

## The "Free" Sausal Creek Project

As approved by the Council, construction has started for the complete Sausal Creek project. Funding will come from private contributions, which now exceed 70% of the project cost.

The plan is to divert stream flow from the old five-foot culvert to the eastern edge of the large field between Portola Road and the New Town Center buildings. There, a new, wide streambed will be excavated and reconstructed for about 350 feet over to the church property.

Much of the old culvert can be salvaged to store rain water for irrigation. The landscaped banks of the stream will have gentle slopes to permit a lawn area down to the creek from the library and a meadow on the opposite (north) bank next to Portola Road.

The project includes a bridge and a walkway across the channel, bank protection and erosion control baffles.

The engineering design provides a large storm water retention basin for winter runoff. A major storm's exit velocities from the new creek will be only 20% of the exit velocities from the old pipe. This reduces potential downstream erosion and silt deposit behind Searsville Dam.

The landscape plan creates a stream-fed meadow larger than a football field. The new contours, plants and trees provide inviting open space for recreation and education. The changed topography will dramatically enhance the approach to the Town Center. AND, the mitigation of creek flows greatly reduces the Town Center Project's liability for storm water damage to downstream properties.

Contributions (Tax deductible): "Town of Portola Valley, Sausal Creek Project", c/o Alex Von Feldt, 5 Park Creek Drive, PV CA 94028.

**This is a smart engineering project and a good investment for the Town**

