

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Farhad Mansourian, RCE
Director

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ADMINISTRATION
499-6528

ACCOUNTING
499-7877 • FAX 507-2899

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451-A AIRPORT ROAD
NOVATO, CA 94945
897-1754 • FAX 897-1264

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STORMWATER PROGRAM
499-6528

TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING & TRAFFIC
OPERATIONS
499-6528

WASTE MANAGEMENT
499-6647 • FAX 446-7373

ALL AREA CODES ARE 415

March 11, 2011

Dear Homeowner/Resident,

Subject: A Healthy Novato Creek

We are writing to you because your home is located in the vicinity of the Novato Creek Flood Control Project, constructed in 2006. This project was designed to reduce flood risk, stabilize creek banks affected by erosion, and improve important natural habitat including that of the threatened Steelhead trout.

Preservation and planting of native vegetation along the creek banks during and after construction are critical to fulfilling each of the project's three goals over the long term. The list of plants that were installed is enclosed, along with three helpful brochures. As each plant was carefully selected and placed, please be aware of and protect native plants along the creek banks and avoid the use of non-native plants in your landscaping which may spread rapidly and out-compete the native plants.

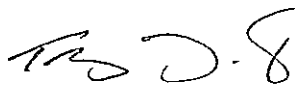
You can also make a difference in Novato Creek by preventing the following from reaching the creek by using appropriate "best management practices" (BMPs):

- Excess irrigation water from your landscaping or lawn areas
- Water from swimming pools
- Car and surface wash water
- Eroding dirt from construction or landscaping projects
- Paint, pesticides, and other household chemicals
- Yard debris and trash

The Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP), a part of the Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, is strongly supportive of the use of these BMPs to prevent stormwater pollution. For additional information or assistance on how to prevent pollution in your creek, please visit the MCSTOPPP website at www.mcstoppp.org or call MCSTOPPP staff at 415-499-6528. There is also specific information about Novato's creeks and watersheds at www.marinwatersheds.org.

Thank you for taking the time to make a difference in protecting your creek.

Sincerely,



Tracy J. Clay
Principal Civil Engineer
Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

* * * * Continue on the backside for Self Inspection Checklist * * * *



Homeowner Stormwater Self Inspection Guide

Keeping Our Creeks Clean, Because We All Live in a Watershed!

Use this creek friendly checklist while surveying your residence to find out what you can do to prevent stormwater pollution and protect your watershed right in your own home! If you answer "no" to any of the questions, you can find solutions and appropriate Best Management Practice(s) (BMPs) to prevent pollutants from discharging into the storm drain system by visiting our website at www.mcstoppp.org and looking under Resources. Look under Stormwater Contacts to reach your local stormwater coordinator or MCSTOPPP staff. We're happy to answer questions and we can direct you to additional information.

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Are your outside storage containers such as garbage or recycling bins kept closed so liquids and trash don't leak or get blown into storm drains?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you store chemicals, paints, fuel, and other potential household pollutants in an enclosed area, protected from the rain and flooding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is your parking area and driveway free of excessive oil and/or motor fluids, leaks, stains, litter, and sediments and do you keep vehicles or equipment parked/stored outside free of leaks and excess grime?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. If you live next to a creek, do you keep the creek and creek bank free of trash and yard clippings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Did you know you could get rid of old motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides, paint, and other household hazardous waste at the free Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 7576 Redwood Blvd. in Novato? For more information on days and times Novato residents should call (415) 892-6395.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Instead of hosing down shop and garage floors, driveways, parking areas and other surfaces, do you use alternative "dry" clean up methods? Sweeping, damp mopping, and using absorbents like kitty litter is recommended for spills. Sweeping, scooping, and shoveling is recommended for cleaning up after remodeling and landscaping projects, yard work, and pets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. When you backwash or drain your swimming pool, or wash your car, do you discharge the water to the sanitary sewer (call Novato Sanitary District 415-892-1694 to obtain permission) or to a vegetated area where it can soak into the ground instead of entering the storm drain system? Remember, use alternatives to copper algaecides and saltwater pools (pools using these will not be allowed to discharge to the sanitary sewer), and be aware that biodegradable soaps are toxic to aquatic life!	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Do you use Eco-Friendly Gardening practices such as water conservation (drip irrigation, native drought resistant plants, mulching, etc.), less toxic/non-toxic pest/weed control (see www.OurWaterOurWorld.org), and keeping stormwater onsite (Slow it, Spread it, Sink it)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Do you know how to control erosion problems if they exist on your property? Erosion from remodeling and landscaping projects, horse paddock areas, hillsides and slopes, and creek banks can contribute sediment to the storm drain system and our creeks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Visit the MCSTOPPP website for more helpful guidance: <http://www.mcstoppp.org/consumers.htm>

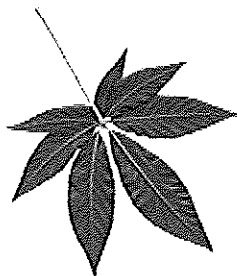
Some Native Plants of Novato Creek

Photos from Calflora plants database at <http://www.calflora.org/>

Box elder (*Acer negundo*)



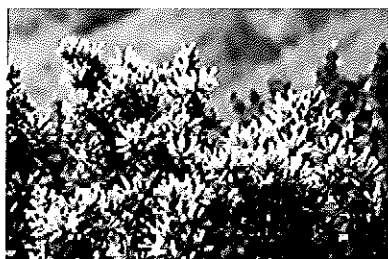
California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*)



White alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*)



Coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*)



California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*)



Coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*)



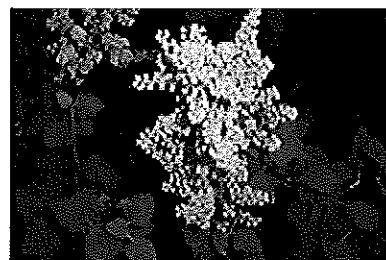
Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)



California wild rose (*Rosa californica*)



Cream bush (*Holodiscus discolor*)



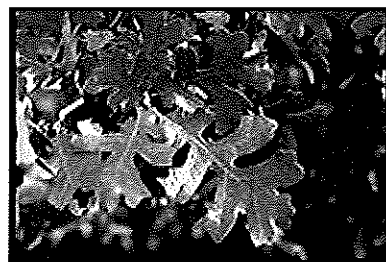
Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)



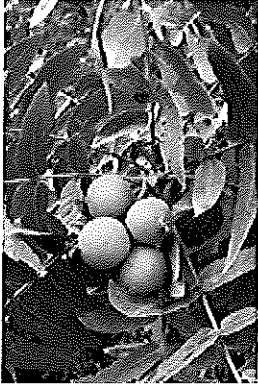
Flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)



Valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)



CA Black walnut (*Juglans californica*)



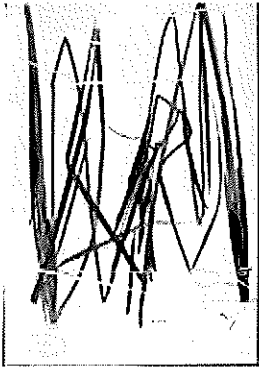
Rushes (*Juncus spp.*)



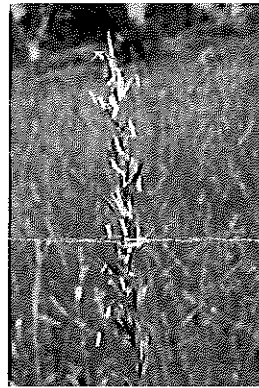
Blue elderberry
(*Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea*)



Sedges (*Carex spp.*)



Creeping wild rye
(*Leymus triticoides*)



Willow (*Salix spp.*)



Oregon Ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*)



California wild grape
(*Vitis californica*)



Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

