2014 COMMUNITY INPUT REPORT

SAN LORENZO RIVER ALLIANCE

COASTAL WATERSHED COUNCIL

Dear Friends,

Do you feel connected to the San Lorenzo River? Are you drawn to it? Do you want to show it off to friends and family who visit you in Santa Cruz? Do feel like the parks around the river are safe, and that the water is clean enough to play in? Do you think the river is ideal habitat for key species, as well as a place for you to restore by reconnecting to nature in this busy, modern world?

Many of you have answered "NO!" to these questions. And many of you are ready for change along the San Lorenzo. 2014 has people like you thinking and talking about the river more, and there's already growing excitement in your community about the POSSIBILITY for change. You've said that we can do better, that we're too smart, that we're too creative and resourceful as a community to let this continue. There's been a lot of momentum built. But now what?

The San Lorenzo River Alliance fused your input with the many San Lorenzo River and watershed management plans to come up with three main objectives for the river.

River Health: 25% improvement

in San Lorenzo River water quality by the end of 2018 (compared to 2013 baseline of bacteria levels)

River Revelers: 30% increase

in joggers, walkers, bikers, picnickers, families, paddlers by July 31, 2016 (compared to a 2014-15 baseline)

River Talk: 50% increase

in positive press mentions about the river by the end of 2015 (based on 2013 baseline)

The San Lorenzo River Alliance was formed by the Coastal Watershed Council in December 2013 to bring together all of the key players working for a better river. What does a "better river" mean? Over 575 Santa Cruzans ages 8 to 80 shared possible answers during five community river forums this year. This report shares what you've said you're dreaming about for the San Lorenzo River, for this largest watershed in our county, for the parks that surround it, and for this source of nearly 2/3 of our city's drinking water supply.

The other side of this report shows what you've said you want. Members of the San Lorenzo River Alliance are using this input to drive our collective efforts to restore your river. Santa Cruz can show how we create positive change in the community, and we'll do it together through the San Lorenzo River. Visit SanLorenzoRiver.org to learn what role YOU can play. Thank you for believing in change for Santa Cruz, so that we all have a river that positively shapes the vibe and feel of our downtown, and is something we're proud of from summit to sea.

Sincerely,

Greg Pepping, Executive Director, Coastal Watershed Council

The San Lorenzo River Alliance is a community partnership founded by the Coastal Watershed Council in 2013. Visit SanLorenzoRiver.org to learn more.

Urban Watershed Priorities

Upper Watershed Priorities

- Improved Water Quality
- Improved Pathways
- Better Habitat
- Educational Resources
- Protect Fish Species and Remove Barriers to Fish Passage

#1 Riverside Food & Drink
Cafes, Restaurants, Food Trucks & Carts

#2 Paddling Access
Policy Change, Boat Ramp

#3 Amenities
Seating, Lighting, Water Fountains, Restrooms, Parking

#4 Educational Resources
Tours, Visitor Center, Youth Involvement

#5 Art, Music & Events
Movies, Festivals, Fairs

#6 Better Habitat
Fish & Bird Habitat, Native Plants, Wetlands Restoration

#7 River Recreation
Playgrounds, Bike Rentals, Swimming, Yoga

#8 Improved Pathways
Nature Paths, Bike Paths, Hiking Trails

#9 Improved Safety
Increased Ranger Patrols, Less Illegal Activity

#10 Improved Water Quality
Scientific Monitoring

San Lorenzo River

The San Lorenzo River Alliance hosted five Community River Forums in 2014 so you could help guide efforts to improve the river. Check out your top ideas for the lower and upper San Lorenzo watershed. Alliance members will use these ideas to guide efforts to improve the river so that Santa Cruz can enjoy a safe, healthy, thriving and vibrant riverfront.

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