

EBRPD Grazing Policy Violations Report

Overgrazing & Erosion at Sycamore Valley Open Space - North

Friends of Sycamore Valley

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3 Abstract

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) cattle grazing policies are not being enforced. The Sycamore Valley Open Space - North (SVOS-N) shown in the aerial photograph below has been overgrazed for at least the last two grazing seasons. The impact of this continued overgrazing in addition to dry erosion during the grazing season is taking its toll as the cumulative effects are quite obvious. December 2002 was a very wet month in Northern California. EBRPD policies intended to prevent overgrazing were enacted so that wet weather patterns such as those in December 2002 would not cause serious erosion problems. A survey done by the *Friends of Sycamore Valley (FSV)* at SVOS-N clearly shows that the lack of responsible grazing management has produced a statistically significant and disproportionate number of landslides within SVOS-N as compared to the open space that surrounds it. An FSV survey found approximately 62 slides on the 690 acres of ungrazed open space and 237 slides on the 357 acres of SVOS-N. **This represents a 739% higher incidence of landslides and erosion damage per acre within the park as compared to ungrazed land outside the park.**

