

# SALT RIVER WATERSHED NEWS

Restoring a historic waterway while preserving an agricultural heritage

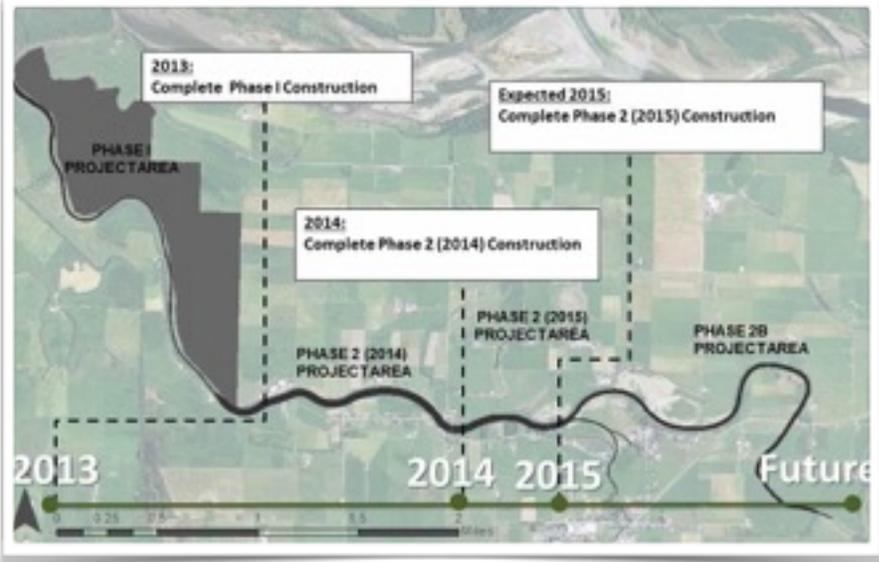
## Who are we?

The Salt River Watershed Council (SRWC) board includes: Jay Russ (chairman), Dennis DelBiaggio (vice chairman), David Carr (secretary/treasurer), Ann Barbata, Jim Becker, Don Hindley, Carol Lee, Denver Nelson, Jay Parrish, Joe Russ and John Vernon.

## What is our purpose?

Once the restoration project is completed, it is the SRWC's responsibility to:

- achieve a balance between agricultural use and environmental concerns
- encourage stewardship for the preservation of the Salt River Watershed, its habitat and wildlife
- educate the community on the importance of this watershed
- collaborate with local watershed groups and government agencies
- obtain funding to monitor and maintain this vital resource.



## Phase 2 of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project Continues!

The Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project will continue to move from the Dillon Road bridge to a location approximately 2000 feet upstream. The excavation work will end just downstream of the confluence of Francis Creek and the Salt River. At the end of this year, the project should achieve just over 4 miles of total length.

During the first phase of construction in 2013, 170,000 cubic yards of material were removed and reused to build setback berms around the restored estuary. In 2014, another 80,000 cubic yards of sediment were removed and had to be moved offsite by trucks to agricultural fields over various local roads. During 2015, 60,000 cubic yards of excavated sediment will also need to be removed from the construction site at an approximate cost of \$15 per cubic yard. The resulting transportation cost estimate for this year alone will be \$900,000. Project construction this year will begin in mid June, excavation in July and completion in October.



### The February 6 Storm

During a 24 hour period on Thursday, February 6, 2015, dark clouds opened up and delivered 3 to 4 inches of rain across the Eel River Valley. Flooding was immediate around the valley and in the city of Ferndale. Roads along Williams Creek became impassable. Francis Creek rose quickly to street level in front of Ferndale High. The Eel River at Fernbridge was predicted to reach flood stage by Friday morning.

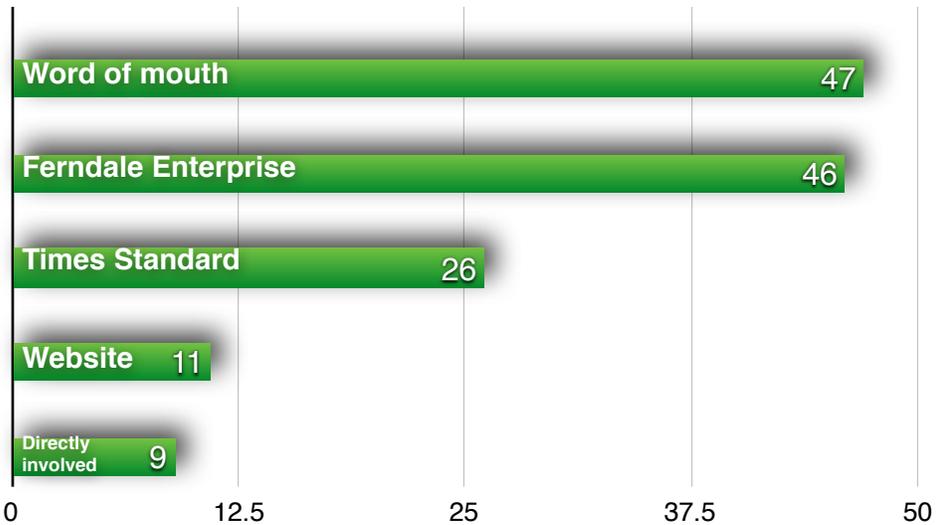
The Salt River from the Dillon Road bridge to its mouth also began to rise with the tides and run off from Port Kenyon, but it managed to stay within its banks. In the photo above taken from Dillon Road bridge looking west, the Salt River bed is filled with water. In the photo below taken on Friday morning, the Salt River had receded leaving sedimentation on its banks and revealing the main channel on the right and the overflow channel on the left. **The bottom line: this section of the newly restored Salt River delivered on its design goals!**



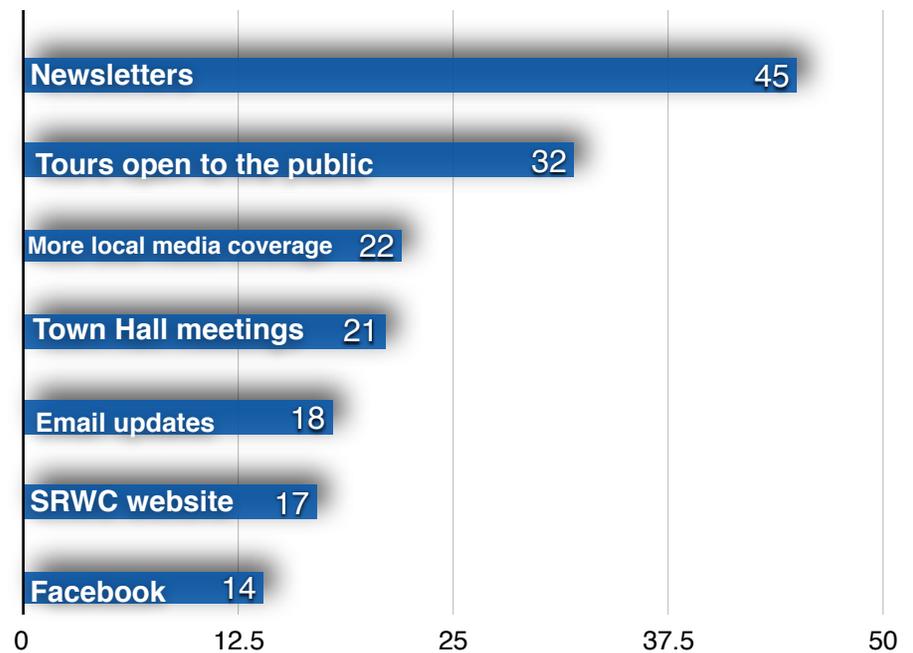
### The Survey Results Are In!

In our first newsletter which was mailed out to 800 residents in the Eel River Valley in October, 2014, the SRWC included a brief survey. We received over 70 responses via mail, fax and online at our website. The survey focused on three main questions. For each question, the respondent was asked to select all responses that applied.

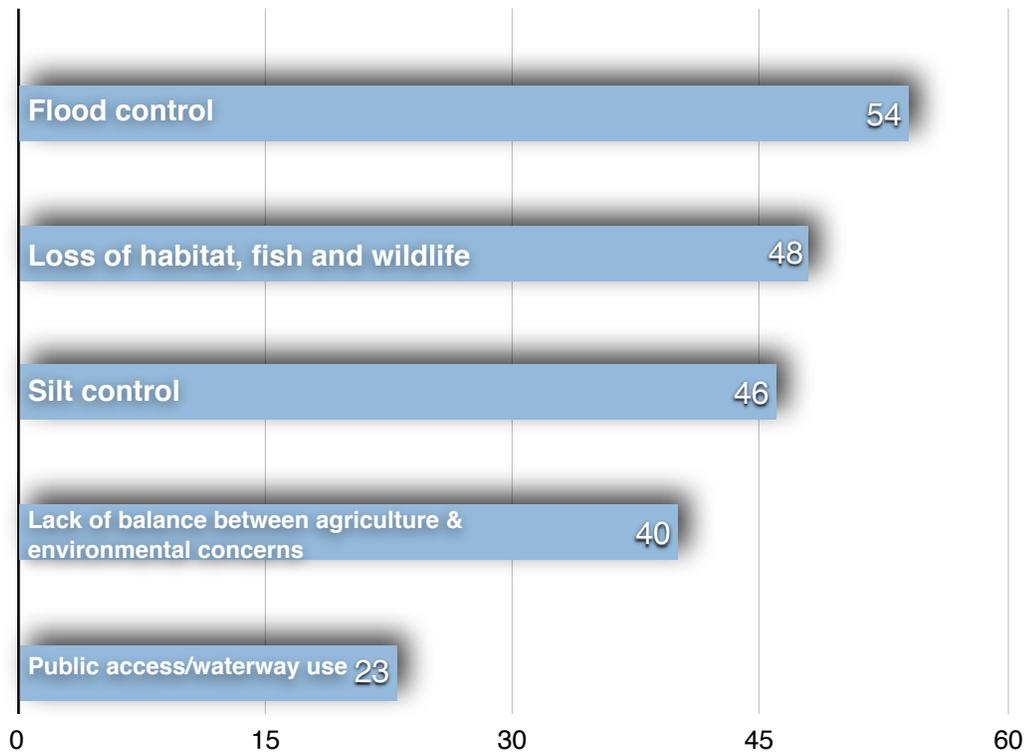
1. How have you heard about the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project?



2. How would you prefer to stay informed on project progress?



3. What are your current concerns involving the project?



Based upon the survey feedback received and a grant from the Humboldt Area Foundation, the SRWC will continue to keep you informed on the progress of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project. We are planning a total of four newsletters this year. In subsequent issues, we will answer some of the most commonly asked questions and concerns regarding the project's timeline and future funding. In October, we are planning a community event which will include a tour of the project site.





