

# **SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**Send to Schools in August/September**

**For distribution in early October**

## **October is Creek and Channel Safety Awareness Month**

In support of the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's ongoing efforts to educate the public on creek and channel safety, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors has once again declared this October as Creek and Channel Safety Awareness Month. We must take advantage of this opportunity to speak to our children and friends about the dangers of fast moving stormwater and the almost certain fate that awaits anyone who goes into rain swollen creeks and channels. The flood control channels are part of our community's infrastructure and, like freeways or railroad tracks, should never be used for recreation.

The flood control channels are designed to drain stormwater from our communities and take it swiftly out to sea, preventing flooding. Water from the surrounding watershed area first gathers in small streams and creeks and then flows into the large channels for a swift trip to the Delta, Carquinez Strait and San Pablo Bay. This stormwater can pass from small open creeks to large underground tunnels; from narrow rocky stream beds to wide concrete channels; all the while gathering debris, speed, volume and power. At key points along the way, large structures have been built into the system to slow down the water and control the power. This allows the water to flow back into wide earthen channels without destroying their natural habitat or causing erosion. These structures are an efficient tool in managing our floodwaters but can be deadly for humans.

This annual campaign is to remind us that, like thinking of sunscreen in the Spring, we must become aware of the seasonal dangers around us and take the necessary steps to educate ourselves and our children to avoid them. Please talk to your children and friends about the flood control channels. Appreciate the great job they do for our community, but leave the channels to stormwater and **Stay Out, Stay Alive!**

**For more information please visit:**

**[www.cccounty.us/creekandchannelsafety](http://www.cccounty.us/creekandchannelsafety)**