Alameda Creek Watershed Center Planning
Meeting at with Sunol Residents at Kilkare Association Clubhouse
May 24, 2011

Introductory Remarks:
Sunol Centennial Committee worked closely and well with the SFPUC. It is now disbanding. The new community organization that will be working with the SFPUC on the Watershed Center is called the Sunol Water Temple Preservation Association.

Best site for the Sunol community meetings for the Watershed Center planning:
Currently, monthly meetings are schedule to alternate between the Kilkare Woods Association (KWA) clubhouse and the SFPUC Corp yard conference room. Alternative sites suggested instead of the KWA Clubhouse include the Jazz Café (deemed too small) and the Sunol-Glen School which costs $200 and is often in use, but may facilitate broader community involvement and interaction. The conclusion was that we would investigate the possibility of hosting some of the evening meetings at the school.

Input about facilities and site:
- The program need should determine the site plan and building; form should follow function; don't want to have premature decisions about the site
- Three buildings are a starting point, but may not be the best solution.
- There can be an over-emphasis on buildings; the site itself has the core educational value for both the Watershed Center and for the Ag Park.
- Whatever buildings are proposed should not take away from the beauty of the water temple
- Had envisioned an outdoor area; picnic area with fountains, etc.
- This is a natural site as well; natural history and a trail connections hub should be emphasized.
- There should be some kind of an assembly building, for children and other groups
- Developing the picnic area and creek access should be a first priority
- Bathrooms need to be functioning
- Center needs to be open reasonable hours
- Include a play field/ground for kids with lawn (maybe in the lower picnic area if/when reopened)
- Need some un-programmed outdoor space
- Native plants and butterfly garden
- Need plenty of parking
- Hiking trailhead areas

Input about possible programs:
- Classes and workshops on : birding (like those at the UCB Botanical Garden); mushroom identification; local flora and fauna; gardening; bee-keeping
- Culture center: emphasis on art, through classes such as 'plein air' painting, art lectures, such as on the Water Temple, and music, through performances, such as of classical music
- Santa Clara Valley Water District has an excellent program model

Input about possible exhibits:
- Develop some life-like interpretive models, linking interpretive displays (e.g. Taylor Creek at Tahoe)

Input about events:

- Weddings:
    - Do not want to see weddings, because they might conflict with downtown facilities
    - On the other hand some such facilities like the Little Brown Church and Elliston Winery are fully booked
    - Maybe would be a good thing, the Pulgas Temple (also SFPUC) is manicured and is very popular for weddings; Maybe get a pro and con from the Pulgas facility
    - Weddings should not compete with other public uses of the site.
    - Could be a possibility, don't close the door on it
    - There is a shortage of wedding sites, more demand than supply.
    - If weddings, make sure grounds don't get trashed.
    - Should there be a limit on number of people?
- Needs to support multiple uses simultaneously. Funds generated should go to upkeep of the park.
- A high class place that would attract a high class clientele (e.g. the Brazilian room)

General Comments:

- Connectivity: Pedestrian and bike path for downtown.
- NO waterslides, NO merry go rounds, NO dogs (SFPUC policy)
- Don't build right next to the site, the view needs to be preserved.
    - Is a building really needed?
    - Integrate the Ag Park and Watershed Center
    - Sales of the produce at the Ag Park

Presentation of Sunol Water Temple Community Survey Results

There were some questions and answers. However, for the most part these impressive survey results are self-explanatory.