



Alameda Creek Alliance Celebrates Two Decades of Watershed Restoration

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Fremont, CA – The non-profit Alameda Creek Alliance celebrates twenty years of advocacy 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 Bay Area were listed as a threatened species. The organization has spent the last two decades working to restore runs of steelhead trout and salmon to the Alameda Creek watershed, the largest tributary to San Francisco Bay.

“With critical fish passage projects moving forward and plans to improve water flows and habitat for steelhead trout, Alameda Creek is on the verge of becoming an urban stream success story,” said Jeff Miller, founder and director of the Alameda Creek Alliance. “Our fish restoration efforts in Alameda Creek are connecting East Bay residents to their watershed, changing water agency attitudes about the natural values of this stream, and involving hundreds of people in habitat protection and restoration projects.”

The Alliance will celebrate its anniversary with a dinner on Sunday, October 9th at Chouinard Winery, along Stonybrook Creek in Palomares Canyon. The event will feature good food, famed Chouinard wines, and live music by local Niles bard Michael McNevin. Brenda Buxton of the California Coastal Conservancy will give a presentation on upcoming plans to connect lower Alameda Creek to restored tidal marshes to benefit steelhead trout, as part of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. Alliance director Jeff Miller will provide a reflection on accomplishments over two decades of working to restore Alameda Creek. Tickets for the event are available at www.alamedacreek.org.

The Alliance continues to work with a consortium of local, state and federal water supply and land management agencies on projects to restore native fish habitat in Alameda Creek. Fifteen fish passage projects have been completed in the watershed since 2001, and 10 more fish ladder or barrier removal projects are in the planning process. The Alameda County Water District and Alameda County Flood Control District are moving forward with critical fish passage projects that have been delayed for many years, and in 2019 will begin construction of two fish ladders that will allow steelhead to bypass the BART weir and two inflatable rubber dams in the lower creek channel. Water agencies are also working on multiple projects to improve stream flows and restore stream and riparian habitat along Alameda Creek and its tributaries. These restoration projects will make up to 20 miles of Alameda Creek and its tributaries accessible to ocean-run fish for the first time in over half a century.

The Alliance has grown to an organization of 2,100 members and supporters, and has organized more than 70 local and regional conservation and flyfishing groups to support the Alameda Creek restoration. The Alliance educates 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 more than 400 newspaper articles over the last two decades.