

Orinda Vice Mayor Inga Miller, Director of Planning Drummond Buckley, and Assistant Planner Darin Hughes take a moment on Oct. 5 to admire the work undertaken by the Friends of Orinda Creeks at San Pablo Creek in downtown Orinda.

#### Photo Sora O'Dohert

# First creek improvement completed, thanks to Friends of Orinda Creeks; more planned

### By Sora O'Doherty

Where there was old, broken concrete disfiguring San Pablo Creek as it runs through downtown Orinda, there are now three beautiful rock weirs, that create pools where fish can hang out and a wonderful stretch of natural serenity. The work was undertaken by the Friends of Orinda Creeks, which raised the approximately \$100,000 required for the removal of the broken concrete channel and the installation of the rock weirs According to FOC board member Michael Bowen, the weirs operate as grade control structures intended to maintain the channel at approximately the same elevation as it was at the beginning of the project. stage our equipment and cross his property." The project benefitted from a \$6,000 grant from Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife, but, according to Bowen, "the project would never have happened without the very generous support of the Pease family and other private donations." He added, "Contra Costa County entered into an access agreement with FOC that enabled us to perform the project on the county-owned property."

This project affected some 50 linear feet of the creek as it runs behind 25 Orinda Way, occupied by the Vintage Building. Bowen expressed the FOC's gratitude to the owner of Vintage House, Daniel Goldberg, who, he said, "graciously allowed us to

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## Local students push council for resolution to reduce auto idling



By Lou Fancher

Three team leaders from Project Earth: Idle-Free Lafayette – Raini Chugh (president); David Siu (secretary); and Lauren Brekke (treasurer) – appeared before the city council Sept. 12 to request a resolution to implement no-idling initiatives in Lafayette in an effort to reduce emissions that contribute to climate change. The joint presentation described a four-year effort headed by the three Stanley Middle School seventh-graders to reduce auto idling at schools and encourage similar behavioral change at other locations in the city.

Raini said the team started the project in third grade at Burton Valley Elementary School. At that time, they identified three primary factors making climate change worse that could be altered with more awareness about their negative impacts.

In addition to no-idling initiatives, Project Earth goals include advocating for and educating people about MCE to support and increase the use of solar and wind power and inspire more homeowners to enroll in the alternative energy organization's electrical supply programs and increasing the number of bike and walk lanes in the city to reduce auto emissions and to maintain biker and pedestrian safety. The Project Earth leaders said the results of simple action they support would improve overall air quality and "make our air cleaner to breathe."

Asking "Why is idling bad?" with an image on the PowerPoint screen, David reiterated that auto emissions pollute the environment, have harmful health impacts, and cost extra money.

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Students at prior protest push for idling car reduction