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LOCAL GROUP MEETS TO DISCUSS ARCADE CREEK WATERSHED RESTORATION

Residents and Officials Work Together to Help Improve the Environmental Health the Arcade Creek Stream Corridor

SACRAMENTO, NOVEMBER 12, 2008— The Arcade Creek Watershed Group (Group) will meet on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, to discuss restoration efforts associated with the Arcade Creek Watershed. The Group is composed of residents, environmental, and community groups; and representatives from the City of Sacramento and other local agencies. The CALFED Watershed Program is providing grant funding for the Arcade Creek Watershed Management Project; these funds are administered by the California State Water Resources Control Board.

Arcade Creek flows through the Cities of Sacramento and Citrus Heights and portions of unincorporated Sacramento County. The Group's efforts are centered on improving water quality, reducing flood damage, enhancing wildlife habitat, increasing recreational opportunities, and encouraging local participation in watershed management efforts. At the November 18 meeting, the Group will discuss nonnative invasive plant species control efforts slated for this fall and winter as part of efforts to enhance wildlife habitat and reduce flood damage.

Nonnative invasive plants are invading the Arcade Creek stream corridor at a rapid rate. This invasion is primarily the result of the development of lands adjacent to the stream corridor, especially those lands closest to the actual stream channel. Once introduced into the stream corridor, nonnative invasive plants spread exponentially, threatening native habitat and wildlife species dependent on this habitat. Some nonnative invasive plants have become so prominent in areas of the Arcade Creek stream corridor that the composition of the riparian woodland along the banks of the creek has changed from native to nonnative. Native species such as cottonwood and willow are being replaced by nonnative invasive species such as giant reed, red sesbania, tree-of-heaven, black locust, English ivy, vinca, cultivated fruit and nut trees, and other nonnative invasive species. An Invasive Plant Species Control and Management Plan that identifies invasive plant removal projects based on priorities identified by the Group will be used to guide invasive plant removal efforts this winter. Go to www.arcadecreek.org to view this plan.

Residents, stakeholders, and interested parties are encouraged to attend the meeting to learn more about the Arcade Creek Watershed and current efforts to improve the health of the watershed and to provide input on restoration of the watershed.

The meeting will be held on November 18 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Discovery Museum located at 3615 Auburn Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95821.

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