



# Board of Supervisors

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## County Summer Youth Employment Program Culminates at Arroyo Viejo Creek

OAKLAND, CA August 23, 2011 \_Dozens of our communities' most in need young people – those in our foster care systems and on juvenile probation – are wrapping-up an innovative urban environmentalists program. This week youth leaders are completing a hands-on project to preserve our watersheds. Their creek clean-ups in East Oakland are part of Alameda County's Summer Youth Employment Program implemented with funding from the Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver. The summer jobs program is organized in partnership with the Social Services Agency, the Alameda County Probation Department, the office of Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley and Youth UpRising.

"These kinds of programs play an important role to help the County's most vulnerable youth," said Nate Miley, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. "We want to provide meaningful summer employment opportunities while developing youth into community leaders."

Alameda County's investment of \$600,000 in East Oakland allowed Supervisor Nate Miley and Youth UpRising to create The Urban Environmentalists Program within a blended work-experience/education program serving up to 200 youth between the ages of 15 and 18 years. In the face of escalating youth violence and record unemployment, Supervisor Miley and East Oakland youth are realizing the promise of youth leaders as stewards of our land. The media is invited to capture the final creek clean-ups on **Thursday, August 25, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Arroyo Park, 7701 Krause Avenue in Oakland. Please contact Youth UpRising Works Manager Olugbala Akintunde to arrange a visit to the work site.**

During the program participants work 15 to 20 hours a week, advance educationally, gain job readiness skills, and do labor intensive creek clean-ups. The youth have used square point shovels, pitch forks, loppers, and hedge shears to remove thirty cubic yards of debris and vegetation so far. They also have removed other debris including mattresses, household garbage and cigarette butts.

The program is designed to affect future behavior and teach the importance of safe and clean neighborhoods said Olugbala Akintunde Youth Uprising Works Manager.

"The youth participants can't litter or walk past illegal dumping or trash and not think about what it would take to clean it up and how much easier it is to put garbage in the trash can."

Seven creeks have been cleaned since August including Seminary Creek, behind the Rainbow Recreation Center on International Boulevard, Peralta Creek near the Coliseum Swap Meet on Coliseum Way, Courtland Creek adjacent to Courtland Avenue; near Brookdale Park, and Damon Slough near the Oakland Coliseum. Portions of the creeks are owned by Alameda County or the City of Oakland.