

Support the Alameda Creek Alliance



It's that time of year – when the Alameda Creek Alliance asks those of you on our mailing list to support your local creek group by renewing your membership or becoming a member. If you have already donated or renewed, thank you very much for your support!

You can easily download a membership form or make an on online donation [here](#)

If you did not receive a membership mailing from us this week, it's because we do not have your correct mailing address. Please reply to this email with your current address if you want to be on our mailing list.

Your membership allows us to continue to be an effective voice for creek restoration and protection of native species and their habitats in the Alameda Creek watershed. The Alameda Creek Alliance is a non-profit organization and donations are tax-deductible.

The next few years will be pivotal for Alameda Creek restoration, with major projects by multiple agencies moving forward, including the BART Weir fish ladder project that will finally allow steelhead trout back into our watershed, summer cold-water flow releases from Calaveras Reservoir when the dam replacement is completed, construction of a fish ladder on the Alameda Diversion Dam that could give steelhead access to the headwaters of Alameda Creek, fish passage projects in Stonybrook Creek and in the Arroyos, habitat enhancement in the flood control channel, wetlands restoration in the former salt ponds at the mouth of Alameda Creek, a stream and riparian restoration plan for the Sunol Valley, and construction of a watershed center in Sunol.

We will also be monitoring and interacting with Caltrans' highway projects in Niles Canyon, San Francisco's proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for endangered species in the watershed, and the Niles Canyon Trail.

Please see below for highlights of our conservation efforts over the past year and visit www.alamedacreek.org for more information about Alameda Creek restoration. Click [here](#) to see how you can get involved and volunteer.

Jeff Miller
Director



Alameda Creek Restoration Highlights of 2014-2015

Alameda Creek Riparian Restoration: Our volunteers have been hard at work removing invasive plants and cleaning up trash at our adopt-a-spot along Alameda Creek in lower Niles Canyon. We've had hundreds of volunteers over the past year working to enhance fish and wildlife habitat at this location, and we'll begin planting native riparian plants here soon.

Sinbad Creek Stewardship: We're working with Sunol residents to develop a community stewardship and habitat enhancement plan for Sinbad Creek. We're also identifying private landowners along this creek to work with on fish habitat enhancement and creek health projects, such as planting native trees, removing invasive plants, developing low-impact water storage, and rain gardens.

Trout in the Classroom: We continue to sponsor three Trout in the Classroom programs in the watershed, providing a unique learning experience for students to hatch rainbow trout in aquariums in their classrooms and learn about trout biology and habitat.

Niles Canyon Trail: We're engaged in a county-led feasibility study of potential off-road, multi-use trail routes through Niles Canyon to connect Fremont and Sunol for pedestrians, bicyclists, and possibly equestrians. We had a strong presence at the historic Stroll and Roll event which closed the road and brought 5,000-10,000 community members into the canyon for a day on foot or bicycle to view potential trail routes through the canyon.

Protecting Niles Canyon from Caltrans: We're engaging our members on upcoming Caltrans projects that would increase driving speeds through Niles Canyon and could actually reduce safety for motorists and bicyclists, while cutting down native trees and damaging wildlife habitat along Alameda Creek. These include the Alameda Creek Bridge Replacement Project and the Medium-Term Safety Project. We're pushing to modify these projects to avoid many of the tree cutting and retaining wall impacts. We've also gotten Caltrans to finally mitigate for tree-cutting impacts from the abandoned Niles I project, which includes removing a stream culvert from lower Stonybrook Creek to improve fish passage.

Sunol Watershed Center: We worked with Sunol organic farmers to help revise San Francisco's design for the expansion of their Sunol corporation yard, protecting valuable organic farmland at the Sunol AgPark. This allows construction of the planned Sunol Watershed Center to move forward in 2016, with completion of the center anticipated by late 2017.

Sunol Water Recapture Project: Our advocacy eliminated a proposal for a rubber dam or filter gallery in Alameda Creek in the Sunol Valley, with the SFPUC modifying the Alameda Creek Recapture Project to instead recapture water off-stream from a quarry pit in the Sunol Valley. We provided extensive comments on potential impacts to ground water from the project.

Arroyo Mocho Enhancement: We supported a Zone 7 Water Agency project along Arroyo Mocho in Livermore to reconnect the creek to its floodplain, enhance native riparian habitat, and provide public access to the creek. The project also adds 45 acres to a Nature Reserve.

Stonybrook Creek Fish Passage:

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District began construction on the Stonybrook Creek Crossings and Fish Passage Improvement Project, to improve fish passage at two Alameda County owned culverts in lower Stonybrook Creek along Palomares Road. The project will be completed in 2016.

Learn more at www.alamedacreek.org