

Membership Renewal

Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership or became a member of the Alameda Creek Alliance this month.

If you did not receive a mailing from us, you are not on our mailing list. Send us your address or download a membership form [here](#).

Your support enables us to continue to be an effective voice for the protection and restoration of Alameda Creek.

Final EIR for San Francisco Water System Improvement Program

The SFPUC released the final Program Environmental Impact Report for their Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) on September 30. The WSIP consists of 75 San Francisco and regional projects, to be completed by the end of 2015, including [9 projects in the Sunol Valley region](#) such as the Calaveras Dam replacement.

This document includes responses to comments as well as modified project descriptions for the Calaveras Dam Replacement and Alameda Creek Fishery Enhancement projects, and a new (but inadequate) approach to steelhead trout issues in Alameda Creek.

Download the [Final PEIR](#).

Read the [October 28, 2008 letter](#) from the Alameda Creek Alliance on the inadequacy of the PEIR.

We are urging the Planning Commission and SFPUC Commissioners not to certify or approve the WSIP until suggested mitigations for Alameda Creek are added.

Hearing Thursday on EIR – Speak Up for Alameda Creek

This Thursday, October 30th, at 1:30 pm, the S.F. Planning Commission will discuss and vote on certification of the final EIR for the WSIP. At 5 pm the SFPUC Commission will hold a hearing on the WSIP and choose a project. Both hearings are at San Francisco City Hall – the 1:30 Planning Commission hearing is in room 400; the 5:00 pm SFPUC hearing is in room 263.

The WSIP as proposed, specifically the Calaveras Dam Replacement Project and the Alameda Creek “Fishery Enhancement” Project, will have unacceptable impacts on the native fish and wildlife of Alameda Creek, will impede restoration of steelhead trout, and will commit the SFPUC to illegally operating Calaveras Dam and the Alameda Diversion Dam in violation of state and federal wildlife protection laws.

Please attend the hearing and speak up for Alameda Creek

We are asking for additional mitigations and assurances that the Calaveras Dam project will include operating the dam with adequate instream flow releases for steelhead trout and other cold water fish; that the proposed operation of the Alameda Diversion Dam be changed to bypass additional flows and that removal of this dam be studied; that a "water grab" to divert additional water from Alameda Creek be removed from the "Fishery Enhancement" project; and that fisheries protection plans requested by the California Department of Fish and Game be added to the Calaveras project.

We are urging the Commissions not to approve or certify the PEIR until the SFPUC addresses the Alameda Creek fishery issues.

*Planning Commission Hearing
SF City Hall, Room 400
Thursday, October 30 at 1:30pm*

*Special Meeting of the SFPUC
SF City Hall, Room 263
Thursday, October 30 at 5:00pm*

If you can only attend one hearing, the 5pm SFPUC meeting is probably more important. SF City Hall is located at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco - directions are [here](#).

If you cannot attend the hearing, write a letter to the SFPUC encouraging them to add the Alameda Creek Alliance's proposed mitigations to the PEIR and the Calaveras Dam project. The address is: Ann Moller Caen, President; SFPUC; 1145 Market Street; San Francisco, CA 94103. E-mails can be sent to MHoush@sfwater.org.

Tuolumne River Also Threatened by SFPUC

The SFPUC Water System Improvement Program will have a significant impact on the health of chinook salmon in the Tuolumne River, as the SFPUC could choose a program that would divert up to 25 million more gallons of water per day from the Tuolumne River, or could cap diversions at current levels and encourage water conservation and recycling to meet future demand.

The [Tuolumne River Trust](#) is encouraging the SFPUC to adopt the Phased WSIP, which would come close to capping diversions until at least 2018, with an amendment to remove a clause that would allow the diversion of another 2 million gallons of water per day (enough to fill 80 swimming pools every day). The Trust has set up an [action alert](#) on this issue - look for the Stop The Water Grab logo.

Alameda Creek Fish Kill

A massive fish kill occurred in lower Alameda Creek on October 6th, likely as a result of a spill of more than 100,000 gallons of treated sewage water from a plant in Pleasanton. The wastewater likely would have included bacteria that could have sucked up oxygen. About 5,000 warm water fish - primarily carp, sucker and sculpin - died as a result of low dissolved oxygen in a pool east of Mission Boulevard behind the upper rubber dam.

Eleventh-hour Bush Policy Tries to Gut Endangered Species Act

On August 15, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne proposed [sweeping changes](#) to the rules that govern how the Endangered Species Act is carried out — changes that would eviscerate protections for endangered species by excusing thousands of federal activities, including those that generate greenhouse gases, from review under the Act. This proposal followed an [earlier proposal](#) issued on August 5, which claimed to be just a formatting change to the federal list of threatened and endangered species — but which would actually limit protection of endangered species to their current (and usually vastly diminished) ranges.

Visit the [Center for Biological Diversity's web page](#) on this issue.

Read the Washington Post article, [Endangered Species Act Changes Give Agencies More Say](#)

Santa Clara County Creeks Conference

The Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition's Annual Creeks Conference will be held at Pioneer High School on Saturday, November 15th, from 9 am until 3 pm. You can find the conference announcement flyer, registration information and agenda at <http://www.sccreeks.org/new.htm>.

Help Prevent the Spread of Invasive Mud Snails

Now that highly invasive New Zealand mud snails are present in the Alameda Creek watershed, it is important for anyone fishing or conducting research in Alameda Creek to use decontamination techniques for waders, boots and gear. New Zealand mud snails can reproduce and spread quickly and reduce food resources for trout. They are spread primarily by humans – and recreationists such as anglers, boaters and others transporting contaminated gear can easily move mud snails to new locations. Biological consultants and researchers who frequent rivers and streams should clean their gear carefully. The Department of Fish and Game has information and decontamination recommendations here: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/mudsnail/>