

Weeks 2-25-04  
S.V. BONMAR

## Kids Fishing Dam at Camp Evers Approved

It's official - the California Department of Fish and Game has approved a fish stocking permit and a stream alteration permit, so the city's Camp Evers Fishing Park will be open to young anglers, giving many of them a chance to catch their first trout this spring and summer.

The Annual Fishing Derby for kids 15 and under will be held May 15. In addition to catching a rainbow trout or two, the first 100 youngsters will be treated to hot dogs and cokes.

The Fishing park is located on the site of a former home, which was removed due to flooding, and the concrete foundation of the former home now serves as a walking area directly adjacent to the Camp Evers tributary to Carbonera Creek. The Camp Evers Tributary is dammed by placing flash boards in a concrete weir, forming a pond about 150 feet long and 8 feet wide behind the dam. Depth of the dammed water will range from one-and-a-half feet to three feet.

The flash boards will be installed on or after April 30th and removed no later than Sept. 30th.

Trout stocked will be 8 inches long or more. The city will stock the Camp Evers Dam with 250 fish once a month, for four months. The stocked trout will be paid for out of parks and recreation funds. Live bait only is allowed, and no catch-and-release is permitted, because fish caught on live bait usually don't survive if released.

Although all the planted fish are normally caught by the young Isaac Waltoners before the dam is removed in the fall, any remaining trout behind the dam will be hand-netted and properly disposed of before the flash boards are removed.

Or, as Community Development Director Laura Kuhn said at a recent city council meeting - "If there are enough of them, maybe we could have a barbecue!"

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SAVER

## TUCKING RIVERS IN' THEIR BED

DAVE ROSGEN, HIS SMILE shaded from the midday sun by the brim of his cowboy hat, moves easily along a branch of the main channel of Colorado's Blue River, casting his fly rod. One after another, big rainbow trout take his flies, jumping and fighting the line until he plays each one out to the bank, removes the hook and gently returns the fish to the clear, cold water. Rosgen, a hydrologist, helped bring this stretch of river back to life. The land along the water here had been hammered by years of cattle grazing, the banks eroded after willows were removed to make way for more hay. At the request of the landowner, Rosgen dragged in boulders and chunks of dead trees, placing them strategically to regulate stream flow. He engineered the streambed to just the right grade for optimum flow velocity, and lined it with clean gravel quarried from the property. He transplanted thousands of willow saplings to the area, reversing decades of brush-clearing efforts. The once steep banks are now grassy and gently sloping, almost park-like. Eagles soar overhead, scouting the rich fishery below.

Rosgen's ideas on river restoration, which at one time ran

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against the current, are now mainstream. The traditional Western reaction to bank loss used to be riprapping—fortifying the banks with chunks of broken concrete or the bodies of junked cars. Rosgen saw that as absurd and destructive. Instead, he studies the geological features of the streambed to determine its ideal “meander geometry”—the way the stream should flow—thus preventing sediment buildup that could block the channel or erode the banks. He then uses natural materials to give the river a kind of eco-makeover, “I try to copy what works in nature,” he says.

Rosgen's drive to restore rivers was born of rage. As a young Forest Service worker, he was assigned to inspect an area in his native north Idaho. There, he saw a pristine stream that had been mined by runoff from timber clear cutting. Rosgen lost his temper, eventually quit the Forest Service and started his own stream-restoration consulting enterprise. Federal agencies that had ignored his complaints are now among the clients that pay Rosgen to teach employees about doctoring streams. He retreats between trips to his horse-ranch headquarters north of Fort Collins, Colo. These days, the man in the white hat doesn't feel quite so much like the Lone Ranger. —By Pat Dawson

### DAVE ROSGEN

This hydrologist began his drive to restore the nation's rivers after seeing pristine streams he fished as a youth ravaged by timber clear cutting.

