

# CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2015 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s) Project Number

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J1124

## **Project Title**

# Low Levels of Creek Pollution in an Environmentally Friendly Town

## **Abstract**

## **Objectives/Goals**

Our city tries to protect its watersheds and Humboldt Bay from pollution. We tested whether water pollution in creeks increased as it moved through the city of Arcata.

#### Methods/Materials

We tested for pollution at 4 creeks including 2 that ran directly through town. On each creek we sampled an upstream, downstream, and mid-stream site. We tested for dissolved oxygen, pH, nitrites and phosphates during each survey of each site. We tested both creeks that ran through town on 3 separate days.

#### Results

We found no evidence that pollution increased as the creeks progressed downstream. Dissolved oxygen and pH both increased and decreased from upstream to downstream. We measured no nitrite pollution and only found phosphate pollution at one site on one day.

## **Conclusions/Discussion**

We found our hypothesis was wrong: pollution did not increase as creeks moved through town. But we were glad to know we lived somewhere that has little creek pollution.

## **Summary Statement**

We found that water pollution did not increase as creeks flowed through our town.

## Help Received

Dad drove us to sites and helped make graphs.