November 18, 2007

Dear friend and creek supporter,

Thanks for joining us at Mary and Daniel's barn last Sunday to eat, drink, walk and talk about the magic of opening Sausal Creek. Despite the rather chilly weather after the sun set, we hope you enjoyed the Mighty Avalanche Choir, Danna's killer pumpkin soup, Holly's wine, Margie's grape hors d'oeuvres, Marvis' artichokes, Brad's bread, the apple pies collectively baked by all of us including Chrisi and Jane, the figs Jane picked that morning from Jellich Ranch, the ride down the hill in Linda and Paul's GEM driven by Marty and Jon, the creek walk at dusk, Matt and Jorgen's presentations, the horses poking their heads through the back barn door… to name just a few highlights. It is precisely this rich sense of community that distinguishes us as a town and inspires us to rally around the prospect of opening Sausal creek to sky and sun for all to appreciate.

.

As you know, we must show the Council that we have the financial commitment to proceed with the construction of this project. In other words, the three of us are on the line to raise $500,000 by January 15, 2008 if the Sausal Creek Daylighting Project is to happen. To that end, we are delighted to report that as of November 16, we have received donations close to $300,000! That leaves $200,000 to bring in within two months time.

We are not fundraisers by nature. Instead, what drives us is our profound belief in the fundamental importance of this project .We believe that the values an open creek can provide are significant and the benefits extend beyond the Town Center borders, and as stewards of the upper San Francisquito watershed, we believe it is our responsibility to take the creek out of the concrete culvert so that it can run across the land. We are reminded of the words spoken by Portola Valley resident Martin Litton, renowned environmentalist and former national board member of the Sierra Club. "Sausal Creek is neither large nor famous, but its restoration is equally important if we in Portola Valley are to be true to our environmental values."

If you agree with us, please consider investing in this one-time project by making a donation that is meaningful and significant to you. In the meantime, we send our best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving holiday. And since so many of you have asked after Danna's pumpkin soup recipe, we've included a recipe card with this letter.

Warm regards,

Danna Bortz Breen Alexandra Von Feldt Maryann Moise Derwin