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## **More must be done to protect newts**

As a herpetologist, I'm deeply troubled by Santa Clara County's failure to fix the massive newt roadkill problem on Alma Bridge Road. Community scientists have revealed that more than [5,000 Pacific newts](#) were killed there in 2019-2020 by cars and bikes.

The county and other public agencies can make this road, which runs through key habitat, safer for newts and other wildlife. But so far they haven't taken meaningful action.

Amphibians face numerous threats, including habitat loss, disease and climate change. Roads are increasing local extinction risk in migratory amphibians like newts.

Newts emerge from summer burrows during the winter rains from November to May. They often end up on roads while they forage and migrate to and from breeding pools.

These small, slow-moving amphibians don't stand a chance against the Teslas and SUVs speeding through. Seasonal road closures, elevated road segments or newt tunnels are needed to protect these ecologically important animals.