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November 14, 2006

Cosgrove Creek Routine Channel Maintenance

We had planned to be well along in clearing the Cosgrove Creek by the time winter rains arrived. However, due to federal permitting issues, the work that we had scheduled has been delayed. Work to remove invasive vegetation and accumulated sediment that is necessary to restore the flow capacity of Cosgrove Creek will begin as soon as all permits have been secured. Crews are ready and we have received permission from most adjoining landowners. Due to the nature of our work and the potential presence of endangered species within the Cosgrove Creek watershed (red-legged frog, tiger salamander, and giant garter snake), permits are required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Fish and Game, and California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

At this time, California agencies have granted their approval. However, we continue to await the go-ahead from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which serves as a clearinghouse for other concerned federal agencies. The Corps is currently consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Unfortunately, this process is taking longer than we had hoped.

Public Works is eager to begin the work at the earliest possible time. To date, we have been unable to obtain a reasonable time commitment from the federal agencies. Please watch this website for updates. Should you have any questions, please contact Public Works at 754-6402 or dmullen@co.calaveras.ca.us

