

Happy New Year!

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### **Alameda Creek Fish Rescue This Year**

The Alameda Creek Alliance, East Bay Regional Park District and Alameda County Flood Control District have put in a request to state and federal regulatory agencies for a permit to rescue steelhead trout blocked at the BART weir in lower Alameda Creek this winter. The proposal is to move rescued fish into lower Niles Canyon, radio tag and track the movements of all adult fish, and extensively monitor upstream reaches for any potential spawning activity.

Now that Niles and Sunol Dams have been removed, fish moved into Niles Canyon would have access to much more potential habitat than in previous years, including lower Stonybrook Creek, Alameda Creek in Niles Canyon, Alameda Creek in the lower Sunol Valley up to the PG&E gas pipeline crossing, lower Arroyo de la Laguna to the Castlewood drop structure, Sinbad Creek in Sunol, and San Antonio Creek in the Sunol Valley below Turner Dam.

We hope to hear about a permit for fish rescue and monitoring sometime in January.

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### **Volunteers Needed for Steelhead Monitoring This Winter**

If we get a permit to rescue and move steelhead trout from the Alameda Creek flood control channel this winter, we will need volunteers to help monitor likely spawning sites and potential fish passage barriers upstream of the release site in Niles Canyon.

Volunteers are needed to help SFPUC and EBRPD biologists visually monitor likely stream reaches and potential migration barriers. These observations will take place following the descending hydrograph of storms when moved steelhead are most likely to spawn and when creek flow and turbidity allow visual observations. Likely spawning sites that will need to be monitored include:

Lower Stonybrook Creek  
Alameda Creek in Niles Canyon  
Alameda Creek in the lower Sunol Valley up to the PG&E gas pipeline crossing  
Lower Arroyo de la Laguna in Pleasanton, up to the Castlewood drop structure  
Sinbad Creek in Sunol  
San Antonio Creek in the Sunol Valley below Turner Dam

To volunteer to monitor a portion of one of these specific stream reaches, contact Diana Brumbaugh, ACA Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, at [alamedavolunteer@yahoo.com](mailto:alamedavolunteer@yahoo.com) or by phone at (510) 794-4252.

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### **Support the Alameda Creek Alliance**

A few ways you can support the Alameda Creek Alliance's work to protect and restore Alameda Creek:

- 1) Consider a year-end, tax deductible donation to the Alameda Creek Alliance.
- 2) Become an ACA member. If you are not already a member, click [here](#) to join. A huge thank you to all our new and renewing members this year – our membership has jumped to over 1,310 members!

3) Use [GoodSearch](#) and earn a penny for the ACA every time you search the internet.

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue to the organization you choose. You use it just as you would any search engine. Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and enter the Alameda Creek Alliance as the charity you want to support.

If only 100 of our supporters performed two GoodSearch queries a day, the ACA would raise \$730 in a year! **If 500 searched twice per day, we would earn \$3,650 in a year!** And all without anyone spending a dime! The more people who use this site, the more money will go to help the ACA's work to protect and restore Alameda Creek. So please, try GoodSearch today and spread the word to your friends and family! Have everyone in your office or school download the GoodSearch [toolbar](#) so that they can search directly from the top of their browsers.

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### **Alameda County Wants Quick Progress on Fixing BART Weir**

Thank you to everyone who wrote letters to Alameda County regarding fixing the BART weir for fish passage. The Alameda County Flood Control District has confirmed their commitment to an aggressive schedule to identify, design, permit, fund and complete a fish passage project at the BART weir.

The ACFCD is currently evaluating potential fish passage projects at the site - in August 2006 the agency published the [Lower Alameda Creek/Bart Weir Fish Passage Assessment - Draft Alternatives Evaluation Report](#), which evaluated the feasibility of four potential fish passage projects at the barrier and ranked these alternatives. The next step is for ACFCD to pick a preferred alternative for providing fish passage in the flood control channel, in coordination with the Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup and other affected agencies. The ACFCD has assured the Alameda Creek Alliance that fixing the BART weir is a high priority project. The ACFCD will provide a letter detailing its commitment to funding and implementing the project – stay tuned.

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### **Fremont Showing of *An Inconvenient Truth* January 6**

Tri-City Independent Documentary Series presents "An Inconvenient Truth", Al Gore's widely acclaimed movie about global warming, followed by a discussion led by Dr. Paul Rea of St. Mary's College and Sandy Cashmark from Project Climate. **Saturday January 6th, 2007 at 1:30 pm.** No charge. Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., at Paseo Padre by Lake Elizabeth.

Directions: From 880 Freeway exit Stevenson, go approx. 2 miles toward the hills, cross Paseo Padre, turn right into library. From Fremont BART walk 2 blocks south on Civic Center (hills on your left), turn right on Stevenson.

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### **25th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference March 7-10**

The [Salmonid Restoration Federation](#) will hold the 25th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference at the Wells Fargo Arts Center in Santa Rosa, California, **March 7-10, 2007**. The conference includes full-day workshops on dam removal and FERC re-licensing, fish passage barrier removal tools and estuary and lagoon restoration. Field tours include visits to sustainable grazing sites in southern Sonoma and western Marin counties, Sonoma vineyards with salmon friendly agricultural practices, a rivermouth to ridgeline tour of Dutchbill Creek watershed, steelhead habitat restoration projects on Upper Sonoma Creek, bioengineering and in-stream restoration

projects, a tour of cooperative approaches to restoration in the Austin Creek watershed as well as a short tour of restoration projects in the Prince Memorial Greenway.

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### **Fremont Earth Day April 21, 2007**

The City of Fremont and [Tri-City Ecology Center](#) are sponsoring *Earth Day 2007* on **Saturday, April 21, from 10 am to 4 pm** at the Teen Center at Lake Elizabeth in Fremont. To volunteer to help staff the ACA booth at this event, contact Diana Brumbaugh, ACA Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, at [alamedavolunteer@yahoo.com](mailto:alamedavolunteer@yahoo.com) or by phone at (510) 794-4252

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### **Celebrate Our Victories**

Let's take a moment at the end of the year to celebrate our victory in helping stop attempts to weaken the Endangered Species Act this year. The 109<sup>th</sup> Congress adjourned this year without passing a bill that would weaken the Endangered Species Act. The United States Senate rejected Rep. Richard Pombo's "Extinction Bill" which passed the House last year, and would have seriously weakened the Endangered Species Act, our nation's safety net for wildlife on the brink of extinction. Voters also rejected Pombo's anti-environmental extremism and corruption and voted him out of the 11<sup>th</sup> District. Thank you to everyone who wrote a letter, met with representatives or worked in any other way to support endangered species protections.

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### **Free Endangered Species Cell Phone Ringtones**

The [Center for Biological Diversity](#) is offering free cell phone ringtones of over 40 rare and endangered wildlife species from around the world. Your cell phone can come alive with the fascinating croaks, chirps and songs of rare and endangered wildlife calls. There are ringtones for several rare species that occur in the Alameda Creek watershed, including the California Red-legged Frog, Foothill Yellow-legged Frog and Western Burrowing Owl. Click [here](#) for the ringtones web site or go to [www.rareearthtones.org](http://www.rareearthtones.org).

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### **State Protection for California Tiger Salamander**

A Superior Court has overturned the California Fish and Game Commission's rejection of a petition filed by the [Center for Biological Diversity](#) to list the California Tiger Salamander under the state's wildlife protection law. Many of the remaining central California coastal populations of the tiger salamander, federally listed as a threatened species, occur in the Alameda creek watershed.

Center for Biological Diversity Press Release 12/20/06 - [Court Orders California Fish and Game Commission to Consider Imperiled California Tiger Salamander For Listing Under State Endangered Species Act](#)

Contra Costa Times article 12/21/06 - [Amphibian Gets New Lease on Protection: Agency to reconsider denial of endangered status for tiger salamanders](#)

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### **Citizens Groups Sue over Fish Passage on the Yuba River**

The [South Yuba River Citizens League](#) and [Friends of the River](#) sued the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and National Marine Fisheries Service earlier this month over the failure to address impacts to fish and known problems caused by Daguerre Point and Englebright Dams on the Yuba River near Yuba City, California. The antiquated Daguerre Point Dam is causing problems for salmon, steelhead and sturgeon species listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. Read the South Yuba River Citizens League December 15 [press release](#).

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### **Dam is Gone, Salmon are Back in Puget Sound Creek**

Read the [December 28 Seattle Times article](#)

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### **Local Electronic Waste Disposal Opportunities**

Help protect our creeks and the Bay! Electronics should never be thrown in the trash. In landfills, the heavy metals in circuitry and components can create a poisonous brew of leachate that seeps into groundwater and contaminates nearby streams.

Start the New Year out right and take your outdated electronics to an e-waste recycler. They'll accept a wide range of electronic waste, such as cell phones, TVs, stereo equipment, computers (including mice, keyboards, and monitors), and more. Check each recycler's Web site for a list of items they will accept free or will not accept (for example, household appliances like vacuums or lamps are not considered e-waste). It's worth the small amount of time and effort to ensure your electronic items are disposed of safely and cleanly.

Here are upcoming [free](#) e-waste events and ongoing disposal sites in the Alameda Creek watershed, to help you responsibly get rid of these items:

**Saturday, January 6 in Union City** (9 am – 1 pm)

**Free E-waste recycling**

Union City BART Station, 10 Union Square, Parking Lot

**Sunday, January 7 in Fremont** (9 am – 1 pm)

**Free E-waste recycling**

Fremont BART Station, 2000 BART Way, Parking Lot

**Saturday, January 13 in Fremont** (9 am – 3 pm)

**Sunday, January 14 in Fremont** (9 am – 3 pm)

**Free E-waste recycling**

American High School, 36300 Fremont Blvd.

For more information, visit [unwaste.com](http://unwaste.com) or call 888.832.9839