

# Restoring streams

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A beaver lives in the restored Napa Creek. Photo provided

water quality, water conservation, hydrology, flood management, stream science and restoration. She has served on committees for the National Academy of Sciences and the John Heinz Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment.

In 1982 Riley cofounded the Urban Creeks Council in California and in 1993 was instrumental in organizing the first conference of the Coalition to Restore Urban Waters, a national network of urban stream and river organizations. In 1984 she spearheaded a program under the auspices of the California Department of Water Resources that continues today to provide grants supporting urban stream restoration. She is the author of "Restoring Streams in Cities" and "Restoring Neighborhood Streams," both published by Island Press.

While many think that restoring San Pablo Creek is a daunting task, Riley thinks it is a piece of cake. She showed how creeks in difficult urban landscapes have been successfully restored. Two areas of particular note in her talk were the Albany University Village and the restoration of Napa Creek. In the Napa creek project, seven to nine homes beside the creek that were

constantly flooding were relocated. Following its restoration, the creek is now home to beavers and other wildlife. In Martinez you can also find beavers in the restored creek, plus steelhead, herons, pond turtles and otters. She also talked about bringing the use of ancient technology that has been forgotten but is enjoying a comeback, such as soil bioengineering to stabilize creek banks.

Funding the Napa project required a sales tax that had to be passed by a two-thirds vote. But Riley pointed out this led to participation and "buy in" that really meant a lot to the project. Riley talked about other funding possibilities, and noted that there will be a bond for parks and water projects during the next election. Codornices Creek in Albany/Berkeley was restored with grants from the state of California. El Cerrito, she noted, made it a development condition for a new shopping center that the developer daylight the creek.

In Orinda, she said, what needs to be done is to provide a new slope for the creek and to control flooding by design, and added that there needs to be a community discussion about how many parking spaces can be traded off for creek restoration and business rejuvenation. Riley concluded her talk with a wish list for San Pablo Creek, which included bringing the creek up to the level of the stores, providing more outdoor seating, trails and a pocket park. Riley thinks that the Urban Land Institute report, which was presented Sept. 20 to the city of Orinda, is of great value and that there are a lot of creative things that can be done with San Pablo Creek. She recommends that there be a subcommittee on creek restoration, and that a team of landscape architects be consulted.

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# Orinda wins Outstanding Sustainable Engineering Project of the Year award

By Sora O'Doherty



Public Works Director Larry Theis and Paving Engineer Project Manager Farah Khorashadi are all smiles after receiving the Outstanding Sustainable Engineering Project of the Year award. Back row, from left: Orinda City Council members Dean Orr, Inga Miller, Mayor Eve Phillips, Vice Mayor Amy Worth and Council Member Darlene Gee; front row: Don Greb, principal engineer of Griffin Soil, Theis, Khorashadi, and Bill Howard, president of Griffin Soil Group. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Using full depth reclamation to restore Orinda's roads garnered an award for Public Works Director Larry Theis and Paving Engineer Project Manager Farah Khorashadi at the American Society of Civil Engineers San Francisco Section annual meeting and

awards gala on Sept. 14. Full depth reclamation is beneficial environmentally and financially and leads to quicker restoration of roads. Vice Mayor Amy Worth commended the Public Works Department at a recent council meeting, noting that Orinda tried full depth reclamation

before other cities. Full depth reclamation, or full depth recycling, is a process that rebuilds worn out asphalt pavements by recycling the existing roadway. Old asphalt and base materials are pulverized in place using a specialized machine called a reclaimer, and then reused.

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**319 TAPPAN TER | ORINDA**  
**\$2,275,000**  
5 BR | 4.5 BA | 4200 Sq. Ft.  
Finola Fellner | CalBRE#01428834



**14 SAINT STEPHENS DRIVE | ORINDA**  
**\$1,949,000**  
5 BR | 3BA | 2966 Sq. Ft.  
Melanie Snow | CalBRE#00878893



**1873 SAINT ANDREWS DR | MORAGA**  
**\$1,575,000**  
4 BR | 3BA | 2883 Sq. Ft.  
Elena Hood | CalBRE#01221247



**327 CONSTANCE PLACE | MORAGA**  
**\$1,275,000**  
4 BR | 2.5 BA | 2055 Sq. Ft.  
Walter Nelson | CalBRE#01461463



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