

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Brian Waters, foreground, and Reginald Barrett of Friends of Orinda Creeks look at debris at what is known as SP201, an East Bay Municipal Utility District "drop structure," or dam, that gets clogged and has prevented native rainbow trout from migrating upstream. Photo Chris Lavin

## SP201 – Call It a Dam

*A technical term for an environmental barrier*

By Chris Lavin

The recent rains are the bane of Friends of Orinda Creeks' (FOC) efforts to re-enable native rainbow trout ingress into Upper San Pablo Creek. They say that is because the East Bay Municipal Utility District structure known as SP201 has stood in the way of the native rainbow trout's ability to swim upstream from San Pablo Dam Reservoir

to spawn in their native creek for as many as 20 years. "I would say that the existence of trout has been gone for about 10 years, probably 20 years," said Reginald Barrett, a professor emeritus of wildlife management at UC Berkeley, who lives in Orinda. He now spends time doing as much for the creeks as possible. "We've been trying to

change that trend for more than 10 years." He laughs often at comments that he makes. "It takes having a sense of humor to be doing it as long as we have," he said, referring to appealing to the governmental organizations that provide municipal services to the area. ... continued on page A6

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## Lamorinda Frustrations Mount Due to Bus Driver Shortage

By Sophie Braccini



A booming economy can have negative unintended consequences, such as the mounting difficulty to find bus drivers. The Lamorinda School Bus Program (LSBP) contracts with the largest company, First Student, which is not immune to the phenomenon. During the month of December, out of an estimated 1,320 runs that month, 25 runs were missed in Lamorinda due to lack of drivers.

"As a working parent and someone who depends on the bus to take my son to school every morning, it was very stressful trying to figure out how he was getting to school this morning with such late notice. I was already on my way to work," wrote a parent about a December incident on route 23 that goes to Stanley Middle School. That parent received a text message sent at 6:05 a.m. by Juliet

Hansen, LSBP program manager, who communicates that way with parents and schools every time something affects a route. One parent yelled at a bus driver for being late, which led to this new driver resigning his position. In a letter to parents, Hansen asked parents not to take out their frustration on drivers. "This person (the parent) was probably having a bad day and he apologized," said Hansen. She says that LSBP has been using the text messaging system more than ever before to notify parents of changes in service, often very early in the morning. "However, even with notification, canceled or combined routes create a huge disruption to families who rely on the school bus for transportation. ... continued on page A12