

SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATERSHED

Important Watershed and Wildlife Information for the Community

Dear SLV Residents and Neighbors,

When winter rains fall, it's SO important to slow down or **stop erosion!** Here's why a little action by every homeowner and resident is **SO** important to maintain water quality in the San Lorenzo River.

Our beloved mountainous watershed environment is both majestic and very fragile. Our steep slopes, unstable soils, big storms, and lots of human activity all adds up to **accelerated erosion** and **too much sediment** going into the River and its tributaries. The result is a loss of water quality for both fish habitat and our drinking water source.

Erosion's negative consequences for **each** of us includes >> decreased property values, undermined foundations, road washouts, gullies, landslides, road closures, increased flood hazards, clogged drainage systems, overflowing septic systems, expensive filtering systems for our drinking water, and destruction of fish and wildlife habitat!



DETAIN

Accelerated Erosion has a profound impact on fish and other aquatic species. Too much sedimentation harms their habitat by filling in pools, reducing insect abundance, smothering fish eggs in the gravel, and reducing the stream's ability to carry floodwaters.

Remedies are very site specific. Check the list on the reverse side for local sources of information and expertise.

DISSIPATE

Erosion control goals are to **detain, dissipate, direct and divert runoff**. These can be achieved in two important ways >> 1) everyday things owners and residents can do, and 2) using best available techniques in major developments, road-building and grading. For major projects, as you'd expect, there are many ordinances and codes to prevent accelerated erosion in the development of property and roads, and for commercial activities. Landowners can get a wealth of information from the County on erosion control for your land and from your activities.

Planting native plants and eliminating invasive species are important ways to stabilize stream banks in order to prevent erosion and stimulate habitat for a diversity of wildlife. There are several types of indigenous willows that are perfect for winter planting.



DIRECT

Plan for erosion control in major projects you will start this spring and summer! This includes major drainage structures for roads and driveways such as waterbreaks, culverts and roadside ditches with runoff dissipators. Be sure to control any erosion from agricultural grading, raising and grazing livestock, well drilling and repair, new septic installations, quarrying and timber harvesting.



DIVERT

The efforts each of us makes are crucial to reduce erosion, preserve land stability and water quality, and to protect the fish and wildlife habitat from a choking deluge of sediment. Erosion happens one bit of sediment at a time, and our efforts must also be one bit from all of us to add up to good erosion prevention and control.

Every homeowner and resident can:

- Make sure drainage ditches and gullies on your property and storm drains on your street are not obstructed;
- Remember to leave fallen wood in larger creeks and the river—for good fish habitat;
- Protect vegetation along streams and water courses that hold the soil in place;
- Stop soil from slipping. Detain and dissipate runoff >> where appropriate, create catch basins, place gravel & rock, plant native plants, use supportive straw bales, coir rolls and mulching. See list at end of this mailing for sources of good advice and these materials.
- Direct runoff that is causing erosion to areas less steep where it can be dispersed, re-absorbed and slowed on its way to a water course;
- Make sure soil and organic material is not piled where it might wash into streams and drainage paths or kill stream bank vegetation;
- Make sure your dirt roads and parking areas are not eroding and make sure paved roads and parking areas aren't focusing water to cause erosion;
- Control runoff containing sediment.

So, please, if there is anything you can do to prevent erosion on your land or road—get out there and do it!

For help from Santa Cruz County on Erosion and Flood Control, call (831) 454-3255

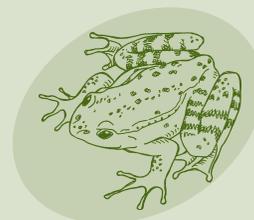
**VALLEY WOMEN'S CLUB
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
FOR SAN LORENZO VALLEY**

P.O. Box 574
Ben Lomond, CA 95005

Permit #12
Non-Profit Org.
Ben Lomond, CA
95005

EROSION!

- ✎ Affects SLV and Santa Cruz drinking water
- ✎ Creates excess sedimentation that kills fish
- ✎ Silt clogs water intake and filtration systems
- ✎ Causes loss of valuable topsoil and property



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Why is **Erosion Control** so Essential for our Land, Water, and Fish?



Rainbow Trout/Steelhead
Historic Habitat in
San Lorenzo River

Resources you can contact for advice and guidance:

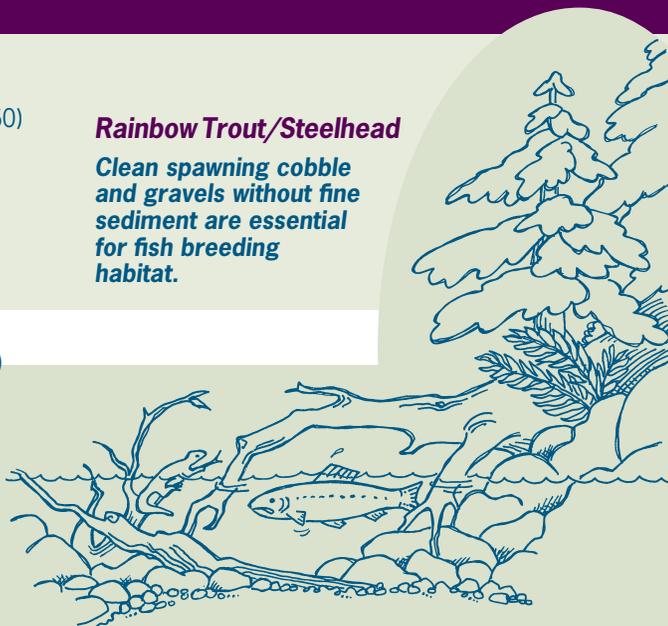
- Santa Cruz County Planning Dept. (454-2580) and Public Works Dept. (454-2160) Publishes "Santa Cruz County Stream Care Guide"
- Scotts Valley Planning Dept. (440-5630)
- California Association of Resource Conservation Districts publishes "Guide to Watershed Project Permitting for the State of California", a wonderful resource for planning major developments. (916-457-7904; www.carcd.org)
- Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (464-2950)
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (457-1967; www.nrcs.usda.gov)

Rainbow Trout/Steelhead
Clean spawning cobble
and gravels without fine
sediment are essential
for fish breeding
habitat.

Local Sources of Erosion Control Supplies:

- Mountain Feed (336-8876) –straw bales
- Scotts Valley Sprinkler & Pipe Supply (438-6450) –many kinds of materials
- ProBuild, Santa Cruz (423-0223)
- Granite Construction (335-3445) –rock supplies
- GraniteRock, Santa Cruz (471-3400)
- Central Home Supply, Santa Cruz (423-0763)

See the Yellow Pages for "Erosion Control Consultants".
Contact native plants nurseries, such as Central Coast Wilds (459-0655).



Call our
Environmental Committee
with any questions:
338-1728.
Thanks for helping!