



Alameda Creek Alliance

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Help Us Secure Stream Flows for Alameda Creek Steelhead Trout

Dear Alameda Creek Alliance supporter:

The Alameda Creek Alliance has been working for thirteen years now to restore steelhead trout and salmon to the Alameda Creek watershed, and thanks to your support we have made tremendous progress.

Within a few years, water and flood control agencies will finish constructing fish passage projects in the lower creek that will allow ocean-run steelhead and salmon to migrate upstream into the Sunol Valley for the first time in over half a century - and restoration plans are underway to get fish all the way up to Sunol Regional Park!

Alameda Creek is poised to become a major success story for urban stream restoration.

However, a major dam replacement project by the City of San Francisco could derail Alameda Creek fish restoration.

A pair of steelhead we named Bonnie and Clyde made headlines in local newspapers in March of 2008 after we moved them over barriers in the lower creek and they became the first steelhead trout pair to successfully spawn in the watershed in four decades! So many restoration projects are underway we cannot list them all in this letter, but within as few as three years, visitors to Sunol Regional Wilderness could observe steelhead once again spawning in their native habitat.

You have probably heard the good news that a fish ladder will be built at the infamous BART weir and middle rubber dam in lower Alameda Creek as early as next year. The Alameda County Water District removed their lowermost rubber dam from the creek last month and right now is installing a second set of fish screens on their water diversions, to protect juvenile steelhead.

With all major fish passage projects in the watershed now underway, the last piece of the puzzle for Alameda Creek restoration is water. *San Francisco, voted the second greenest city in the U.S., should be operating their water system in an ecologically responsible fashion, but sadly that is not what is being proposed for Alameda Creek.*

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is currently proposing dam operations and flow schedules for Calaveras Dam inconsistent with restoring a sustainable run of steelhead below the dam. We are working hard to ensure that the replacement project includes operating the new dam to provide favorable steelhead habitat below the dam.

We are confident that with your help and support, we can secure suitable water flows for steelhead when Calaveras Dam is rebuilt, as required by state laws and the Endangered Species Act.

We support San Francisco making needed retrofits to its water system; however SFPUC dams in Alameda Creek currently operate in violation of state wildlife protection laws, and to rebuild a

major dam without a commitment to provide adequate water releases to allow restoration of steelhead trout to downstream habitat in Alameda Creek is unacceptable.

We anticipate a major campaign of education, outreach, lobbying San Francisco politicians and regulatory agencies, providing expert comments, and potential litigation to improve the Calaveras Dam replacement project.

Since biologists and lawyers cost money, we are appealing to you now to donate generously to our Calaveras Dam campaign.

We have 70 other local, regional and state conservation and fishing groups backing our efforts on Alameda Creek, and we have already won round one in the dam battle. The SFPUC needs a federal permit for the dam and had urged the Army Corps of Engineers to make a determination of “no effect” on steelhead trout and issue a permit without a formal consultation with federal regulators under the Endangered Species Act. *In April of 2008 the National Marine Fisheries Service announced that formal consultation will be required for the project and rejected the “no impact on steelhead” determination.*

The SFPUC will begin environmental review of the Calaveras Dam project this fall. The Alameda Creek Alliance will comment on the Environmental Impact Report and monitor the formal Biological Opinion that results from the consultation process with the Fisheries Service.

Stay tuned for upcoming action alerts and your opportunity to weigh in on the Calaveras Dam project. We will let you know of public hearings and formal comment periods for environmental review of the project and will provide talking points.

Please donate as generously as you can at this critical juncture for our vision of a restored Alameda Creek.

Visit our web site at www.alamedacreek.org for more information about Alameda Creek restoration.

Thank you!



Jeff Miller
Alameda Creek Alliance Director

Yes, I would like to help the Alameda Creek Alliance secure stream flows for fish. Enclosed is \$20 or more for the Calaveras Dam campaign. Make checks payable to Alameda Creek Alliance.

Name _____

\$20 Local Fish Hero

Address _____

\$50 Spawning Enabler

City _____ Zip _____

\$100 Campaign Anchor

Phone _____

\$200 Dam-Buster

E-mail _____

Fed. Tax ID # 20-1973578

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