

ALAMEDA CREEK NEWS

Alameda Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan Meeting January 13

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is preparing an Environmental Impact Report for their proposed Alameda Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

The SFPUC will hold a public scoping meeting for the HCP on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm, at the Dublin Civic Center, Regional Meeting Room, 100 Civic Plaza, in Dublin.

The HCP will provide conservation measures and legal coverage for the SFPUC under the Endangered Species Act for lawful "take" of 12 special-status wildlife species and 5 plant species:

Covered Wildlife Species

1. Callippe Silverspot Butterfly
2. California Tiger Salamander
3. California Red-legged Frog
4. Foothill Yellow-legged Frog
5. Alameda Whipsnake
6. Western Pond Turtle
7. Tricolored Blackbird
8. Western Burrowing Owl
9. Townsend's Western Big-eared Bat
10. Central California Coast Steelhead Trout (and rainbow trout)
11. Pacific lamprey
12. Central valley fall-run Chinook salmon

Covered Plant Species

1. Round-Leaved Filaree
2. Fragrant Fritillary
3. Diablo Helianthella
4. Robust Monardella
5. Most Beautiful Jewel-flower

Representatives of the San Francisco Planning Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service will be at the hearing to discuss the environmental review process and receive comments to assist in determining the scope and focus of the joint Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR). SFPUC staff will provide an overview of the plan and recent updates, including the revised list of covered activities, the revised list of covered species, and preliminary modeling for the covered fish species.

Written comments on the HCP will be accepted on or before January 21, 2009.

See the SFPUC's [web page](#) and the ACA [web page](#) for more information on the HCP.

Media Coverage - SFPUC Water System Projects and South Bay Wetlands Restoration

S.F. Bay Guardian - December 10, 2008

[Tap Dreams](#)

Here is the excerpt from the Express article about Alameda Creek concerns:

The EIR received upwards of 1,000 public comments, more than any other document ever generated by the SFPUC. Environmental groups rallied, writing editorials, flooding public meetings, and asserting a different vision of the Bay Area's water future and stewardship of its primary, pristine water resource.

The SFPUC feels positive about it, too. "We are really thrilled that the program EIR was approved by the Planning Commission, approved by the PUC, and not appealed," said spokesperson Tony Winnicker. He said there were really controversial elements and the trick was balancing the competing interests of wholesale customers and environmental groups. "It took a really hard-nosed look at our demand projections and what we could really do for conservation." **He concedes there are still controversies, in particular over the Calaveras Dam, which the Alameda Creek Alliance opposes. "It would be hubris for us to say it's been a complete success."**

San Jose Mercury News – December 6, 2008

[Massive Restoration Project To Turn Salt Ponds Into Wetlands](#)

Plans for restoration of wetlands that will provide bird and fish habitat just north of the mouth of Alameda Creek

STATEWIDE FISH NEWS

The Truth About California Trout Stocking Restrictions

Because there has been a lot of misinformation circulated about the restrictions on stocking of trout in California waters, intended to limit harm to native fish and amphibians, here are the statements by the Center for Biological Diversity (one of the plaintiffs in the case against Dept. of Fish and Game) and by two fishing groups, CSPA and CalTrout. Please forward this to interested parties.

Center for Biological Diversity statement on interim restrictions on stocking trout to protect native fish and amphibians in California waters:

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/fish-stocking_reform/pdfs/PRC+CBD_statement_on_fish-stocking_agreement.pdf

Find out more about the Center's Fish Stocking Reform Campaign:

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/fish-stocking_reform/index.html

See what the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance says about the restrictions on trout stocking:

<http://www.calsport.org/12-3-08a.htm>

Read CalTrout's statement on the interim restrictions:

<http://www.caltrout.org/article.asp?id=379&bc=1>

California Steelhead Report

Report compiling and analyzing available data on the historical and current distributions of anadromous fishes from San Mateo County to the Mexican Border. Find out everything you need

to know about historic and current distribution and abundance of anadromous fish in any central and southern California watershed.

[Steelhead/Rainbow Trout \(*Oncorhynchus mykiss*\) Resources South of the Golden Gate, California](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 5 – *Close to Home Presentation Winged Migration on the Pacific Flyway*

Close to Home presents a talk and slide presentation by naturalist Mike Moran of the East Bay Regional Park District, Monday, Jan 5, 2009, at 7:30 P.M. at the Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland. www.close-to-home.org for more information

January 31 - *Water: California's New Gold*

A California League of Women Voters panel on the State of the Delta and Water Resources. Saturday, January 31, 2009, from 9 am to 2 pm at the Metro Center Auditorium, 101 Eighth Street, in Oakland. \$25 with lunch. www.lwvbayarea.org for more information

BOOKS AND FILMS

Flyfishing Film: *Rivers of a Lost Coast*

Rivers of a Lost Coast follows California's coastal fly fishing community through the rise and collapse of one of the world's most magical fisheries. Check out the new web site at www.riversofalostcoast.com

Tracing Anza's Trail: A Photographer's Journey

Through the eye of her camera anthropologist Nina Egert illustrates a compelling tale drawn from the journals of the 1775-6 Anza Party's overland journey from Arizona to the Bay Area. Alameda Creek was along the Anza trail. The book is expected to be in bookstores by the New Year. www.tracinganza.com for information
