



Permanente Watershed

Santa Clara Valley was called the "Heart's Delight."
Vegetation and wildlife were everywhere in sight.
The valley's changed a lot in the past two hundred years.
Running out of water is just one of our fears.
The Silicon Valley is what it's called today.
One point seven million people living in the South Bay.

Two major creeks are in Permanente watershed.
Each one flows in its own riverbed.
There is a diversion channel from Permanente to Stevens Creek.
And so they are connected every day of the week.

Permanente Creek flows eleven miles to the bay.
It drains eight square miles of land on the way.
Arroyo Permanente appears on a design
Of Rancho San Antonio in 1839.

Permanente Post Office established in 1938
And Henry Kaiser's Cement Company, it was both their fate
To be named for the creek said to flow the whole year round,
Sending water to the bay and percolating into the ground.

In 1776, the Spanish named Stevens Creek
Arroyo de San Jose Cupertino; go take a peek.
Thirty-four square miles of drainage and twenty miles long
Home of the red-legged frog, endangered; is it wrong?

In 1844, Captain Elishia Stephens came
Over the Sierra Nevada, the first successful wagon train.
He came to Santa Clara and camped on its banks.
The creek was renamed to show him our thanks.

From the Santa Cruz Mountains to the San Francisco Bay
Six cities are found in this watershed today:
Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Cupertino,
Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and Palo Alto.

Some places in this watershed are in the floodplain.
You only have to worry if we get a lot of rain.
When there is too much water for the riverbed to hold,
It floods onto your property; don't say that you weren't told.

Four point one million dollars has been spent on Stevens Creek
To protect us all from flooding any day of the week.
Permanente's under study; they want to do the same.
Seventy-five million is the price tag so they claim.

Stevens Creek Reservoir was built in '34.
It holds 3,400-acre feet of water, maybe more.
This compacted earth dam, 106 feet high
Helps to provide a dependable supply.

We've set aside lands in this watershed to share.
McClellan Ranch in Cupertino and Somerset Square,
Shoreline at Mount View, Whisman, and Landels School,
Linda Vista and Stevens Creek County Parks, aren't they cool.

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve
Has lots of trees and trails, and wildlife to observe.
Deer Hollow Farm is located there.
Visit the farm animals; show nature that you care!

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