

Alameda Creek Watershed News

Sunol Valley Restoration Plan Initiated

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is developing a Sunol Valley Restoration Plan to determine what restoration of the creek for steelhead trout is physically and biologically feasible in the Sunol Valley reach. The plan will guide restoration, conservation, and monitoring efforts in the Sunol Valley. Read the July 2010 [draft scope](#) of the restoration plan.

Stonybrook Creek Fish Passage Strategy

In June the Alameda County Department of Public Works prepared a draft [Strategic Plan for Eliminating Barriers to Steelhead Migration](#) in Stonybrook Creek, an important tributary of Alameda Creek for trout in Niles Canyon.

Several fish passage barrier assessments in Stonybrook Creek have been conducted during the past decade and numerous road crossings and culverts have been identified as either complete or partial barriers to upstream migrating steelhead. Alameda County is developing a barrier remediation strategy and estimating potential costs for implementation. This involves identifying priority crossings for fish passage improvement, recommending the order in which they should be treated, and developing planning-level cost estimates to address them.

Alameda Creek Historical Ecology Study

The San Francisco Estuary Institute is assessing watershed conditions in Alameda Creek prior to European contact, as a basis for understanding subsequent changes in watershed structure and function, and potential options for future environmental management and restoration. The geographic focus is the floodplains, valleys, and alluvial plains adjacent to Alameda Creek and its tributaries. This includes the Livermore and Amador valleys, Sunol Valley, Niles Canyon, and the Niles cone and adjoining baylands. A pilot portion of the project will also focus on documenting landscape changes in the uplands of the San Antonio Creek watershed. The project is designed to support several current planning efforts, including the Alameda Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan, Alameda County flood control planning, the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, the Alameda Creek Watershed Council, and to advance public engagement in the watershed. Click [here](#) for more information.

Community Meeting for Cal Trans Niles Canyon Project July 27

The draft Environmental Impact Report has been released for the State Route 84 Niles Canyon Safety Project, in the upper portion of Niles Canyon above Stonybrook Creek. The project will involve widening the roadway, installing soft median barriers, and adding over a mile of retaining walls upslope from the roadway and 3,400 feet of retaining walls downslope of the roadway.

Cal Trans will take public comments on the project until August 23 and will hold a public meeting on the project on Tuesday July 27, from 7-9 pm at the Sunol Glen School. Click [here](#) to read the EIR.

Restoration Across the Bay

Searsville Dam Alert - Tell Stanford to Restore Steelhead!

Now is your opportunity to help restore the steelhead trout population in our sister watershed across the Bay from Alameda Creek, in San Francisquito Creek through Palo Alto. Take action now to remove an obsolete dam that jeopardizes threatened steelhead trout. The 120-year-old Searsville Dam, owned by Stanford University, blocks steelhead trout from migrating into one of the best remaining trout streams in the Bay Area. The dam doesn't provide drinking water, flood control or hydropower, and its reservoir has almost completely silted up.

This dam is a prime candidate for removal. The Beyond Searsville Dam coalition and more than two dozen Bay Area conservation and fishing groups have called on Stanford to evaluate and consider removing Searsville dam to restore endangered species habitats, revive submerged wetlands, and provide natural flood-protection benefits for the watershed.

Tell Stanford to consider removing Searsville Dam to restore steelhead. Go to the Center for Biological Diversity [action alert](#).

Please visit the [Beyond Searsville Dam web site](#) for more information.

Stop Cargill's Massive Salt Pond Development in Redwood City

Cargill's development proposal in Redwood City would threaten San Francisco Bay and place up to 30,000 new residents in the path of rising seas. The entire 1,436 acres of salt ponds should be protected and restored to wetlands to benefit wildlife, water quality, residents, and future generations. Urge the Redwood City Council to reject Cargill's destructive Bay-fill proposal and promote full restoration of the site to protect the Bay Area's quality of life.

Visit www.DontPaveMyBay.org for tools for speaking out and spreading the word, and opportunities to take action.

Upcoming Events

July 27 – Open House for Cal Trans Niles Canyon Project

Cal Trans will hold a public meeting on the upper Niles Canyon road project from 7-9 pm at the Sunol Glen School.

July 27 – Center for Biological Diversity Pesticide Talk

The [Center for Biological Diversity](#) will host a talk by renowned U.C. Berkeley biologist and herpetologist [Dr. Tyrone Hayes](#) on the widespread effects of pesticides on our environment, and learn about what the Center is doing to combat this widespread problem. Dr. Tyrone Hayes is one of the nation's leading experts on the effects of agricultural chemicals on hormones. Dr. Hayes will talk about his research and what he has discovered with regard to the [effects of pesticides on amphibians](#). Center staff will also talk about the Center's [Pesticides Reduction Campaign](#) which

aims to secure programmatic changes in the pesticide registration process and to stop toxic pesticides from contaminating fish and wildlife habitats.

Pre-talk reception with light refreshments at 5:30 pm; the talk begins at 6 pm. At the Center for Biological Diversity offices, 351 California Street, Suite 600, in San Francisco (three short blocks from the Montgomery Street BART Station; between Sansome and Battery). Please RSVP to Jacki Lopez at jlopez@biologicaldiversity.org or call (415) 632-5305. Space is limited.

August 13-15 - Coho Confab in Western Sonoma County

The 13th Annual [Coho Confab](#) will be held August 13-15 in the Russian River Watershed at Westminster Woods. The Coho Confab is a symposium to explore watershed restoration, learn restoration techniques to recover coho salmon populations, and to network with other fish-centric people.

September 2010 - SalmonAid hosts Salmon Month at San Francisco's [Aquarium of the Bay!](#)

Find out all you ever wanted to know about [Pacific salmon](#), but were afraid to ask, including: [What's behind the salmon declines across our coast?](#) [Why you should eat wild salmon to save them?](#)

Join [SalmonAid](#) and its member organizations (which includes the Alameda Creek Alliance) at the Aquarium during September and you and your kids can: participate in discussions with salmon and river conservation experts; enjoy wild salmon feasts; meet real fishermen; experience our film festival; discover the many worlds of Pacific salmon; and more! See www.salmonaid.org

September 1 – SalmonAid Festival Kickoff Gala

SalmonAid 2010 will kick off with a feast of sustainable salmon and seafood from five restaurants and wine from two salmon-friendly wineries. See www.salmonaid.org for more information.

September 25 - Sunol Water Temple Centennial Celebration

We need a few volunteers to help staff the Alameda Creek Alliance table at the 100th anniversary celebration of the Sunol Water Temple on Saturday, September 25th.

September 26 - SalmonAid Closing Festival

This outdoor festival will end the 2010 SalmonAid events. See www.salmonaid.org for more information.

Statewide Salmon News

[The Bay Institute Gives Thumbs Up to New Delta Flow Improvements](#)

Bay Institute press release – July 21, 2010

[Delta Survival Requires Major Cutbacks in Water Use, State Study Finds](#)

San Jose Mercury News – July 21, 2010

[Pressure Mounts on Stanford University to Consider Removing Searsville Dam](#)

Center for Biological Diversity press release – July 21, 2010

[Court Victory for Yuba Salmon](#)

Yuba River Citizens League press release – July 13, 2010

[Suit to Get Kern Water Bank Returned to State](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - July 12, 2010

[Delta Legislators, Environmental Justice Advocates Want Water Bond Repealed](#)

IndyMedia – July 1, 2010

[Salmon Crisis Starts With Farm Subsidies](#)

Monterey Herald guest commentary – July 1, 2010

[Schwarzenegger Calls for Water Bond Delay Until 2012](#)

IndyMedia – June 29, 2010