

SFPUC Approves \$4.5 Billion Hetch Hetchy Upgrade and Programmatic EIR for Water System Projects in Alameda Creek

The SFPUC approved the Program Environmental Impact Report for the Water System Improvement Program on October 30th, despite [objections from the Alameda Creek Alliance](#) that the proposed Calaveras Dam Replacement Project and 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.

New SFPUC Commissioner Francesca Vietor acknowledged our concerns about Alameda Creek in the record and added language to the approval resolution: *"The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission shall set aggressive water conservation and recycling goals, shall bring short and long-term conservation, recycling, and groundwater programs on line at the earliest possible time, and shall undertake every effort to reduce demand and any further diversion from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission watersheds..."*

The SFPUC is expected to release the project specific EIR for the Calaveras Dam replacement in the spring. Commissioner Vietor directed SFPUC staff to further address mitigations, restoration and flows below Calaveras Dam and elsewhere in the Alameda Creek watershed in the Calaveras EIR. The Alameda Creek Alliance will be monitoring this project closely, as well as the required federal permit process for the project.

S.F. Chronicle – October 30, 2008

[S.F. Panels OK \\$4.4 Billion Hetch Hetchy Upgrade](#)

The East Bay Express - November 12, 2008

[Saving the Tuolumne River](#)

Covers the SFPUC Water System Improvement Project Approval – the article mentions the Alameda Creek concerns

December 13 Salmon Walk in Lagunitas Creek – Joint SPAWN/ACA Tour

Join the Salmon Protection And Watershed Network and the Alameda Creek Alliance for a salmon tour along Lagunitas Creek in Marin on Saturday, December 13th. If we get any rain, we may see coho salmon at several dependable spawning sites.

The tour starts at 10 am and is a special event with guest naturalist, Alameda Creek Alliance Director, Jeff Miller. Register for the walk at <http://www.spawnusa.org/> - there are currently 19 spots available.

Algae and Urban Runoff Implicated in October Alameda Creek Fish Kill

A panel of experts has reached a tentative conclusion on what caused the major fish kill in Alameda Creek in Fremont on October 6th – oxygen depletion from algal growth compounded by urban runoff containing nutrients and decaying materials. The panel, which included a fisheries biologist, a University of California, Berkeley professor emeritus and a specialist who works extensively with runoff in the county, concluded several factors contributed to depleting oxygen in the pond. Algae takes oxygen out of the water through the night and photosynthesizes during the day to produce oxygen. Runoff from a small storm darkened the water, leading to less photosynthetic activity and new oxygen, and producing more oxygen demand. A sewage spill that day in Pleasanton eight miles upstream was discounted as a factor and water quality tests did not

reveal toxicity or anything harmful such as pesticides. About 5,000 dead fish, mainly warm water fish such as carp, sucker and sculpin, were found in a 150-acre-foot section of the creek spanning from just east of Mission Boulevard to a rubber dam about 1,200 feet to the west.

Sweeping Public Trust Lawsuit Filed for Delta Fish

Bay Area Indy Media

[Groups File Suit to End Wasteful, Fish-Killing Delta Diversions](#)

Los Angeles Times

[New tack in old battle over California delta pumping](#)

Stockton Record

[Lawsuit aims to stop Delta water exports](#)

The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, California Water Impact Network, and a retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist filed an historic lawsuit against the State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Sacramento Superior Court last week

The seven-count lawsuit alleges violations of the public trust, California Constitution, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, Fish and Game Code 5937, and State Board Decision 1641 and asks the court to curtail water exports from the Delta. Specifically, the lawsuit charges that the huge export pumps near Tracy in the south Delta kill thousands upon thousands of smelt and small salmon fry every year, at different times of year, and are the main threats to public trust resources in the Delta.

The lawsuit went to court as Central Valley chinook salmon, Delta smelt, longfin smelt, threadfin shad, striped bass and other fish populations continue to collapse, due to record increases in water exports from the California Delta in recent years. The state and federal governments have drained Northern California reservoirs to record low water levels over the past two years to fill the Kern County Groundwater Bank and to provide subsidized water to the Westlands Water District.

“California has regulated its waters like the feds have regulated Wall Street and the result has been a collapse of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems,” said CSPA Chairman and Director Bill Jennings. “Given bureaucratic paralysis, we have little alternative but to turn to the courts to prevent the extinction of our historic fisheries.”

Jennings takes particular aim at Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's controversial Bay Delta Vision and Bay-Delta Conservation Program processes. Both programs, under the "leadership" of a Governor who recently received Field and Stream's "Outdoor Villain" of the year award, are recommending the construction of a peripheral canal and more dams that would only exacerbate the fishery collapses.

“The State Water Board hasn’t applied one significant measure to protect fisheries in over a decade and the Governor’s Delta Vision and Bay-Delta Conversation Program processes are little more than smokescreens to justify the status quo,” added Jennings.

Read the entire [press release](#) and the [legal complaint](#)

SOS: California's Native Fish Crisis

A CalTrout report was published last month analyzing the state of all 32 native California salmonid species and detailing how most salmonids are either threatened, endangered, or extinct.

See <http://www.caltrout.org/>

Pesticides Determined Harmful for Salmon

A National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion on EPA registration of pesticides containing Chlorpyrifos, Diazinon, and Malathion has provided a clear opinion that these organophosphate pesticides jeopardize salmon populations and can destroy critical habitat for salmon.

See <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/>

Giant Salmon Found in Sacramento River Tributary

A monster chinook salmon was found dead and spawned out on Battle Creek in late October, estimated to have been 85 pounds while it was alive.

<http://www.siskiyoudaily.com/news/x347034986/Giant-salmon-found-in-Sacramento-River>





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The Alameda Creek Alliance is a non-profit community watershed protection group. Please support our efforts by becoming a member.

If you would like to be removed from this list, please notify me by return e-mail.

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Protecting and restoring the natural ecosystems of the Alameda Creek watershed