

Mayor Inga Miller  
City of Orinda  
22 Orinda Way  
Orinda, CA 94563

February 13, 2019

**VIA USPS MAIL**

Dear Honorable Mayor:

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) wishes to express its wholehearted support for Friends of Orinda Creeks' restoration planning efforts for downtown Orinda San Pablo Creek, and for the City of Orinda's timely adoption of resolutions in support of the restoration of San Pablo Creek in the downtown Orinda vicinity.

Approximately 29,000 acres of watershed lands in the East Bay provide needed protection for EBMUD's high quality drinking water, while offering habitat for plants and animals – as well as being a natural haven for the public to enjoy. San Pablo Creek is a vital link in this habitat connectivity within watersheds and its restored sections offer critical water quality and habitat protections. Unfortunately, the downtown Orinda section of San Pablo Creek is no longer in a natural state. The channelization of San Pablo Creek has caused a loss of habitat value, a deterioration of water quality and has resulted in the loss of the creek as an amenity for residents. The City and Friends of Orinda Creeks, working in partnership with the City and others, now has the opportunity to reverse the impacts of an altered system, and reclaim the creek for all to enjoy.

In 2018, EBMUD adopted its updated East Bay Watershed Master Plan which strives to improve water quality, increase biodiversity and provide opportunities for the public to enjoy and help steward these remarkable resources. Restoring San Pablo Creek through the downtown Orinda section would mark an important step in this direction. The San Pablo Reservoir watershed is the most urbanized of EBMUD's watersheds in the East Bay. The District's goal is to maximize reservoir water quality in order to provide the best possible source of supply to EBMUD customers. A key objective for this goal is to address existing and potential water quality impacts for lands within the reservoir watersheds that are not owned by the District.

As described above, the degraded downtown section of San Pablo Creek offers an exciting opportunity to help EBMUD reach our goals and objectives, while also beautifying and improving the ambience of downtown Orinda for the public to enjoy. Therefore, we support efforts to plan for and implement the restoration of the downtown Orinda section of San Pablo Creek, and we look forward to supporting this effort and working with you to advance this important goal.

Sincerely,



✓ Jose D. Setka  
Manager of Fisheries and Wildlife  
JS:bm