CONSERVING OUR LAND — PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE

Rising from the valley floor to the majestic shores of Lake Tahoe, Placer County is one of the most beautiful places in California to live, work, raise a family, do business, and visit. Our natural resources, open spaces and agricultural lands provide us a high quality of life and economic vitality. It's no wonder we are also one of the fastest growing counties in the country. But as our population grows, new development increases pressures on agriculture, natural areas, wildlife, and water quality.

Recognizing the need to balance economic growth with a proactive conservation effort, the Placer County Board of Supervisors formed community partnerships and reached out to the county's citizens to develop such a vision...Placer Legacy. Placer Legacy is a comprehensive plan for protecting agricultural lands, natural areas, water quality, biological diversity, and scenic vistas. The programs and policies of Placer Legacy work to increase flood control and forest fire safety and create additional outdoor recreational opportunities.

Placer Legacy established its foundation in the 1994 County General Plan. Placer Legacy is intended to help implement the goals and objectives of the General Plan and to address state and federal regulations for endangered species and wetlands.

To help defray the costs of developing Placer Legacy, the County entered into an innovative publicprivate partnership with a local non-profit, the Sierra Business Council (SBC). SBC committed staff and organizational resources to assist with the public participation, outreach, and fundraising efforts. Sierra Business Council secured significant grant funding for developing the program and purchasing land for the new Hidden Falls Regional Park. The partnership with SBC remains strong has been hailed as a model for cooperation throughout the region.

Placer Legacy is intended to provide a long-range plan that preserves the County's most important natural areas and agricultural lands. Placer Legacy seeks to protect these valuable resources in a manner that is as permanent as the urban and suburban parts of our landscape. Together the residents of Placer County can work to conserve and enhance the County's unique natural heritage, minimize conflicts between natural resource conservation and economic development, and enhance the prosperity of current and future residents of Placer County.



DID YOU KNOW?

PLACER LEGACY WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **OTHER AGENCIES AND NON-PROFITS SO THAT OUR LOCAL DOLLARS** ARE LEVERAGED TO **OBTAIN ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOURCES**



DID YOU KNOW?

PLACER LEGACY WORKS THROUGH VOLUNTARY **CONSERVATION AGREE-**MENTS AND ACQUIRES LAND ONLY FROM WILLING SELLERS

PRE-SORTED

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PLACER COUNTY



EMIGRANT TRAILS GREENWAY TRUST

EMIGRANT TRAILS GREENWAY TRUST WAS FOUNDED BY SUSAN AND BOB COOLEY-GILLIOM IN 2001 WITH THE GOAL OF PRESERVING NATURAL OPEN SPACE, HABITAT, SCENIC VIEWS, AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES WITHIN A BROAD SWATH OF LAND. THE TRUST ENCOMPASSES A RANGE FROM THE SIERRA NEVADA FOOTHILLS IN THE AMERICAN, BEAR, AND YUBA RIVER WATERSHEDS, TO THE CREST OF THE SIERRA, INCLUDING TRUCKEE AND THE TRUCKEE RIVER FROM LAKE TAHOE.

THE CONCEPT WAS INSPIRED BY THE "MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY" IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. EMIGRANT TRAILS GREENWAY TRUST TAKES ITS NAME FROM THE NUMEROUS EMIGRANT ROUTES THROUGH THE AREA AND THE LONG HISTORY OF HUMAN PASSAGE AND EXPERIENCE WITH THE AREA'S UNIQUE BEAUTY AND DIVERSITY.

SUSAN PASSED AWAY IN 2003 BUT LEFT AN AMAZING LEGACY THROUGH HER COMMITMENT TO THE GREENWAY TRUST. BOB CONTINUES TO CARRY THE TORCH FOR THE TRUST AND HAS BEEN ACTIVELY WORKING ON A NUMBER OF PROJECTS, SOME NOW COMPLETE AND SOME IN PROGRESS. THE EMIGRANT GREENWAY TRUST WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PLACER LAND TRUST, TRUCKEE-DONNER LAND TRUST, THE CALIFORNIA OAK FOUNDATION, PLACER LEGACY, AND OTHERS.



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PLACER LEGACY

CONSERVING OUR LAND PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE



HIDDEN FALLS REGIONAL PARK AND CISCO GROVE GOULD PARK OPEN

Placer County recently celebrated the grand opening of two parks developed under the Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program: Hidden Falls Regional Park near Auburn and Cisco Grove Gould Park on the South Fork of the Yuba River.

Hidden Falls Regional Park is a 220-acre open space park located approximately mid-point between the cities of Lincoln and Auburn. The heavily wooded site provides excellent opportunities for usage and required little disturbance to natural conditions. Access is provided from Mears Road off Mt. Vernon Road.

The property is formerly known as the "Didion Ranch" and provides public recreational access to Coon and Deadman Canyon creeks. It represents the first phase of Hidden Falls Regional Park which will grow to 1,120 acres once improvements are completed on the adjacent County-owned "Spears Ranch" property, currently in the planning stages.

First phase improvements at the park include six miles of partially ADA accessible multi-use trails, an equestrian staging area, picnic areas, fishing access improvements, signage, a bridge, paved access road, restroom facilities, and a 50-space parking lot.

"To date, this parcel is the flagship of our Legacy program," said Supervisor Robert Weygandt, who represents District 2 where the property is located. "It preserves oak and riparian habitat while affording recreational opportunities in proximity to the fast growing cities of Roseville, Rocklin, and Lincoln."

In late October 2006, the Placer County Board of Supervisors officially opened Cisco Grove Gould Park along the South Fork Yuba River. The park property offers nearly one-quarter mile of access to the river and is conveniently located adjacent to the Interstate 80 Cisco Grove exit.

Gould Park encompasses special natural beauty and wilderness character, along

with historical significance. Park improvements have been designed to protect the biological and historical resources on the property, including the original grove of cottonwoods from which the name Cisco Grove was derived and old stone structures on Hampshire Rocks Road. When restored, the stone structures are expected to be used to describe and display the history of the area. Activities such as picnicking, fishing, hiking, nature walks and bird watching are available on the 18-acre park site. The park is only open during the dry season for dayuse only.

Many thanks are owed to the Gould family for their decades of stewardship of the property and their willingness to protect the land forever.

"TO DATE, THIS PARCEL IS THE FLAGSHIP OF **OUR LEGACY PROGRAM."**

-- Supervisor Robert Weygandt on Hidden Falls Regional Park

Park improvements at Hidden Falls and Gould Parks were assisted by funding from California's Proposition 40 River Parkways Grant Program. Acquisition of the Gould property was made feasible by a grant under California's Sierra Nevada Cascade Program, assistance from the Placer Land Trust, and a \$50,000 contribution from the Emigrant Greenway Trust (see left sidebar).

"I am immensely pleased that Gould and Hidden Falls Regional Parks are open to the public," said County Executive Thomas Miller. "I know that children and families from all over Placer County will enjoy using them. Together with our many partners who helped make this vision a reality, we are proud of the multiple benefits these projects offer and understand the enduring legacy of conservation that securing this open space provides for generations to come," the County Executive added.

For more information, contact Placer County Parks Department at (530) 886-



FIVE EASY WAYS TO HELP

PLACER COUNTY INVITES YOU TO PLAY A PART IN PROTECTING OUR **BEAUTIFUL AND VIBRANT COUNTY** LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

- ADD YOUR NAME TO OUR **MAILING LIST**
- INVITE ONE OF OUR SPEAKERS TO YOUR ORGANIZATION'S **NEXT MEETING**
- VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME
- MAKE A DONATION, SET UP A PAYROLL DEDUCTION, OR INCLUDE A "LEGACY" GIFT IN YOUR WILL
- PROVIDE ACCESS FOR HABITAT **ENHANCEMENTS AND MONITORING**
- TO FIND OUT ABOUT ANY OF THESE, PLEASE CONTACT THE PLACER COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT AT (530) 745-3000.

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Collaborative Conservation of Water Birds and Habitat

THE CENTRAL VALLEY JOINT VENTURE AND THE AMERICAN BASIN WORKING GROUP

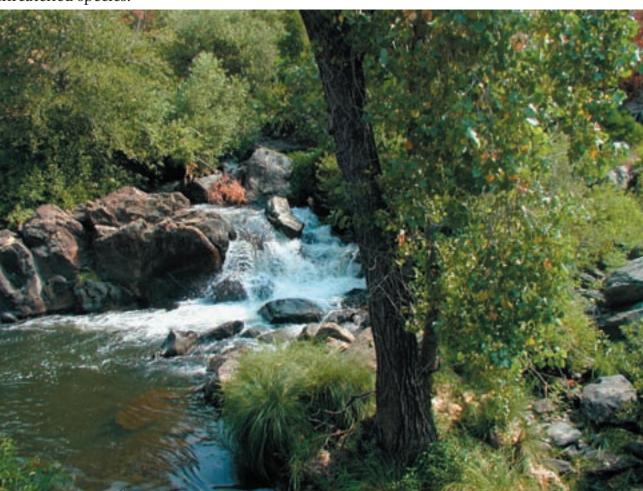
The Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV) is one of 17 Joint Venture partnerships in the United States, established under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The CVJV brings together conservation organizations, public agencies, private landowners and other partners interested in the conservation of bird habitat within Californias Central Valley. Working collaboratively through diverse partnerships, CVJV seeks to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and associated habitats for waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and riparian songbirds.

Out of this effort, the American Basin Project was formed in order to address the habitat conservation needs within the central portion of the basin defined by the American River to the north, the Sacramento River to the south, the Feather River to the west, and the Sierra Nevada foothills to the east. The basin totals about 860 square miles and is the only one of nine basins in the Central Valley of California that does not have a public wildlife refuge. The American Basin is the most threatened basin in California. Private wetlands, agriculture (primarily rice), and riparian habitat are relied upon to provide important food and resting habitat for thousands of migratory birds, and resident wildlife, including endangered and threatened species.

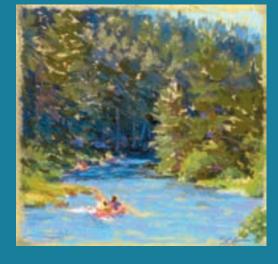
In order to achieve the conservation goals in the American Basin, members of the Central Valley Joint Venture, local governmental agencies (including Placer and Sutter counties), and local non-profit groups came together to form the American Basin Working Group.

The Working Group's goals and objectives are rooted in a vision of an agricultural working landscape dominated by rice acreage surrounding a core area of managed wetlands. Conserved areas are to have multiple uses for agricultural production, wildlife habitat connectivity, habitat restoration, public use recreation, and flood control. Under this plan, the Working Group envisions a core area of 5,000 acres of protected wetlands buffered by 10,000 of agricultural conservation easements in the Coon Creek and Auburn Ravine Watersheds.

As local government agencies plan for growth, they are also planning for wildlife habitat, recreation, and open space. The American Basin Project is utilizing these planning efforts to influence land protection in the basins conservation area to benefit endangered and special status species, common species, the growing human population, and the existing agricultural producers.



legacy/



TRUCKEE RIVER CORRIDOR ACCESS PLAN

RESTORING AND ENHANCING WATER QUALITY AND THE CORRIDOR'S ECOLOGICAL, RECREATIONAL, AND TRANSPORTATION VALUES

The Truckee River is a critically important natural resource that serves many functions. The river is the outlet of Lake Tahoe, providing water supply for Reno and Nevada users. The river is a significant natural resource that provides a recreational trout fishery, habitat for the endangered Lahontan cutthroat trout, and riparian habitat for wildlife.

The Truckee River Corridor is also an outstanding recreation resource—providing a popular destination for paddlers, hikers, anglers, cross-country skiers, and bicyclists. The existing Class 1 trail along the southernmost river reach is popular with both families and more serious athletes. From Tahoe City to Truckee, past and current transportation and industrial

issues combined with recent population growth, development, and recreational use put substantial pressure on the Truckee River corridor.

For example, eroded stream banks and degraded riverside meadows have negative impacts on wildlife habitat. The vision of the Truckee River Corridor Access Plan is to restore and enhance the river corridor's

ecological, water quality, recreational, and nonmotorized transportation values, while protecting the property rights of corridor landowners.

Public interest in and use of the Truckee River is increasing among local and visiting fly fishers, paddlers, bicyclists, and hikers. The Truckee River is also an attraction to tourists from outside the area. No single agency, organization, or stakeholder has jurisdiction over all the land in the river corridor or control of all these issues; however, the coordination of various plans and projects can go a long way toward creating solutions.

Through Placer Legacy, Placer County has taken the first steps toward this coordination by funding the preparation of a corridor access plan to identify environmental and access-related river corridor issues and projects. This study plan is intended to serve as the guiding vision to help agencies and organizations 1) direct land management activities; 2) enhance, restore, and protect natural resources; and 3) develop trails, staging areas, and other potential low-intensity recreational facilities on public land.

WHAT WILL THE ACCESS PLAN DO?

DIRECT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

PROTECT & RESTORE NATUR

DEVELOP TRAILS ON PUBLIC LAND

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SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

SEPTEMBER 23RD MARKED TWO YEARS SINCE GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER SIGNED HISTORIC LEGISLATION CREATING THE 25 MILLION ACRE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY (SNC), DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF THE SIERRA NEVADA REGION. JIM BRANHAM, FORMER UNDERSECRETARY FOR CAL/EPA, IS APPROACHING HIS ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY AS THE SNC'S FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

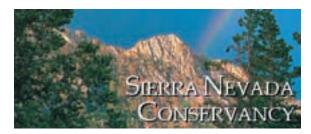
AFTER MANY COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS FROM COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE SIERRA NEVADA, THE SNC SELECTED THE AUBURN AREA FOR ITS PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS. THE DECISION WAS BASED ON AUBURN'S CENTRALITY, YEAR-ROUND ACCESSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SNC TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC WELLBEING, AND ACCESS FOR EMPLOYEES TO SCHOOLS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION, AND OTHER SERVICES.

THE SIERRA BUSINESS COUNCIL, A SPONSOR OF THE LEGISLATION, WORKED WITH THE CONSERVANCY BOARD TO HOST FORUMS THROUGHOUT THE SIERRA NEVADA TO INTRODUCE AND CLARIFY THE SNC'S PURPOSES AND BEGIN DIALOGUE AND BRAINSTORMING ABOUT HOW THE CONSERVANCY CAN SATISFY ITS MISSION IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE SIERRA. THE CONSERVANCY ALSO HOSTED SIX SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOPS TO ELICIT PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITS STRATEGIC PLAN. INCORPORATING VAST AMOUNTS OF INPUT, THE STRATEGIC PLAN WAS APPROVED IN JULY 2006.

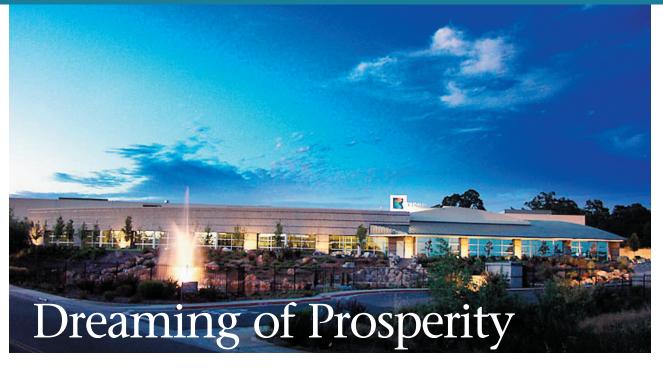
THE SNC RECENTLY RELEASED AN INTERACTIVE SEARCHABLE DATABASE OF REPORTS, ASSESSMENTS, MANAGEMENT PLANS, HANDBOOKS, GENERAL PLANS, AND OTHER PLANNING DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THE CONSERVANCY'S REGION AND GOALS. THIS "E-LIBRARY" IS AVAILABLE AT HTTP://LIBRARY.SIERRANEVADA.CA.GOV/.

VISIT THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY ONLINE AT

WWW.SIERRANEVADACONSERVANCY.CA.GOV







AUBURN-BASED COMPANY BUILDS ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND FINANCIAL CAPITAL

Dream of a business that is not only profitable, it is community-minded, and employees rarely leave because it is a great place to work. Your dream gets even better when you are greeted by a site of over 20 acres with a half-mile of exercise courses surrounding the business. Directly adjacent to the company are three acres of blue-oak dotted rolling hills, which were deeded to the County through a conservation easement.

As you walk in the entrance you pause at the waterfalls and admire the koi ponds used to cool the solar photovoltaic system. The solar panels generate so much energy that the company sells electricity back to the power company. You walk into the CEO's office and a big screen monitor shows all the energy the company is selling back to society rather than consuming.

Do you believe that such a company exists right here in Placer County? Don Whitaker moved Ceronix, Inc., a company specializing in state-of-the-art gaming monitors, to Auburn. Mr. Whitaker moved his company to Auburn because he appreciated the high quality of life and believed it would attract top employees. Don believes in making a good living, preserving the natural resources, giving back to the community, and having fun.

"Ceronix is just a fun place to work," mentioned one employee, with a go-kart zipping around the facility around him. Ceronix is also a highly productive work environment. Individual creativity is highly prized throughout the company. Allowing employees at every level of the organization the flexibility and freedom to innovate results in a workforce that is decidedly engaged in its work.

The company has an extremely inventive team that constantly breaks new ground in the competitive high-tech industry of monitor and circuit production.

Ceronix proves that being creative and having fun can be profitable. Current sales are now over \$14 million a year and the company's net income is over \$1 million. Ceronix also has more than a half million dollars in cash reserves with no debt.

Ceronix shares this prosperity with its employees. Each employee has full medical, dental and life insurance plans without a co-pay. Last year, Ceronix contributed over \$300,000 to the employees through the company's profit sharing 401K plans. Employees have a choice of over 20 different funds and have access to expert investment advice through AG Edwards counselors who assist in financial planning. Many of the employees have \$200,000 in these employee managed investment plans. Employees can borrow up to 50 percent of these retirement plans as a down payment for the purchase of a home.

Ceronix shares its wealth with the surrounding community as well. In addition to making its campus open to the entire community through its elaborate exercise course, Ceronix is highly engaged in many civic ventures, including tours for thousands of school children. Ceronix is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the Placer County quality of life, natural areas, and economic prosperity that originally inspired Don Whittaker to establish his business in Auburn.



CONSERVATION

TOOLBOX

PLACER LEGACY SEEKS TO PROTECT NATURAL AREAS AND OPEN SPACE. PARTICIPATION IN THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY, AND TRANSACTIONS ARE ONLY CONDUCTED ON A WILLING-SELLER BASIS. THE FOLLOWING TOOLS CAN BE USED TO PROTECT THE UNIQUE NATURAL, HISTORIC, RECREATIONAL, SCENIC, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES OF PLACER COUNTY.

PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FROM WILLING SELLERS AT FAIR MARKET VALUE, ALSO KNOWN AS "FULL-FEE ACQUISITION".

PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR LESS THAN ITS FAIR MARKET VALUE—A BARGAIN SALE, ALSO KNOWN AS "LESS-THAN-FEE PURCHASE". THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PURCHASE PRICE AND THE PROPERTY'S MARKET VALUE CAN BE CLAIMED AS A CHARITABLE DEDUCTION BY THE PROPERTY OWNER. THIS IS ALSO A VOLUNTARY TRANSFER OF LAND.

PURCHASE OF PROPERTY WHERE AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED IN WHICH THE SALES PRICE IS PAID IN TWO OR MORE INSTALLMENTS. IF THE INSTALLMENTS ARE SPREAD OVER TWO OR MORE YEARS IT MAY BENEFIT THE SELLER'S TAX SITUATION.

OUTRIGHT VOLUNTARY DONATION OF

VOLUNTARY DONATION OF PROPERTY AT

VOLUNTARY DONATION OR SALE OF PROPERTY WITH SELLER RETAINING THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE TO USE AND LIVE ON THE PROPERTY UNTIL DEATH—LIFE ESTATE.

VOLUNTARY DONATION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT BY PROPERTY OWNER. A CONSERVATION EASEMENT RETIRES THE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS ON A PIECE OF LAND.

PURCHASE OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FROM A WILLING SELLER.

PLANNED GIVING STRATEGIES SUCH AS CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES AND CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS. WHILE THESE ARE NOT STRICTLY LAND PROTECTION TOOLS, THEY DO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND TAX SAVING INCENTIVES THAT CAN HELP MAKE LAND PROTECTION FEASIBLE.

THESE VOLUNTARY TOOLS CAN BE USED IN WAYS THAT MEET THE FINANCIAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF THE PROPERTY OWNER. MANY OF THE TOOLS CAN PROVIDE VALUABLE TAX BENEFITS FOR THE PROPERTY OWNER. ALL OF THEM CAN BE USED IN EFFORTS TO SAVE PLACER'S **OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS FOR FUTURE** GENERATIONS.

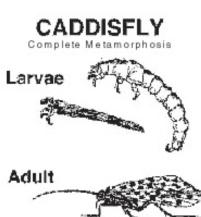
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Local Student Learns How to Monitor Water Quality

WATER QUALITY TESTING

BY JANEVA YOUNG

I am a senior at Del Oro High School, and for my senior project, I decided to test the water quality of Auburn Ravine. I found assistance from Mr. Sullivan, a senior planner for Placer County. He helped me get started and provided feedback on my tests and what I saw in the stream. When I had questions, if he couldn't answer them, he put me in touch with experts that could. For guidance on monitoring equipment, Mr. Sullivan put me in touch with a member of the Dry Creek Conservancy, who taught me how to use machines to numerically measure dissolved oxygen (D.O.) and other water quality parameters.



In my tests, I measured D.O., phosphate, nitrogen, and other qualities based on appearance. I also took a sampling of benthic macroinvertebrates to create a the Placer County Planning Department mini body mass index (BMI) to determine water quality from a pollution tolerance perspective. The insect I found most was the scud, which indicates average water quality. I also found a type of snail that is pollution intolerant. Both of these were found with worms, which are very toler-this area healthy. ant of poor water quality.

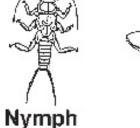
In my search, I found very few EPTs: Ephemeroptera (mayfly), Plecoptera (stonefly), and Trichoptera (caddisfly), which implies that the water quality is not great, and they cannot survive there. I learned all about these bugs and their tolerance of pollution from taking a three day class at Sierra College hosted by the Dry Creek

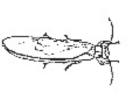


Conservancy. I used all the information I learned about testing water and what is good and bad for fish and aquatic macroinvertebrates as indicators of stream health to teach lessons in three biology classes at my high school.

I am so thankful to Mr. Sullivan and for helping me learn about water quality issues, which allowed me to pass on my newly acquired information to others. I hope others in my school will continue to participate in water quality sampling for us to know what is needed to keep streams in

STONEFLY Simple Metamorphosis





Adult

California Red-Legged Frog

FUN FACTS ABOUT FROGS

Did you know that the California Red-Legged Frog is the largest native frog in the western United States? It measures anywhere from 1.5 -5.5 inches long!

COLOR ME!

This frog inspired

Mark Twain's story

Calaveras County!"

"The Celebrated

Jumping Frog of

Red-legged frogs

live in cool, fresh-

water bonds, wet-

lands, and streams.

Unfortunately, it

has disappeared

from 70% of its

habitat.



on earth for millions of years-much longer than humans, but today many are an endangered.

Amphibians have survived



PLACER COUNTY WAS ONE OF 19 COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE AND THE ONLY ONE IN CALIFORNIA TO BE HIGHLIGHTED IN A 2005 **BOOK CALLED "NATURE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES" BECAUSE OF THE UNIQUE PLACER LEGACY PROGRAM**

DID YOU KNOW?

BETWEEN APRIL 2000 AND

JULY 2005, PLACER COUNTY'S

POPULATION GREW BY 27.6%

COMPARED WITH CALIFORNIA'S

6.7% GROWTH RATE

DID YOU KNOW?

IN 2000, 73.2% OF PLACER'S

RESIDENTS OWNED THEIR HOMES

and this frog, every May in Calaveras County thousands of people gather for a frog jumping contest. Rosie the Ribeter holds the world record for the longest frog jump -- over 21 feet!

even mice!

Inspired by Mark Twain's story

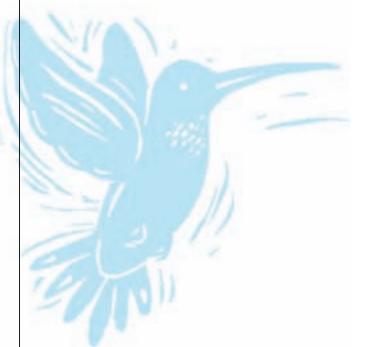
E Listen in late winter for their low, short, abrupt grunts which set it apart from its silent cousin, the Northern red-legged frog.

Frogs are amphibians, and amphibians breathe partly through their skin, which makes them vulnerable to changes in the environment.



DID YOU KNOW?

PLACER'S MOUNTAIN GROWN SEEDLESS MANDARINS ARE **FAMOUS FOR THEIR SWEETNESS** AND FLAVOR, RESULTING FROM WARM DAYS AND COOL NIGHTS. HARVEST SEASON STARTS IN MID-



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