Up Your Creek! The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

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Critical Fish Ladder Project Finally Moving Forward!

The Alameda Creek fish passage project we have been waiting two decades for – a fish ladder at the BART weir and middle rubber dam – passed major milestones this month. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors and Alameda County Water District both approved an updated agreement to construct and operate the final fish ladder. The agreement by the agencies will allow construction to begin on the fish ladder in 2019. It will take three years to complete construction for this complex fish passage facility.

The ACWD approved the agreement last night. The <u>Alameda County approval</u> earlier this month also authorized \$14.6 million in funding for the project.

The Alameda County Water District has pulled in another <u>\$5 million grant to help construct the fish ladder</u> at the BART weir and rubber dam! More than \$12 million in grants and funding have been secured for this critical fish passage project so far.

Meanwhile, the second fish ladder at ACWD's upper rubber dam is nearly completed. Read the article in the fall edition of the ACWD Aqueduct, <u>ACWD's First-Ever Fish Ladder is One Step Closer to</u> <u>Completion</u>.

Calaveras Dam Rebuild Near Completion



As of late September, the construction of the rebuilt Calaveras Dam was almost completed. That will trigger some good news for steelhead and salmon in Alameda Creek. The new reservoir will be operated with cold water summer releases to help steelhead and trout rear downstream of the dam. More importantly, the associated Alameda Diversion Dam now has a new fish ladder and fish screens, and will be operated to bypass much more of the winter and spring high flows in upper Alameda Creek. That will help migratory fish get further upstream to better habitat.

Read the San Jose Mercury News article from September 21, <u>Largest Bay Area Dam Built in 20 Years</u> <u>Is Finally Finished</u>.

Watch an amazing <u>time lapse video</u> of the dam construction.



Alameda County Watershed Confluence – October 17

Join us at the Alameda County Watershed Confluence conference in Oakland next Wednesday, October 17. The <u>Alameda County Watershed Confluence</u> is a county-wide conference designed to provide a forum for local groups, community members, and representatives from the public and private sectors interested in creek and watershed health to meet, network, share innovative ideas, and inspire new partnerships in watershed management in Alameda County. This years' event will be help on Wednesday October 17th from 9 am to 4:30 pm, with a networking event to follow. You can register <u>here</u>.

At the conference, Jeff Miller of the ACA will discuss the history of fish restoration advocacy in the Alameda Creek watershed.

Stonybrook Creek Trout Move Upstream



Almost immediately after the Alameda County Resource Conservation District finished a fish passage restoration project in 2017 in Stonybrook Creek, resident rainbow trout moved upstream past two road crossing culverts which had previously been migration barriers. The Stonybrook Creek Crossings and Fish Passage Improvement Project replaced one road culvert with a bridge and modified another culvert with baffles to allow fish migration. In 2017, three rainbow trout were found upstream of the former barriers after the project. During 2018 surveys, six trout were found upstream. Stonybrook Creek will soon be accessible to ocean-run steelhead trout.

Regional Salmon Restoration News

<u>Proposition 3 Mostly Benefits Billionaire Investors</u> Sacramento Bee - October 1, 2018

<u>Delta Flows: Prop 3, Water Quality Plan Update for the San Francisco Bay-Delta</u> Restore the Delta - October 1, 2018

<u>The Elwha's Living Laboratory: Lessons from the World's Largest Dam-Removal Project</u> The Revelator - October 1, 2018

Judge Says Steelhead Need More Help In Santa Clara River Ventura County Star - October 2, 2018

<u>Legal Victory Secures Protection for Santa Clara River Steelhead</u> Center for Biological Diversity press release - September 25, 2018

Bringing Coho Salmon Back to Lagunitas Creek with Bulldozers ABC Channel 7 News - September 5, 2018

<u>Year-Long Project Launches to Improve Butano Creek</u> Climate Online - August 29, 2018

<u>West Marin Creek Project Underway to Boost Coho Habitat</u> Marin Independent-Journal - August 27, 2018 <u>SF Should Reduce Water Use to Restore State's River and Fisheries</u> San Francisco Chronicle - August 25, 2018

<u>Massive Lagunitas Creek Restoration Breaks Ground to Benefit Endangered Salmon</u> SPAWN press release - August 23, 2018

The Alameda Creek Alliance is a non-profit community watershed protection group. Please support our efforts by <u>becoming a member</u>