

## Sunnyvale helps fund study of steelhead trout migration in Stevens Creek

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Sunnyvale will chip in \$4,875 to help fund a study that will explore ways to improve the migration of steelhead trout along Stevens Creek.

Among other things, the study also would analyze how creek conditions can be made more sustainable for the trout as well as other wildlife.

According to a city staff report, the study will focus on fish passages at five locations in the creek between San Francisco Bay and Stevens Creek Reservoir. Once completed, the Santa Clara Valley Water District would use the \$76,237 study's findings to help it decide what needs to be done.

Friends of Stevens Creek Trail, which would commission the study, is applying for a water district grant to cover 75 percent of the cost and is seeking the remaining 25 percent from Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Cupertino and the MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Friends of Stevens Creek Trail board member Ross Heitkamp said the funding from Sunnyvale represents a fourth of the remaining 25 percent.

In voting 6-1 on Feb. 23 to allocate the money, the Sunnyvale City Council indicated it would be willing to contribute up to \$9,800 if one of the other cities doesn't pony up.

Councilman Jim Griffith said the drought has taught the water district to be more conscientious about the challenges facing steelhead trout in Stevens Creek and he hopes the study would provide it with needed information.

"A few years ago we had an incident on the Stevens Creek where it suddenly and unexpectedly went dry. ... I think doing something like this and getting [the water district] to go for the grant would have the added benefit of them being a little more aware of the creek and more sensitive to what's in the creek," Griffith said.

Councilman Pat Meyering cast the only dissenting vote, saying it's the responsibility of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, not Sunnyvale, to deal with the fish migration blockages.

"I think it's fine. I think our residents appreciate when we can take a regional view of what's going on in the valley," said Mayor Glenn Hendricks. "As much as we'd like to say things stop at our borders, I don't think that's the right way to look at it. The environment is a regional thing; we don't live in a dome world where it stops at our borders."

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