



Sierra Wildlife Coalition

Promoting humane and practical solutions for living
with beavers, coyotes and all our local wildlife

Sierra Wildlife Coalition - UPDATE

November 14, 2010

Thanks to everyone who sent comments and suggestions in reply to our email about the public meeting with Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery. We agree with those who said that trying to get anyone fired would be counterproductive, as well as premature until we see how things go. We hope to focus on positive change, while keeping public pressure on our officials to install compassionate, workable and economic beaver (and all wildlife) policies.

Please do send personal thanks to Placer Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery for her support at our meeting, and to encourage her continued help in getting necessary permits and policies in place. Address: Supervisor Fifth District, Jennifer Montgomery, 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603. Her e-mail is JenMonten@placer.ca.gov She expressed her support and will be a good ally.

Ted Guzzi met with Peter Kraatz (Deputy Director of Placer DPW) last Monday, Nov. 8th, to drop off contact information, to offer support with getting permits through the various agencies, and to offer our assistance in actually building pond levelers. Ted confirmed that we are not looking to fence culverts at this time, which are in the state highway right-of-way, and under the control of Cal Trans and not Placer County. We should thus be able to avoid having to go through either the state of California or TRPA (as TRPA informed us in earlier e-mails that they generally do not require permits for county maintenance or health-and-safety projects).

Peter Kraatz also informed Ted that the bright green substance sprayed onto the mud banks of the former beaver pond is only mulch, with no fertilizer, seeds or nutrients. It was sprayed on at the request of TRPA - no word as to why it has to be such an obnoxious color though....

We are continuing to organize, and are researching all the available options, to keep things as simple and as effective as possible. In case you weren't at the meeting or haven't yet heard, the Wylie Animal Rescue Group pledged \$500.00 to our cause at the public meeting. Thank you Sam, Coral and Connie. And the representative of the Martinez beaver group, Worth a Dam, awarded our group with their first ever scholarship of \$500.00. Thank you Lory and Heidi. We have also received two anonymous donations of \$250.00! Neither of us had even considered donations. This is a wonderful testament to the power of a community passionately coming together to do the right thing. Since beavers will not be moving around nor re-colonizing at this time of year (especially after this last storm), we have until next spring before we will need to install 'pond leveler' or other water control devices. That should give us time to get things right.

We are sending information packets on beavers, their benefits to our watersheds, and water-flow-control devices, to the Truckee River Watershed Council and the Tahoe Donner Association (thanks for another good suggestion Keaven). We also are meeting with Town of Truckee staff next week for updates on the Trout Creek Restoration Project. At this point they only have funds to remove concrete channels and culverts where the creek goes through downtown (under and along Jiboom St.). But eventually they plan to re-do the creek through the Railyard property to the Truckee River. Truckee has a population off beavers in need of protection as well, so we are laying the groundwork. Again, it will take a public show of concern and our insistence that officials move into the 21st Century when dealing with our wildlife. Together we can do this!