

Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

New Alameda Creek Contact Info

The Alameda Creek Alliance has a new e-mail address.

To reach Director Jeff Miller, send an e-mail to jeff@alamedacreek.org.

To reach Events Coordinator Rich Cimino, e-mail rich@alamedacreek.org.

To reach Volunteer and Restoration Coordinator Ralph Boniello, e-mail ralph@alamedacreek.org.

Please replace alamedacreek@hotmail.com in your address books with my new e-mail, jeff@alamedacreek.org.

Our mailing address and phone number remain the same.

Also, our hotmail account was recently hijacked, so please do not open any suspicious e-mails or e-mails with no subject line from alamedacreek@hotmail.com

4th Annual Christmas Bird Count A Success

Thank you to everyone who participated in the fourth annual [Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count](#) last Friday, December 14. We had 90 volunteer bird counters this year, and we tallied 149 bird species in the count circle.

Highlight raptor species included 5 bald eagles, 4 ferruginous hawks, 24 golden eagles, 8 merlins, 5 peregrine falcons and 7 prairie falcons. More complete info will be posted on the web site soon.

A huge thank you to Rich Cimino of Pleasanton who conceived of the count and organizes it each year.

Read the December 13 article in the East Bay Express: [It's Almost Christmas: Time to Count Some Birds](#)

Alameda County Water District Lower Alameda Creek Projects

The Alameda County Water District held a public information meeting on December 18 on their current and upcoming projects for fish passage and water supply in lower Alameda Creek. You can get more information on the water district's new web page on [Alameda Creek Fish Passage and Related Projects](#). Also read the November 26 article in the Fremont Bulletin: [Protecting Steelhead Among Goals of Water District](#).

Calaveras Dam Replacement Project Delayed

The SFPUC's Calaveras Dam Replacement Project will have two years of delay due to unexpected geologic conditions encountered during construction. The completion date is now expected to be 2017. The mitigations for steelhead trout, including flow releases and a fish ladder and fish screens at the Alameda Diversion Dam will still be implemented by 2015. See the SFPUC's [December 2012 update](#).

SFPUC Habitat Protection in Upper Alameda Creek Watershed

The SFPUC has a program to protect natural resources and water quality in the Alameda Creek watershed, including the upper Alameda Creek, Arroyo Hondo and San Antonio hydrologic watersheds. The SFPUC is partnering with the Alameda County Resource Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service to work with willing landowners to meet these objectives by purchasing conservation easements and/or fee title from willing landowners.

In January 2012 the SFPUC purchased the Olds property, an approximately 260 acre parcel above San Antonio Reservoir. The SFPUC anticipates two more land purchase agreements will be completed in 2013.

The SFPUC partnered with The Nature Conservancy and Santa Clara County to acquire the Nolan Ranch, a 1,157 acre parcel of prime habitat in the Mt. Hamilton Range, in May 2012. The SFPUC contributed funding toward the acquisition of the ranch and an endowment to fund monitoring of a conservation easement that protects the land from future development and paves the way for future plans to open up the property to public recreation while protecting water quality.

The SFPUC and partner agencies are currently working on projects that would permanently protect over 12,000 acres of land in the upper Alameda Creek watershed.

Alameda Creek Watershed Center in Sunol

The SFPUC is continuing to develop plans to construct the Alameda Creek Watershed Center in Sunol near the Sunol Water Temple as part of the Sunol Yard Improvement Project, which includes upgrading existing SFPUC facilities in and near the Sunol Yard. The current watershed center plan would include multiple buildings clustered around an open courtyard designed to complement the existing natural and built environment. The Center would provide an interpretive exhibit hall, a community gathering space, staff office space and outdoor areas. SFPUC staff has met regularly with stakeholders since May 2011 to discuss the project and get input from the community and interested organizations. An Interpretive Master Plan and a building plan for the facilities and grounds are expected to be completed in 2013.

Trash Busters Hit Stonybrook Creek Again

Thank you to our creek cleanup volunteers, who went back to Stonybrook Creek on December 9 and removed another 20 bags of trash from this important trout tributary.

Salmon in Lower Alameda Creek?

A two to four pound salmonid was spotted at the BART weir in lower Alameda Creek on December 6, by Alameda Creek Alliance member Dave Garges. This fish was thought to be a chinook salmon. Keep your eyes out for salmon in lower Alameda Creek this week; the latest series of storms could bring more fish into our watershed. See our [web page](#) on what to do if you spot fish in the creek.

Salmon in Berkeley!

Check out this [video](#) taken on December 3 of a 24" chinook salmon in lower Codornices Creek in Berkeley. The salmon was spotted in the exact area where habitat restoration has been occurring for steelhead trout.

Regional Salmon News

[Lagunitas Creek Spawner Update](#)

MMWD blog – December 17, 2012

[Hike of the Week: Spot Spawning Salmon on Kent Lake Stroll](#)

Marin Independent Journal – December 17, 2012

[First Chinook Salmon Reported in Codornices Creek](#)

Berkeleyside – December 5, 2012

[Environmental Water Caucus Slams Bay Delta Conservation Plan](#)

Fishsniffer – November 30, 2012

The Alameda Creek Alliance is a non-profit community watershed protection group. Please support our efforts by becoming a member.