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Contact: Laura Hidas, Special Assistant to the General Manager

Phone: 510.668.4206

Email: Laura.Hidas@acwd.com

Alameda County Water District Awarded \$6.1M in Grant Funding Projects to help restore steelhead in Alameda Creek

Fremont, Calif. — This week, the Alameda County Water District was awarded over \$6.1 million in grant funding to help fund two local fish ladder projects that will play a critical role in restoring threatened steelhead trout to Alameda Creek. With approvals from two different agencies made on the very same day, the District is set to receive up to \$825,000 from the California Coastal Conservancy and \$5.36 million from the California Wildlife Conservation Board for the projects. Both grants are through programs authorized by the voter-approved Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1).

Construction of the first fish ladder will begin later this spring, to be followed by a second fish ladder that will be built in partnership with the Alameda County Flood Control District. Once both ladders are complete, steelhead trout – a federally-listed, threatened species – will have a direct route to pass the District’s rubber dams and a large flood control structure to gain access to the Alameda Creek watershed for the first time in nearly 50 years.

"We are thrilled to be receiving these two grants from the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Coastal Conservancy, and are thankful for the support we’ve received from our local partners" said Jim Gunther, Board Vice President. "These projects will open up the creek corridor and enhance flows for steelhead trout and other fish, which is an exciting advancement for both the environment and our community."

Alameda Creek serves as a major water source for the local area, providing 40% of the annual water supply for over 351,000 people and numerous businesses in Fremont, Newark and Union City.

As one of the founding members of the Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup, the District has collaborated with multiple stakeholders since 1999 on efforts to benefit Central Coast Steelhead. The Workgroup includes members from advocacy, water management, consulting, environmental, government and educational groups with interests in the Alameda Creek watershed and steelhead trout restoration.

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ACWD Awarded \$6.1M in Grant Funding
Page 2

The construction of the fish ladders on Alameda Creek follows a number of other fish passage projects the District has undertaken, including removal of one rubber dam, installation of a Larnier fishway, and construction of multiple fish screens. Previous grant awards for the District's fish passage projects have come from other program partners including the California Natural Resources Agency Urban Rivers Grant Program, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

For more information on Alameda County Water District's fish passage projects, visit www.acwd.org/Fishway.

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For over 100 years, the Alameda County Water District has supplied water to the residents and businesses of southern Alameda County. ACWD supplies drinking water to the more than 351,000 people living in the cities of Fremont, Newark, and Union City. For more information, please visit www.acwd.org.