

Action Alert:

Tell Alameda County It's Time to Fix the BART Weir

After 9 years of efforts by the Alameda Creek Alliance, we still do not have fish passage for migratory fish at the [BART weir](#), a structure owned by the Alameda County Flood Control District (ACFCD) that each year blocks federally listed steelhead trout attempting to migrate upstream in Alameda Creek.

Although the ACFCD has been a leading participant in the Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup and has put considerable effort toward investigating fish passage at the BART weir, progress has been slow and the structure remains in violation of state and federal wildlife protection laws by preventing adult steelhead and salmon attempting to move upstream from completing their life cycle.

On the positive side, the ACFCD has helped each winter in rescuing steelhead stranded below the 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. On the negative side, progress is not measured by intentions or publication of draft reports, and after 9 years we are no closer to steelhead trout being able to pass the BART weir, the primary barrier blocking steelhead restoration in the creek. Additionally, we have serious concerns about the ACFCD's commitment of adequate funds and staffs time to promptly correct this problem.

The Alameda Creek Alliance sent a [letter](#) this week requesting that the ACFCD commit to an aggressive schedule to identify, design, permit, fund and complete a fish passage project at the BART weir. We requested that the ACFCD promptly finalize the Alternatives Evaluation Report and, in coordination with the Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup and other affected agencies, pick a preferred alternative for providing fish passage in the flood control channel. We requested that the ACFCD complete engineering and design work, and all needed environmental review for the project by August 2007, the 10-year anniversary of both the threatened listing for steelhead trout the Alameda Creek Alliance's efforts to restore them to Alameda Creek. We asked that the ACFCD commit to a schedule for funding and completing the project by 2008 or 2009.

What you can do:

Write to the Alameda County Flood Control District and tell them that a nine-year wait for steelhead restoration is long enough! Tell them you want to see the ACFCD initiate construction of a fish ladder at the BART weir by next year so that steelhead trout and salmon can successfully spawn in Alameda Creek. Sending a letter is best, but e-mails are also effective. Please include a sentence or two about your personal interest in the creek and the restoration of its fish runs.

Send a copy to Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty's office - Sup. Haggerty has been very supportive of the steelhead restoration project.

Write to:

Daniel Woldesenbet, Director
Alameda County Public Works Agency

399 Elmhurst Street
Hayward, CA 94544

E-mail: danielw@acpwa.org, info@acpwa.org

Please send a copy to Supervisor Scott Haggerty's office (Sup. Haggerty has been very supportive of the steelhead restoration project):

Supervisor Scott Haggerty
Alameda County Board of Supervisors
1221 Oak Street, #536
Oakland, CA 94612

E-mail: district1@acgov.org, chris.gray@acgov.org