



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY GROUP
Of The Ventana Chapter
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June 25, 2014

Santa Cruz Public Works
809 Center Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: San Lorenzo River Tree Removal Timing

Dear Public Works Director Dettle and City Manager Bernal,

We understand that you are considering starting a vegetation removal project along the San Lorenzo River in the upcoming days during June or July. Historically such vegetation removal has taken place in late August, outside bird nesting season.

Removal at this time of year will be devastating to nesting birds and fledges hidden in the dense vegetation. While it is true that you are conducting the required survey by a qualified biologist before proceeding, bird experts agree that no survey can possibly locate most of the nests nor fledges given the nature of bird behavior and dense vegetation.

The wisest course of action with the lowest potential to disturb and displace birds and bird habitat is to wait until the usual date of late August. That timing will ensure a more effective and efficient vegetation removal effort since there will be no need to cordon off bird nests. It has the added advantage of presenting the greenest and nicest view of the river during the tourist season.

The Sierra Club asks you to **not** conduct vegetation removal along the San Lorenzo River during the prime bird nesting months of June, July but to start in late August as has been the practice since the beginning of required vegetation clearing.

Please advise us of your plans as they move forward. We look forward to a response that assures the community that you will wait until late August to start this project.

Sincerely,

Greg McPheeters
Chair, Executive Committee