

George: I cannot attend the meeting on Monday, but perhaps you or someone could read the attached letter or put it into the record.

City Council Members: My name is Michael St. John. Maria Teresa and I live in Mendocino, not Fort Bragg, but we own property in Fort Bragg, come here often, and care about what happens here. I have a prior commitment for Monday evening, so I can't come to Town Hall to speak myself, but I want to let you know that I strongly support the daylighting of creeks on the Mill Site. In 1972 I bought a home in Berkeley next to what was at that time a switching yard for the Santa Fe railroad. Ten years later, the trains stopped running on that line and the tracks and switching yard became surplus property. There was a proposal to build low income housing there, but when I and others objected that we had enough low income housing in our neighborhood and that what we needed was a park, the City (miraculously) said OK. A prominent feature of the park development was the daylighting of Strawberry Creek, which runs from the hills above the University of California campus, under ground through Berkeley, then to Aquatic Park and San Francisco Bay. The daylighting was a most successful feature of the new park. It is visited often by many people. I believe that it has become something of an icon for daylighting enthusiasts. I know of no downsides. Elsewhere in Berkeley the culverts that contain Strawberry Creek are crumbling, potentially requiring a significant investment to rebuild them, but at what is now known as Strawberry Creek Park, there is no need because the creek runs free. Another advantage is that when there is flash flooding, the culverts cause the water to flow fast and hard, potentially causing culvert collapse. The daylighting at our park provided a small flood plain where the water can slow down and spread out, lessening the potential for storm damage. I do recommend that the creeks be daylighted at the Mill Site and, if possible, elsewhere in Fort Bragg. Thanks for listening. MStJ.

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