

# Endangered species halt flood-control project

Dear Street Smarts,

Q Bill of Watsonville is concerned about water buildup on Larkin Valley Road just west of Buena Vista.

"This time of year when the soil is saturated, almost any rainfall will send water into the road. It appears that what used to be a drainage ditch on the south side of the road has silted up and has not been cleaned out for a number of years. The County Public Works Department is aware of this problem, because they post 'flooded' signs ... but I don't see that any effort has been made to improve the drainage channel.

RAMONA  
TURNER

*Street Smarts*

Slough), and that there may be an endangered species of some sort that would be displaced. If this is true, what about the endangered

motorist that doesn't see the water at night and hydroplanes off the road? Any light that can be shed on this would be appreciated!"

A Taboo is correct, says Barbara Fulton, a supervisor with the Public Works Department. The problem is the road runs alongside a creek that is completely filled in by mud and debris there, she said. Fear of harming the endangered red-legged frog that calls the area home means the county is barred from removing the earthen cork, she said.

The county is looking for alternative ways to drain water from the road, she said. In the meantime, keep an eye out for flood signs.

## Sound off

Sarah O'Malley of West Santa Cruz called in to vent her frustrations over motorists who do not pause for pedestrians and cyclists, especially those of the older variety.

"It's quite apparent to me (motorists) are indifferent to the purpose of a crosswalk. Some see that you're there and speed up so they don't have to stop or they cut you off.

"I'm 65 and can't get across the street as fast as I use to. I've had some of them give me the

finger because I'm in their way. The psychology is perverse. Who do they think they are that they can disobey stop signs?"

## Quiz of the week

Which of the following does not have to stop at a stop sign or red signal light?

- a. Motor vehicles
- b. Bicyclists
- c. Pedestrians
- d. None of the above
- e. Both B and C

The first five people to reply with the correct answer by Wednesday will win a Sentinel mug. Send your answer to [streetsmarts@santa-cruz.com](mailto:streetsmarts@santa-cruz.com) or call 429-2445. Limit one prize per household every 90 days

Last week, we asked who had the right of way at a four-way stop if vehicle A and B arrived simultaneously at a stop sign opposite each other and vehicle B wanted to make a left turn. The answer was vehicle A.

The winners were Linda Jordan of Soquel, Paul Franklin of Live Oak, Ann Gilbert of Aptos, Lana Millenacher of Santa Cruz and Jeremy Brinkley of Santa Cruz.

## Rule of the week

With the rainy season still hovering above us, here's a few tips should flooding occur:

- Avoid areas subject to flooding.
- Do not try to cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees. Even water that's 6 inches deep may be flowing strong enough to sweep you away.
- Do not try to drive over a flooded road. You could get stranded.
- If your car stalls, abandon it immediately. Many deaths occur when trying to move stalled vehicles.
- Do not sight-see or venture into areas blocked off by authorities.
- Avoid unnecessary trips during a storm. If it's necessary, dress warmly and tell others where you are going.

Source: California Office of Emergency Services.

Street Smarts is written by Ramona Turner. Do you have a transportation question or idea? Contact her at [streetsmarts@santa-cruz.com](mailto:streetsmarts@santa-cruz.com) or call 429-2445. Be sure to include a name and daytime telephone number.