

Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

A Single Chinook for Christmas



A lone Chinook salmon migrated up lower Alameda Creek in Fremont, and was photographed on December 20 just below the new fish ladder that is under construction at the BART weir. This 5-pound salmon was identifiable as a hatchery stray, since it had a clipped adipose fin, which is a standard hatchery practice.

On December 28 the Chinook was found dead on the stream bank and by December 30 an adult bald eagle was snacking on the salmon carcass, which is now returning its nutrients to the food web.



Photos by ACA member Dan Sarka

What Should SF Do with the Closed Sunol Golf Course?



The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is considering public and private uses for the now-closed Sunol Golf Course. The property along Alameda Creek is comprised of a former 309-acre golf course and a 333-acre parcel of land currently used for cattle grazing. The SFPUC envisions a mixture of SFPUC utility uses and third-party uses on these parcels. The SFPUC is evaluating proposals for various agricultural, environmental, recreational, or other uses, and has an active public survey to gauge community interest.

Please take their [public survey](#) by January 17 – this week!

Agricultural proposals include: small vineyard/tasting room; livestock grazing; organic farming/gardens - farm to table; and permaculture/greenhouse/orchard. Environmental proposals include: mitigation land bank; native plant nursery; solar farm; and pilot carbon sequestration project. Recreational proposals include: public trails; event center; and developed recreation center.

You can find out more about the proposed uses [here](#).

You can weigh in on these proposed uses of the former Sunol Golf Course. Take the SFPUC survey by January 17: <https://sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=1268>

State Funding Proposed for Protecting Huge Livermore Ranch



The governor and state legislature are considering dedicating \$20 million to help purchase and preserve the 51,000-acre N3 Ranch near Livermore. This could help protect a huge swath of the upper Alameda Creek watershed, and prevent development of important wildlife habitat.

Read more in the Los Angeles Times January 10, 2020 article:

[*Newsom's Budget Includes \\$20 Million for California's Biggest New State Park In Decades*](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - January 12, 2020:

[*Newsom, Legislators Seek to Add Bay Area Open Space to California Park System*](#)

Yellow-legged Frogs Get State Protection



In December the California Fish and Game Commission approved California Endangered Species Act protections for five of six California populations of the foothill yellow-legged frog, a stream-dwelling frog species that has disappeared from more than half of its historic habitat in the state. The largest remaining foothill yellow-legged frog population in Alameda County, and likely in the entire Bay Area, has been in upper Alameda Creek within Sunol Regional Park, from the Little Yosemite area upstream through Camp Ohlone. These are part of the Central Coast population, which is now listed as endangered. Foothill yellow-legged frogs in upper Alameda Creek have been particularly hard hit recently by drought, disease and invasive species.

Read the Center for Biological Diversity's press release, [*Imperiled Yellow-legged Frogs Protected Under California's Endangered Species Act.*](#)

Christmas Bird Count Results



Peregrine Falcon and Golden Eagle photos by ACA director Jeff Miller

More than 100 volunteers fanned out across Sunol, Livermore and Pleasanton on December 20th for the 11th annual Eastern Alameda Christmas Bird Count. We tallied 147 bird species in the 15-mile radius count circle, which is the average for our count.

Some avian highlights were: 61 Wood Duck, 40 Hooded Merganser, 5 Ferruginous Hawk, 22 Golden Eagle, 11 Merlin, 3 Sora, 1 Greater Roadrunner, 3 Burrowing Owl, 53 Yellow-billed Magpie, 5 Rock Wren, 1 Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10 Mountain Bluebird, 5 Varied Thrush, 1 Swamp Sparrow, 2 Bell's Sparrow, 1 Hooded Oriole, and 1 Western Tanager.

Check out this [blog post](#) on the Eastern Alameda County 2019 Christmas Bird Count



Adult Bald Eagle photo by ACA member Dan Sarka

Wild & Scenic Film Festival in Livermore January 24

The [Wild & Scenic Film Festival](#) is coming to Livermore on Friday, January 24. The film festival and eco-fair will take place at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on January 24, from 5:30 - 9:30 pm. Brought to you by the Tri-Valley Citizens' Climate Education.

Start your evening with the free "Parks to People" mobile visitor center, presented by the East Bay Regional Park District, in the parking lot adjacent to the Bankhead Theater, opening at 5:00. Doors open at 5:30 for the eco-fair, featuring over 20 sponsor and partner information tables; Livermore Valley wine tasting, beer, and local bites; speaker spotlight; and virtual reality trip to the Arctic. The featured speakers, including Roger Aines, Mark Zelinka, Philip Cameron-Smith, and Dan Linehan, are expert climate scientists and innovators who will share their groundbreaking research and climate change solutions in the Founders' Room with a brief Q & A.

The film program opens at 7:00 with a welcome, film introductions, and 8 films. The intermission will feature a dessert buffet, inspired conversation, and the eco-fair. After a raffle drawing, enjoy 7 more amazing films. **For more information and to purchase tickets:** <https://trivalleycce.org/film-festival>

In Memoriam - Pat Stillman



We are sad to report that long-time Sunol resident and activist Pat Stillman passed away in September 2019. As well as being a booster and de facto ambassador of Sunol for decades, Pat was a fierce and effective defender of Sunol's culture and environment. Among other battles, Pat led the fight to protect Pleasanton Ridge from development, fought off the Mission Valley Rock quarry in Sunol for years, and supported and inspired the Alameda Creek Alliance. Pat will be genuinely missed and long remembered. Read Pat's obituary in the Livermore Independent [here](#).

Regional Salmon Restoration News

[*Major Push to Save Muir Woods Salmon Run Includes Creek, Habitat Work*](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - December 10, 2019

[*Fishing, Environmental Groups Challenge Biological Opinions Justifying Increased Delta Water Diversions*](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - December 3, 2019

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