

ALAMEDA CREEK ALLIANCE CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF WATERSHED RESTORATION



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Sunol, CA – The non-profit Alameda Creek Alliance celebrates ten years of working to restore Alameda Creek and its native fish populations this month. The Alameda Creek Alliance is a community watershed restoration group that formed in August 1997 after steelhead trout in the Central California Coast were listed as a threatened species. The organization has spent the last decade working to restore runs of steelhead trout and salmon to the Alameda Creek watershed, the largest tributary to southern San Francisco Bay.

“The potential for Alameda Creek steelhead restoration has captured the imagination of East Bay residents, involved hundreds of people in watershed protection and restoration efforts, and changed water agency attitudes about Alameda Creek,” said Jeff Miller, Director of the Alameda Creek Alliance. “Over the next decade we intend to make Alameda Creek one of the success stories in urban stream restoration.”

The Alliance will celebrate the 10th anniversary with a dinner and silent auction this Friday, August 24th, from 5:00-8:30 pm at Chouinard Winery along Stonybrook Creek in Palomares Canyon. The evening will highlight the Alliance’s accomplishments in restoring Alameda Creek and its fisheries. The event will feature good food, excellent Chouinard wine, live music, and local celebrity speakers. Two dozen tickets for the event are still available.

Speakers at the event include: State Senator Ellen Corbett, who represents the 10th District, which includes much of the Alameda Creek watershed; Outdoor Writer Dan Bacher, contributor to numerous publications and websites who covers fishing and water policy issues; Dr. Andrew Gunther, Director of Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration, and Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup Facilitator; and Jeff Miller, Founder and Director of the Alliance. Live Music will be provided by local bluegrass band the *Forget Me Nots*.

The Alliance continues to work with a consortium of a dozen local, state and federal water supply and land management agencies on projects to restore native fish habitat in Alameda Creek. The efforts of the Alliance have resulted in the removal of four obsolete dams from Alameda Creek and the construction of two fish ladders to allow fish to migrate to suitable habitat upstream. One more dam removal and construction of four additional fish ladders are in the planning stages. These projects will make up to 20 miles of Alameda Creek accessible to ocean-run fish for the first time in over half a century.

The Alliance has grown to an organization of 1,400 members and has organized over 70 local and regional conservation and flyfishing groups in support of the Alameda Creek restoration. The Alliance educates the residents of Fremont, Union City, Newark, Sunol, Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore about watershed restoration and protection of endangered species and their habitats. The Alliance also trains volunteers for fish rescues, creek cleanups, creek monitoring, and assisting biologists in gathering scientific data essential to steelhead restoration. The Alameda Creek restoration efforts have been featured in over 200 newspaper articles over the last decade.