

# *The ACWD Aqueduct*

*News and Information for the Customers of the Alameda County Water District*

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## **ACWD Awarded \$1,000,000 to Improve Steelhead Migration in Alameda Creek**

Earlier this year, ACWD was awarded two \$500,000 grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to improve steelhead migration in Alameda Creek. Through the 2005 San Francisco Bay Salmonid Habitat Restoration Fund, NFWF has helped to fund 11 projects that will benefit salmon and steelhead trout in central and southern San Francisco Bay watersheds.

One ACWD project funded by the NFWF grants will involve the removal of an inflatable rubber diversion dam in the lower Alameda Creek Flood Control Channel which acts as a barrier to migrating steelhead when inflated. ACWD diverts water impounded behind three rubber dams in the flood control channel to groundwater recharge ponds. This water percolates into the aquifers beneath the Tri-City area and supplies up to 50% of the water used in Fremont, Newark, and Union City. Since the removal of the dam will impact the water supply for some of the recharge ponds, the project also calls for construction of a pipeline connecting the affected pond to other recharge ponds to maintain groundwater recharge capacity.

The other project funded by the NFWF grants provides for the installation of fish screens on ACWD's water supply diversion point at the mouth of Niles Canyon. Fish screens eliminate the potential for outmigrating juvenile steelhead from being carried into the diversion pipelines and adjacent groundwater recharge ponds at Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area. Both projects will be completed by fall of 2006. Look for project updates in the coming months on our website and in future issues of the Aqueduct.

These two projects are part of a much larger effort to restore steelhead in the Alameda Creek watershed, which extends from Mt. Diablo in the north to Mt. Hamilton in the south. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Zone 7 Water Agency, East Bay Regional Park District, and Alameda County Public Works Agency are all involved in projects that will make Alameda Creek a more fish-friendly waterway.