

RE RIPARIAN VEGETATION

On February 9, 2010, the board accepted the SEP as complete in compliance with the Agreement and applicable requirements of law.

The Salmon Enhancement Plan (SEP) presents science-based recommendations to improve and maintain habitat condition that will support viable populations of salmon and steelhead trout in San Geronimo Valley. The Lagunitas Watershed, which includes San Geronimo Valley, is the largest and most stable population of the endangered Coho salmon south of Fort Bragg and presents one of the best opportunities to preserve and restore Coho in Central California. In addition to Coho salmon, San Geronimo also supports threatened steelhead trout and a fall run of Chinook salmon. The SEP proposed some approaches to consider in order to conserve, enhance and monitor critical habitat elements and functions needed to support viable salmon and steelhead populations in San Geronimo Valley, taking into account the biological and physical characteristics of the Valley.

Elements to be included in a proposed interim ordinance for the Board of Supervisors to consider would include the following:

A provision to require that riparian vegetation in an area from the creek bank and extending thirty five feet not be disturbed or removed with certain limited exceptions. The language setting out any such exceptions is being reviewed and researched at this time.

This ordinance would be limited in scope to the San Geronimo Valley and would be limited in time by its own terms.

This limited interim ordinance would be superceded by a later ordinance that is expected to be broader in scope and that will set out general provisions addressing the protection of stream conservation areas.