



Friends of Five Creeks

*Volunteers preserving and restoring watersheds of
North Berkeley, Albany, Kensington, south El Cerrito and Richmond since 1996
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April 13, 2026

City of Berkeley Mayor, Council Members, City Manager, Acting Public Works Director, Acting Transportation Director
Transportation and Infrastructure Commission, Environment and Climate Commission (via secretaries),
policycommittee@berkeley.ca.gov

Re: Item 02 Hopkins Street Alternatives 1 and 2 Overview. **for 2 PM April 15 meeting of Facilities, Infrastructure,
Transportation, Environment & Sustainability (FITES) Policy Committee**

Mayor, Council, Manager, Acting Public Works and Transportation Managers, and Commissioners:

As detailed in our letters of February 23 and March 24, 2023, it is essential that re-paving of Hopkins Street incorporate green-infrastructure improvements to protect the steelhead and rainbow trout in Codornices Creek, our area's only trout stream. These have been recognized by the (then) Fish and Game Department and Regional Water Quality Control Board for more than two decades. Millions of dollars and thousands of hours of volunteer work have been spent to restore their habitat and protect them.

The creek runs a half block north of the project. **Just below its Monterey crossing, in April 2019, firefighters' surfactant foam from a trash-truck fire flowed via a short, direct storm-drain run to the creek, killing some 60-100 trout, almost the entire population. Trout are recovering but still few.**

Nothing meaningful has been done to prevent a repeat. Monterey Avenue has been repaved for bicycles with no added green infrastructure, even at the creek crossing. The Hopkins Project was planned from 2021 on with no green infrastructure; consultants and council members ignored our earlier letters. Transportation-Director Farid Javandel, no longer with the city, set an artificial 2023 deadline for repaving for bicycles, in order to avoid increased San Francisco Bay Water Quality Control Board requirements for green infrastructure set to go into effect that summer. This is detailed in our letters of Feb. 23 and Mar. 24, 2023, attached, and I have a copy of Transportation Director Javandel's email. 7

Friends of Five Creeks has no position on sidewalk, or bicycle lanes. We do insist that the city observe legal requirements for reducing runoff pollution, and take reasonable measures to protect its rare privilege, this urban trout stream. I look forward to hearing plans for protecting these fish at the Wednesday, April 15, meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Schwartz, President, Friends of Five Creeks

Attachments: February and March 2023 letters

Cc: Eileen White, Executive Officer, San Francisco Bay Water Quality Control Board; Brian Thompson, Enforcement Division, San Francisco Bay Water Quality Control Board

Friends of Five Creeks is a partner project of 501(c)3 Berkeley Partners for Parks