



# Friends of Five Creeks

*Volunteers preserving and restoring watersheds of  
North Berkeley, Albany, Kensington, south El Cerrito and Richmond since 1996*

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May 21, 2015

Association of Bay Area Governments  
Attn: JoAnna Bullock, Senior Planner  
101 Eighth St.  
Oakland CA 94607

Re: Supporting City of El Cerrito's nomination of Cerrito Creek as Priority Conservation Area

To Whom It May Concern:

Friends of Five Creeks, a 19-year-old, all-volunteer nature restoration group working from Berkeley to Richmond, strongly supports inclusion of lower Cerrito Creek in the Priority Conservation Area program.

The City of El Cerrito, as well as our group, have worked for many years to make this historic creek the green corridor that it should be, biodiverse and valuable to both people and wildlife.

The city's restored the creek at the Plaza, zoned the creek corridor as park, included the long-range idea of daylighting remaining portions in its general plan, insisted on daylighting as part of an upcoming condominium project, improved lighting and the creekside trail, and adopted a long-range plan to link the creekside trail to the Bay Trail.

Since 2000, Friends of Five Creeks volunteers have contributed thousands of volunteer hours to make this corridor the urban oasis it should be – a place where native plants and wildlife flourish, where people enjoy nature and find peace at the edge of shopping, apartments, and busy streets.

The photos on the next page are truly worth thousands of words to show what has been made of the former weed-choked engineered channel. In combination with the existing PCA designation for adjacent Albany Hill, and candidacy for the adjacent Ohlone Greenway, this promises a model for what urban green space should be. Please include the creek corridor as a priority conservation area!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Schwartz".

Susan Schwartz, President  
Friends of Five Creeks

Cc: City of El Cerrito. Page 1 of 2.



**Above: Cerrito Creek at Creekside Park. same area. 2000 and 2011.**



**Above and below: Cerrito Creek at El Cerrito Plaza, 1999 and 2011, same areas.**

