

ALAMEDA CREEK STEELHEAD FESTIVAL

May 10, 2003



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2003

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The 4th annual Alameda Creek Steelhead Festival and Watershed Awareness Fair will be held on Saturday, May 10, at Niles Community Park in Fremont. The festival is a celebration of the progress made toward restoring native steelhead trout and salmon to Alameda Creek and an educational event focusing on the Alameda Creek watershed. The festival will run from 10 am to 2 pm and is free to the public. This year's festival is co-sponsored by the Alameda Creek Alliance, Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Alameda County Water District, City of Fremont, East Bay Regional Park District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and the Union Sanitary District.

Activities at the festival will include educational and informational displays by organizations and agencies working to restore Alameda Creek and other creeks in the East Bay. Local fly-fishing groups will teach fly-casting and fly-tying, and promote fish conservation and catch-and-release fishing. The California Department of Fish and Game will provide tanks with live steelhead, salmon, and other native fish on display. There will also be walking tours of proposed restoration sites in lower Alameda Creek, creative activities for kids, food, and a live bluegrass band, Bump City Bluegrass Jam.

The event kicks off at 9 am with the Alameda Creek Spawning Run, a 10-kilometer road race along lower Alameda Creek and Quarry Lakes Regional Park. A 5-kilometer fun-run/walk along the creek will start at 9:30. Race registration (which includes a T-shirt) is \$25 the day of the event and benefits steelhead restoration efforts. For information about the festival or the Spawning Run, please call (510) 845-2233.

The Alameda Creek Alliance has been working to restore native steelhead trout to Alameda Creek since 1997. A fisheries restoration workgroup of 11 local, state, and federal agencies has been cooperating on a number of migratory fish restoration projects. Several dam removal and fish ladder construction projects are planned which will allow ocean-run adult steelhead, which have been blocked by barriers in lower Alameda Creek, to reach spawning and rearing habitat upstream through Sunol Regional Wilderness.