of coho salmon in the Lagunitas Creek watershed and on our Central California coast”* according to Steve Kinsey, Marin County Supervisor, 4th District. The construction work in the creek will require the temporary closure of Redwood Drive between August 7 and October 15. The construction contract was awarded to Maggiora Ghilotti Inc. and the creek portion of the work is expected to be completed by October 15th.