

COOLEY LANDING PARK AND EDUCATION CENTER SEPTEMBER 2013

In September, East Palo Alto signed contracts with O. C. Jones to construct **Phase II** and with California Environmental Services to provide biological monitoring at the site. One of the first pieces of work to be completed was a fence to keep the salt marsh harvest mice, which normally live in the marsh, safely out of the construction site. The fence is made out of black plastic and is buried a little way into the ground to prevent the mice digging beneath it. While the fence is being installed, the biological monitor watches out to make sure no harm comes to any of the wildlife at the park.

Other work at the site included mowing all the grass so that when the contractor comes back to do the seeding, the seeds are in contact with the ground and not hung up in the grass. The seeding has to be done in the next few weeks to take advantage of the winter rains.

Additionally, work began on clearing out the burnt material of the old boathouse. There was an effort to save the overhead crane and while the metal of the crane structure survived the fire, it had been so twisted by the heat that it would no longer function and instead is being recycled.

Also in September there was a push to get a plan in place for storm water protection. The idea is that during construction activities the Bay needs to be protected against runoff from rainfall which might carry harmful sediments into the Bay. This is done by using bags of straw to filter the runoff before it gets to the Bay.



Work on **Phase III**, the design and construction of the Education Center is also moving forward. The architects, Fog Studio, have begun their work. Their first task is to look at energy conservation and sustainability with a view to finding a balance between the initial costs of energy conservation in the construction of the new building and the kinds of savings that there will be with maintenance and energy expenses in the future. We all want to do

the right thing - to make the building sustainable - but we also want to make sure that the City's investment produces real results. **On October 21 from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm in the Community Room at City Hall there will be a meeting to discuss the architects' work.** This is the first of a series of monthly meetings. Among the topics at this first meeting will be the use of solar energy, opportunities for water conservation and the possibility of a roof covered with plants to provide habitat and insulation, There will be decisions that need to be made and the people who attend the meeting will have a big role in shaping those decisions.

A few years ago there were many public meetings about the kinds of activities that the Education Center could be expected to house. The architects will be looking at the conclusions recorded at those meetings but there is an opportunity now to refine those conclusions. If anyone wishes to contribute to that work, please get in touch with me at 415 515 8202 or peterjgeraghty@gmail.com.

