

FREMONT STEELHEAD FESTIVAL

May 13, 2000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alameda Creek Alliance

The first annual Fremont Steelhead Festival and Watershed Awareness Fair will be held on Saturday, May 13, at Niles Community Park in Fremont. The Festival, co-sponsored by the Alameda Creek Alliance, the City of Fremont Environmental Services, and the Tri-City Ecology Center, is a celebration of the progress made toward restoring native steelhead trout and salmon to Alameda Creek. The event will run from 9am to 3pm and is free to the public.

Activities at the festival will include educational and informational displays by organizations and agencies working to restore creeks in the Bay Area. Local fly-fishing groups will teach fly-casting, fly-tying, and promote fish conservation and catch and release fishing. The California Department of Fish and Game will have tanks with live steelhead and salmon on display. There will be also be food and music at the event.

A 10-kilometer road race, the Alameda Creek Spawning Run, will be held along the creek at 9am on May 13. A 5-kilometer run/walk will be held concurrently. Race registration (which includes a T-shirt) is \$25 the day of the event, and benefits steelhead restoration efforts. For information about the Spawning Run, please call (510) 657-6179.

The Alameda Creek Alliance has been working to restore native steelhead trout to Alameda Creek since 1997. Adult steelhead, up to 37" long, have been blocked by barriers in lower Alameda Creek during the last three winters, which prevent the fish from reaching spawning grounds in Sunol Regional Park. Five agencies, including the Alameda County Flood Control District, the Alameda County Water District, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the East Bay Regional Park District, and PG&E, have agreed to remove barriers or provide fish passage through construction of fish ladders by 2003.

For more information about the Fremont Steelhead Festival please call Jeff Miller of the Alameda Creek Alliance at (510) 845-4675.