

## **Calaveras Dam**

Thank you to the 70-plus people who showed up for the final public hearing this week in Sunol on the Calaveras Dam project. Forty-six Bay Area conservation groups signed on to our [comment letter](#) on the project. More detailed comments will be submitted tomorrow.

Read the ACA December 14 press release:

[46 Bay Area Conservation Groups Air Concerns over Calaveras Dam Project in Alameda Creek](#)

Read the East Bay Express article:

[October 14, 2009](#) - Stopping the Steelhead

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## **New Alameda Creek Fishing Regulations**

The California Fish and Game Commission voted this month to approve new statewide sport fishing regulations for 2010-2012 that include a year-round closure on all fishing in Alameda Creek and its tributaries downstream of San Antonio, Calaveras, and Del Valle reservoirs, to protect listed steelhead trout and remnant populations of native rainbow trout. Conservation and flyfishing groups in the watershed and throughout the state supported the Alameda Creek regulations due to the conservation significance, low population numbers, and potential threats to steelhead and rainbow trout populations in Alameda Creek.

Read the ACA December 15 press release:

[New State Fish and Game Regulations Close Fishing in Alameda Creek Below Major Dams](#)

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## **Christmas Bird Count**

Over 75 intrepid bird counters will scour our count area in the watershed tomorrow for birds during the new Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count.

Read the East Bay Express article:

[December 15, 2009](#) - *Counting the Eagles*

Read the Pleasanton Weekly article:

[December 11, 2009](#) - *Christmas Bird Count To Be Conducted In Area Parks*

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## **West Marin Creek Walk for Coho Salmon January 16**

The Salmon Protection And Watershed Network and the Alameda Creek Alliance are teaming up for a naturalist led creek walk in Lagunitas Creek in west Marin January 16 to see spawning endangered coho salmon. See <https://treesfoundation.org/cgi-priv/CreekWalks.pl> to sign up for this event.

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## **Staples Ranch Development**

Read the Contra Costa Times article:

[December 11, 2009](#) - *Critics of Stoneridge Drive Extension in Pleasanton Are Not Happy With Environmental Plan*

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### **Winter Fish Rescue in Alameda Creek**

We are anticipating receiving a permit again from state and federal agencies to conduct "fish rescues" in Alameda Creek this winter and spring. The "rescues" involve first locating and documenting any steelhead trout or salmon attempting to ascend the currently impassable BART weir. Our permit allows us to relocate all wild steelhead upstream of the barriers in the flood control channel, to release locations in lower Niles Canyon. We will radio-tag some of the moved steelhead to gain information on steelhead migration. An East Bay Regional Park District fisheries biologist will monitor any tagged and moved fish.

You can help by watching the BART weir and the new low-flow fish ladder at the former lower rubber dam (1 mile downstream of the BART weir) after storms for fish. Chinook salmon have been occasionally observed in the flood control channel in recent years in late November and early December after heavy rainstorms. Adult steelhead are typically seen from January through early March. Steelhead have been seen in recent years trying to ascend the BART weir after a major storm on the declining end of the hydrograph, typically when the stream flow is about 200 to 400 cubic feet/second (cfs). You can check the current Alameda Creek stream flow on the web in [lower Niles Canyon](#) and in the [flood control channel in Union City](#).

You must already be listed on the permit to handle fish, although other volunteers can help with rescues by doing other tasks. Biologists from the East Bay Regional Park District, Alameda County Flood Control District and/or myself will coordinate all fish rescues.

The fish rescues are fun and exciting, contribute to our knowledge for steelhead restoration efforts, and even allow a few fish to spawn in suitable habitat! The Alameda County Water District and Alameda County Flood Control District are working on a fish ladder project, now scheduled for completion in 2011, that will make the BART weir and middle rubber dam passable to all salmonids, so this will likely be the next to last year of fish rescues. Happy fish hunting!

I will be on vacation December 18 through the 30th, so if you spot any fish during that time, contact Pete Alexander or Manny DaCosta.

See our [web page](#) on what to do if you spot fish in the creek.