

Please Attend the Sunol Hearing on Calaveras Dam December 14

Environmental review is underway for the Calaveras Dam replacement project, potentially the most significant restoration opportunity for Alameda Creek. With all major fish passage projects in the watershed now underway, stream flows for fish below the San Francisco dams is a critical last piece of the puzzle for the full restoration of Alameda Creek.

The San Francisco Planning Department will hold a final public hearing on the [flawed draft Environmental Impact Report](#) for the Calaveras Dam project on **Monday, December 14, 2009 at 6:30 pm at the Sunol Glen Elementary School, 11601 Main Street, in Sunol.**

Come speak at the public hearing in Sunol. Talking points for speaking are posted [here](#).

This is the most controversial project of the entire Water System Improvement Program. We need a strong showing of public support for restoration to send a clear message to the SFPUC that they need to comply with environmental laws and restore steelhead as part of this project.

The SFPUC is proposing to operate the rebuilt dam in a manner that is incompatible with restoring steelhead below the dam. The proposed stream flow releases for migratory fish are clearly inadequate, the proposed operation of Calaveras and the related Alameda Diversion dams is illegal, and the proposed mitigations for what will be significant construction impacts on habitat for numerous endangered species are meager and inappropriate.

Read our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about the problems with the project and EIR.

Please Sign Your Group or Organization Onto Our Group Comment Letter on the EIR.

Click [here](#) to read the letter and contact me to sign your group onto the letter by December 14.

Salmon Viewing Map for Central California

SalmonAID and the Bay Institute have produced an on-line map of salmon viewing locations in the Bay Area and the Central Valley. See it here on the TBI website:

<http://www.bay.org/rivers-and-delta/viewing-wild-salmon/salmon-viewing-map>

The map doesn't yet have Alameda Creek listed, but in a few years the BART weir fish ladder should be a good viewing location. If you want to see and help salmon and steelhead in Alameda Creek this winter, see the next item to sign up for our fish monitoring and rescue program.

Sign Up For Fish Rescue This Winter

Alameda Creek Alliance volunteers can help locate in-migrating adult steelhead trout and chinook salmon attempting to pass the BART weir barrier in lower Alameda Creek. East Bay Regional Park District and Alameda County Flood Control District biologists coordinate annual fish rescues under state and federal permits – to end when the fish ladder is constructed. Steelhead in the lower creek are transported past migration barriers to suitable spawning habitat upstream, and radio tagged and monitored to learn about their migration and potential passage barriers.

If you want to participate in steelhead trout rescues this winter at the BART weir (including removing them from the water, handling, transporting, or re-releasing), you need to be on the permit from CA Fish and Game. Send me an e-mail with your name, address, phone number, and

CA driver's license number for the permit. If you sent me information last year, you will automatically be on the permit.

Organizations We Like

Center for Biological Diversity – www.biologicaldiversity.org

Only the most effective conservation group around. Most of the legal and habitat protections for endangered and threatened species in the Alameda Creek watershed were secured by the efforts of the Center.

The Center for Biological Diversity works through science, law, and creative media to secure a future for all species, great or small, hovering on the brink of extinction.

Sign up to get their informative and entertaining on-line updates, Endangered Earth.

Friends of Tesla Park - www.teslapark.org

A new organization working to protect the unique Tesla-Corral Hollow area in eastern Alameda County, just east of the Alameda Creek watershed, from off-road vehicle abuse.

Friends of Tesla Park is dedicated to protecting and preserving the biologically unique and culturally significant landscape known as Tesla Park as a historic and low impact recreation park and natural preserve.

Beyond Searsville Dam – www.beyondsearsvilledam.org

The Beyond Searsville Dam Coalition is working to remove the dam owned by Stanford University on San Francisquito Creek in San Mateo County.

Dam removal will allow steelhead trout in San Francisquito Creek to access the watershed's largest, historic spawning and rearing tributary in Portola Valley and Woodside, will eliminate invasive species, and enhance flood control in this important Bay Area watershed.

Statewide Salmon News

[*Governor Signs Water Bond Bill at Friant Pork Festival*](#)

[*Lower Numbers of Fall Chinook Salmon Returning to Battle Creek*](#)

[*How Limousine Liberals, Water Oligarchs and Even Sean Hannity Are Hijacking Our Water Supply*](#)

[*EBMUD Pardee Reservoir Expansion Faces Lawsuit*](#)