

Letter to the Editor
January 16, 2013

S.J. must do better on creek protection

Thanks for publishing last week's editorial about building homes in the flood zone on Penitencia Creek. The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter supports efforts to prevent development detrimental to nature within the city. Historically, the San Jose Planning Department, Planning Commission and City Council have insufficiently protected stream corridors, recommending and approving projects that encroach on accepted 100-foot creek setbacks and allowing building in flood zones. Thankfully, this has recently changed, with the City Council prioritizing updating riparian corridor policies and the Planning Commission pushing planners to enforce setbacks.

There remains a significant problem with the City's process for environmental review, however. Developers can hire the same consultants to oversee both planning *and* environmental review, encouraging planners to minimize environmental analysis. We hope the City will soon address these shortcomings, updating their land use policies to make San Jose a truly environmentally friendly and regenerative city.

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