



# **Alameda Creek Alliance**

PO Box 192 • Canyon, CA • 94516 • (510) 845-2233  
e-mail: [alamedacreek@hotmail.com](mailto:alamedacreek@hotmail.com)  
web site: <http://www.alamedacreek.org>

May 18, 2004

Roxanne Stachon  
Zone 7 Water Agency  
5997 Parkside Drive  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

**Re: Initial comments on Stream Management Master Plan**

Dear Roxanne Stachon:

These are the initial comments of the Alameda Creek Alliance (ACA) on Zone 7 Water Agency's Notice of Preparation for a Master EIR for the Stream Management Master Plan (SMMP). The ACA is a non-profit community watershed group with over 500 members, dedicated to the protection and restoration of the natural ecosystems of the Alameda Creek watershed. We have been involved since 1997 in restoration of native fish, including planning for restoration of migratory steelhead trout to upper Arroyo Mocho in Livermore.

In general, we support the habitat and environment goals described in the SMMP Project Description. We are particularly pleased to see the 10 proposed habitat and environment projects, specifically the fish barrier removal project at Stanley Blvd., 5 other projects which apparently address potential fish passage barriers (Lower Arroyo de la Laguna Improvement Project, Lower Arroyo Mocho Improvement Project, Castlewood Improvement Project, Arroyo Mocho Management Plan, and Lower Arroyo del Valle Restoration and Enhancement Project), and one project which has the potential to address fish passage barriers (Regional Sedimentation Project). We hope that Zone 7 will make the removal or modification of all instream fish passage barriers within its service area a priority and take advantage of barrier removal opportunities during the projects proposed in the SMMP.

Attached to these comments is information on 6 potential fish passage barriers identified by the Friends of the Arroyos (FOTA) in Arroyo Mocho, Arroyo Valle, and Arroyo de la Laguna. Four of the barriers appear to be addressed by project proposed in the SMMP, and for 2 barriers it is unclear whether they are covered in proposed projects. The ACA and FOTA would like to meet with Zone 7 staff to discuss which barriers are covered by projects in the proposed SMMP. For barriers not covered we would like to determine ownership of the structures, and whether assessment and modification the structures can be included as part of proposed SMMP projects.

The ACA supports flood control projects that will maintain natural ecosystem functions and restore or re-create flood plains and more natural stream channels. The recently completed Arroyo las Positas/Arroyo Mocho widening project is a good example of a project that increased flood capacity while restoring natural stream meander, addressed fish passage barriers, planted native riparian

vegetation, and enhanced instream and riparian habitat for native species. In general we support the use of off-stream detention basins and expanding flood plains to handle flood flows rather than traditional channelization projects which involve channelization or hardening stream banks. If stream bank stabilization is required, we support the use of natural materials such as willow stakes, wood crib walls, or boulders rather than concrete or rip-rap. We support the projects which replace non-native vegetation with native plants, which will create additional habitat for native species.

We are particularly interested in the methods proposed for bank stabilization in the lower and middle Arroyo de la Laguna projects. The very lower section of Arroyo de la Laguna has been identified as potential spawning and/or rearing habitat for rainbow and steelhead trout. We would like to work with Zone 7 to move forward projects in Arroyo de la Laguna which will stabilize the stream banks while protecting and enhancing any potential trout habitat.

We also enthusiastically support the Alameda Creek Trail project, with the caveat that the trail location and construction should avoid damaging any habitat for sensitive species. We also encourage interpretive and educational displays as an important component of any project that will: restore native or more natural habitats; that are designed to enhance native habitat but may be misunderstood by the public, such as removal of non-native vegetation; or are in high-use areas such as trails.

We encourage Zone 7 to conduct thorough biological surveys and habitat assessments of project areas to protect habitat for sensitive native species such as the rainbow trout, California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, western pond turtle, western burrowing owl, and sensitive endemic plant species. We believe that including substantial monitoring of the hydrology, vegetation, and wildlife habitat of projects after completion is important to ensure that habitat and environment projects accomplish the stated restoration and enhancement goals and that other projects do not result in undue environmental degradation.

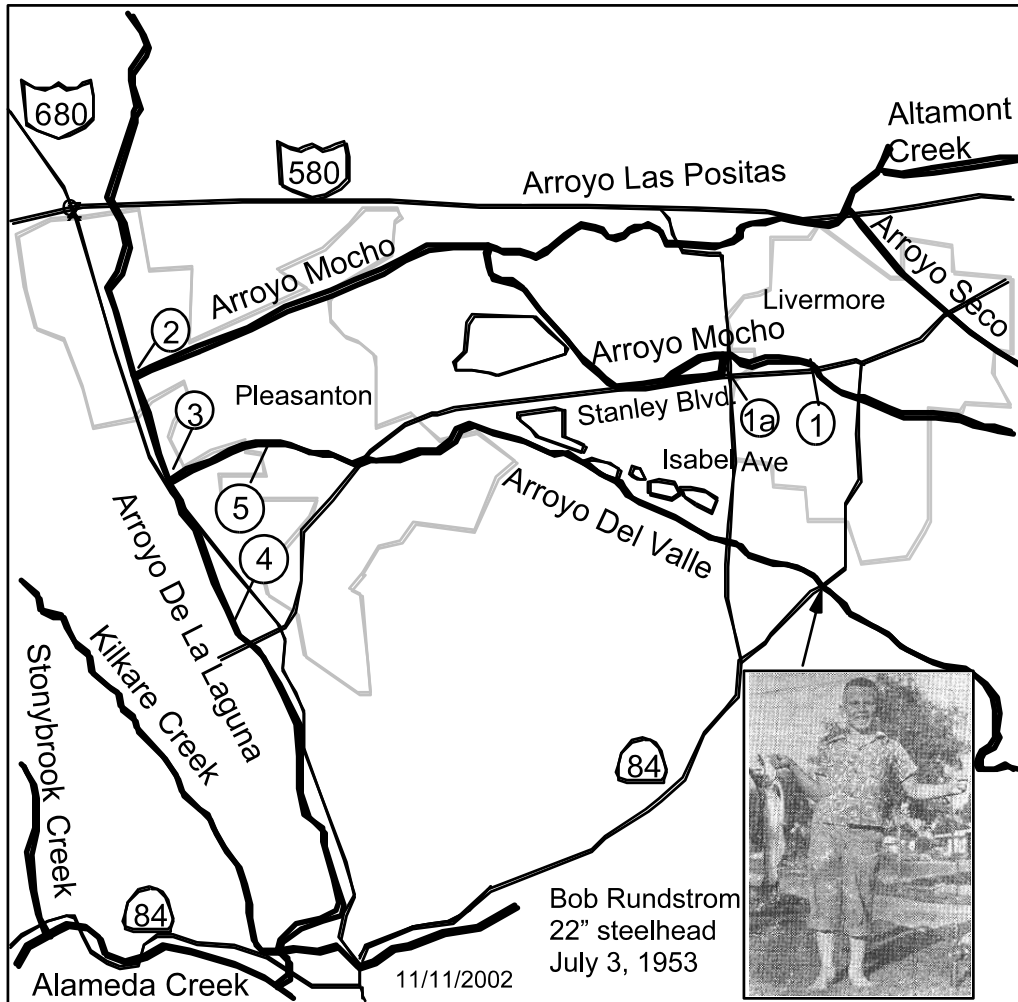
We look forward to working with Zone 7 on these projects to enhance fish and wildlife habitat in the Arroyos.

Sincerely,

Jeff Miller  
Director, ACA

cc: Friends Of The Arroyos  
Zone 7 Board of Directors  
Ed Cummings, Assistant General Manager, Zone 7

## POTENTIAL FISH PASSAGE BARRIERS WITHIN THE ZONE 7 SERVICE AREA



| <u>Barrier</u> | <u>Arroyo</u> | <u>Reach</u> | <u>Description</u>      | <u>Location</u>                       |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1              | Mocho         | 3            | 3' weir below RR tracks | Stanley Blvd. and Murrieta Blvd.      |
| 1a             | Mocho         | 6            | 2 energy dissipaters    | Isabel Avenue                         |
| 2              | Mocho         | 8            | 1' drop structure       | near W. Las Positas Blvd and Hwy. 680 |
| 3              | del Valle     | 7            | ½' drop structure       | Corte Monterey near Bernal and 680    |
| 4              | Laguna        | 10           | 4'? drop structure      | Castlewood Golf Course                |
| 5              | del Valle     | 7            | 3' drop structure       | Division Street                       |

- Protecting and restoring the natural ecosystems of the Alameda Creek watershed -

## Barrier 1

3' drop structure on Arroyo Mocho at Stanley Blvd. and Murrieta Blvd. at the old Southern Pacific railroad bridge in Livermore



The Zone 7 SMMP project R. 3-5, the Stanley Blvd. Fish Barrier Removal Project, addresses this barrier. The project will “remove [a] portion of railroad bridge footing” to “restore Arroyo Mocho as a fish migration corridor.”

## **Barrier 1a**

A 200 yard cement lined channel with sloping cement-armored energy dissipation structures at both the upstream and downstream ends blocks fish passage on Arroyo Mocho where it crosses Isabel Avenue.



It is unclear whether the Zone 7 SMMP project R. 6-1, the Arroyo Mocho Management Plan Project, addresses this barrier. The project will “remove and replace existing fish structure.”

## Barrier 2

1' drop structure on Arroyo Mocho near West Las Positas Blvd and Hwy. 680, 50 yards upstream from the confluence with Arroyo De La Laguna in Pleasanton



The Zone 7 SMMP project R. 8-3, the Lower Arroyo Mocho Improvement Project, apparently addresses this barrier. The project will “improve channel by removing drop structure, remove sediment, install rock vanes, install aquatic cover, and create a low-flow channel.”

### **Barrier 3**

Half-foot drop structure on Arroyo Del Valle at the end of Corte Monterey near Bernal Ave. and Hwy. 680 in Pleasanton, 50 yards upstream from the confluence with Arroyo De La Laguna. At low to moderate flow this structure may block fish passage due to the flat apron above the drop.



The Zone 7 SMMP project R. 7-3, the Lower Arroyo del Valle Restoration and Enhancement Project, apparently addresses this barrier. The project will “remove fish barriers at Hopyard Road, Santa Rita Road, Stanley Blvd., and Arroyo del Valle and Arroyo de la Laguna and replace or reshape [them].”

## Barrier 4

About a 4' drop structure on Arroyo de la Laguna next to the Castlewood Golf Course in Pleasanton. This structure is likely a fish passage barrier at many flows.



The Zone 7 SMMP project R. 10-3, the Castlewood Improvement Project, apparently addresses this barrier. The project will “remove and replace drop structure with environmentally friendly one” to “restore steelhead corridor.”

## Barrier 5

About 3' drop structure on Arroyo Del Valle at Division Street crossing in Pleasanton. At low to moderate flows this structure likely blocks fish passage due to sheeting flows across the flat apron above the drop.



It is unclear whether the Zone 7 SMMP project R. 7-3, the Lower Arroyo del Valle Restoration and Enhancement Project, addresses this barrier. The project will “remove fish barriers at Hopyard Road, Santa Rita Road, Stanley Blvd., and Arroyo del Valle and Arroyo de la Laguna and replace or reshape [them].”