

Friends of Five Mile Creek

NEWS ABOUT THE CREEK

September 18, 2002

The Board of Supervisors voted to accept the bid of Clemens Construction to remove water hyacinth from the creek. There were two bidders, Clemens was the lowest. Work is expected to begin September 25th and the contract runs for 55 days. Jeff Peterson of Clemens told us today that he expects to begin somewhere in the area between Alexandria Place and Lincoln Oaks Road.

Funds for hyacinth removal come from the San Joaquin County Flood Control agency since it is considered a flood control problem in the creek. The algae, duckweed and other aquatic vegetation are not considered flood control issues and not a part of the contract.

It is expected that it will be necessary to spray parts of the creek in spring of 2003 where new hyacinth plants emerge. This work is not a part of the current contract.

With the help of Peggy and Mary Lou Monroe, Joe Donati, Ron Scatena, Rollie Jordan, Bob Hunefeld and Kathy Crump, the signed Temporary Entry Permits from property owners were obtained so the work to remove the hyacinth could proceed. Thanks to the committee members and property owners for getting this critical task accomplished in record time. We will be able to use these permits during other phases of our proposed clean up and restoration work.

Some of you may have noticed that the County began removing water hyacinth in July from an area east of I-5 around Plymouth Road. It looks very good. You can check it out from Plymouth Road.

The committee met with people from city and county public works and flood control on August 22nd to discuss how the hyacinth removal work would proceed. We met the engineer from the county who will be the supervisor on the creek project. Jeff Peterson will give us notice when he expects to be working in areas where creek access is difficult. We will pass this information on to the property owners who would be affected.

Our creek is a unique natural and historic treasure. Its preservation is important far beyond our immediate area. The committee is drafting a mission statement and list of objectives to define our direction to restore the creek and protect its future. We are working on a master plan to accomplish our mission and objectives through developing a stewardship by concerned citizens, the City of Stockton, the County of San Joaquin and other governmental agencies that have jurisdiction over the creek.

It will facilitate sending you future newsletters if we have your email address. We have received only a few at this time.

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