

FOLAW

The Friends of Los Alamitos Watershed

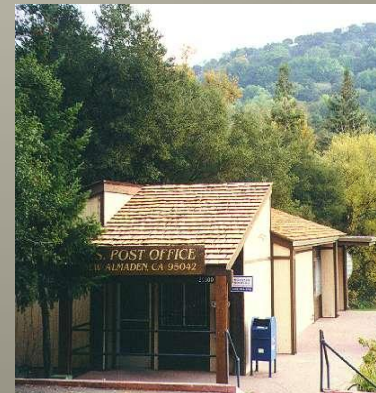
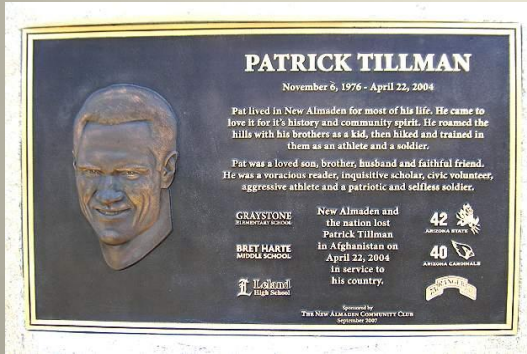
**Supporting our watershed community through
education and public outreach projects**

Mike Boulland

President



The New Almaden Community



Our Community's Dilemma

- We all desire to keep our Los Alamitos Creek a *healthy and clean* watershed. **The watershed is our home, our community, our life.**
- We are a retired and working community made up of many residents who serve the public as **police**, doctors, **nurses**, **teachers**, **firefighters**, **tradesmen** and professionals who have given their working career to make a better life for others.
- **We have many community members who have put their lives on the line to save others.**





My community needs the help of the State Water Resource Control Board!

- We have experienced that the S.C. V. Water District and the S.C. County Parks and Rec. Dept. can not help our community because they fear the extreme high cost of the responsibility of taking on a cleanup project on private property.
- The State Regional Water Quality Control Board's staff recommends in the Basin Plan Amendment that the "downstream property owners seek relief from the Good Samaritan Law" to solve this issue.

We agree with the staff recommendation and request that SWRC board provide relief from responsibility and costs to downstream creekside owners in the same manner as it has previously provided for abandoned mine owners in the Good Samaritan Law.



Grant Funding Resources

The benefits from making innocent downstream property owners not responsible will allow the Good Samaritan Law to protect innocent public and private grant agencies from liability.

Encouraging granting agencies to provide more funding opportunities for both the private and public sectors involved with the cleanup will benefit the whole community.

Currently, the SFRWQB staff has found funding grants for the public agencies to support their cleanup work in the Guadalupe Watershed.

But grant funding for cleanup of the Los Alamitos Creek section in the New Almaden Village area continues to be out of reach for those public agencies.



FOLAW'S Concerns

FOLAW has made three attempts to apply for grants.

- The cost of the project, management fees, legal responsibility, lack of experience and **new laws which make the FOLAW's board members a responsible party for the entire restoration project are the major causes that FOLAW is reluctant to obtain grants.**
- **A second cause is the reluctance of the public water district agencies to accept the responsibility of the project work on private property.**

FOLAW does not want to duplicate management project costs.

- As a result of three attempts by the FOLAW board to seek grant funding, we discovered that **the most efficient and financially responsible method for the cleanup is allowing grant monies to go directly to public agencies who have the staff and the experience.**
- This will **save thousands of dollars in duplicating management costs for FOLAW to be setup to manage a huge cleanup project.**



Summary of FOLAW's Concerns

FOLAW cannot apply for grants without making the funding grantors a responsible party.

It is more cost efficient to have grantors give funds to the public agencies who are presently involved with the restoration.

FOLAW will continue to cooperate with the public agencies to support our watershed community through education and public outreach projects.



Today, you have the opportunity to help us make the best solution to solve our community and regional dilemma.



Please, do not approve this new Guadalupe Basin Plan Amendment with out having staff:

- 1. Revise the Basin Plan Amendment to provide for the most efficient method for allowing grant monies to transfer directly to public agencies for the cleanup and restoration of all public and private property reaches of the Los Alamitos Creek.**



Please do not approve this new Guadalupe Basin Plan Amendment without having staff:

2. Revise the Basin Plan Amendment to clearly state that innocent property owners and grant agencies who have no complicity in the contamination are relieved of liability as it has been provided for the abandoned mine owners in the Good Samaritan Law **in writing .**

**The members of
FOLAW
thank you for
listening to our
concerns.**



You may reach us at

FOLAW

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FOLAW's Board of Directors at the San Jose City Hall receiving an "Earth Day Commendation" from Mayor Reed and the SJ City Council for the best environmental work in the Los Alamitos Watershed during the 2007 year.