

April 19, 2022

My name is Paula Jarvis and I live in old town Pinole. Pinole Creek has always been important to me for recreation and my connection to nature. I participated in a couple of the trash collection and assessment efforts. It is clear to me that the planning and methods of data collection were well thought out and will provide very valuable information as we move forward in our dedication to the protection of the Pinole Creek Watershed. I commend and thank Win Cowger, Lisa Anich, Ann Moriarity and the rest of the team for designing and executing a rigorous evaluation.

What I also found to be very noteworthy and commendable was the manner in which the community was drawn on to participate in the effort. Bringing students from the elementary and high school grades into this process has so many benefits. They provided enthusiasm, thoughtful observations and many hours of work. They discovered the beauty of the watershed and the fun of getting out as a group to work toward a goal. I think they developed a new appreciation of the value of this resource and the need for broader community appreciation and awareness of the threats to our Creek and its inhabitants and neighbors. Thank you Itzel Gomez for your leadership of Earth Team!

As a participant on a couple of Saturday mornings, I also witnessed the curiosity and support of community members who happened to see our work in action. The power of seeing other community members working together to protect our special resource cannot be overstated. I hope the message will be remembered that our community cares, and they are willing to be part of efforts such as this when made aware and given an invitation. I encourage the City Council to extend the invitation whenever possible, to continue to build this sense of ownership and pride.