

# ALAMEDA CREEK STEELHEAD RESTORATION MILESTONES

- 1980 California Department of Water Resources identifies Alameda Creek as the top priority stream in the state for urban stream restoration
- 1980s Local fishermen organize as “friends of Alameda Creek” and move fish past barriers in the lower creek, advocate for steelhead restoration
- 1983 Eight local and state management agencies convene Alameda Creek task force to examine the question of restoring Alameda Creek steelhead
- 1989 Alameda Creek task force Technical Advisory Committee issues report “Establishment of a Steelhead Fishery in Alameda Creek” offering four restoration alternatives
- 1993 SFPUC publishes “Alameda Creek Watershed Study Fishery Restoration Feasibility Evaluation and Preliminary Restoration Plan” advocating flow releases from Calaveras Dam for rainbow trout habitat enhancement
- 1997 SFPUC signs a Memorandum of Agreement with Dept. of Fish & Game for minimum flow releases from Calaveras Reservoir for resident rainbow trout, to be recaptured downstream
- August 1997 Central California Coast steelhead trout listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act
- August 1997 Alameda Creek Alliance founded
- 1999 Stakeholder group forms to cooperatively address steelhead restoration issues: Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup
- Feb. 2000 Fisheries Workgroup publishes “An Assessment of the Potential for Restoring a Viable Steelhead Trout Population in the Alameda Creek Watershed” determining steelhead trout restoration in Alameda Creek to be feasible, recommending moving forward with fish passage projects in lower creek, and outlining nine essential actions for steelhead restoration
- April 2001 Alameda County Public Works publishes *Stonybrook Creek Fish Barrier Assessment*
- August 2001 East Bay Park District removes two small swim dams from upper Alameda Creek in Sunol Wilderness, first dam removals for the watershed

- March 2002 Fisheries Workgroup publishes *Draft Steelhead Restoration Action Plan for the Alameda Creek Watershed*
- Feb. 2003 Zone 7 Water Agency agrees to revise groundwater recharge project, modify operations and add a fish screen to a proposed rubber dam to prevent potential fish migration barrier and avoid impacting juvenile fish
- 2003 Army Corps produces preliminary restoration plan for lower Alameda Creek fish passage improvements (later abandoned in 2005)
- 2003 Zone 7 constructs two fish ladders as part of a project to widen, realign and restore the confluence of Arroyo Mocho and Arroyo las Positas in Livermore; removes concrete fish passage barriers, adds fish ladders, restores more natural stream channel, and plants native vegetation
- Dec. 2003 USGS genetic study determines that landlocked trout in Calaveras Reservoir, adult steelhead collected at the BART weir, and rainbow trout collected in upper Alameda Creek below major dams are genetically related to Central California Coast wild steelhead
- May 2004 U.C. Berkeley hydrology class publishes *Preliminary Assessment of Potential Steelhead Habitat in Sinbad Creek*
- June 2004 National Marine Fisheries Service proposes to include resident rainbow trout in Alameda Creek and landlocked steelhead trout in Calaveras and San Antonio Reservoirs as part of the steelhead population protected under the Endangered Species Act, based on genetic evidence that Alameda Creek's resident fish are similar to adult ocean-run steelhead (proposal abandoned in December 2005)
- Fall 2004 Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory completes Arroyo Mocho Road Fish Passage Project replacing cement stream crossing with bridge
- March 2005 CEMAR installs webcam to watch for in-migrating steelhead at BART weir
- May 2005 Alameda County Water District awarded \$1 million grant for two projects to improve passage for steelhead in the flood control channel
- Oct. 2005 SFPUC publishes population estimate for landlocked rainbow trout in Calaveras and San Antonio Reservoirs
- Dec. 2005 Alameda County publishes conceptual designs for removing and replacing two road crossings of Stonybrook Creek along with a companion report describing fish passage at two private stream crossing

- August 2006 Zone 7 approves a Stream Management Master Plan, a more eco-friendly approach to flood protection for Livermore and Pleasanton creeks, including proposed projects to remove or modify fish passage barriers and restore natural stream and riparian habitat
- August 2006 SFPUC completes removal of Niles Dam from Niles Canyon reach
- Sept. 2006 SFPUC completes removal of Sunol Dam from Niles Canyon reach
- Sept. 2006 Multiple agencies complete a demonstration erosion control and streambank restoration project along a 1,000-foot section of lower Arroyo de la Laguna in Pleasanton
- Oct. 2006 Seventeen public agencies and nonprofit organizations sign a formal agreement to collaborate on a study of stream flows and fish habitat needed for Alameda Creek steelhead trout restoration.
- January 2007 Alameda County publishes *Alternatives Evaluation Report, Lower Alameda Creek/Bart Weir Fish Passage Assessment* evaluating feasibility of four potential fish passage projects at the barrier
- July 2007 Alameda County Flood Control District and Alameda County Water District sign agreement to design and construct a fish ladder to allow steelhead to bypass the BART weir and adjacent rubber dam
- August 2007 Zone 7 and Livermore Valley School District remove Granada fish barrier, concrete stream crossing of Arroyo Mocho in Livermore
- Jan. 2008 McBain & Trush prepares *Alameda Creek Population Recovery Strategies and Instream Flow Assessment for Steelhead Trout* for Workgroup
- March 2008 Alameda County Water District completes construction of Alameda Creek Pipeline No. 1 Fish Screen
- March 2008 Historic spawning of Bonnie and Clyde, first steelhead pair to reproduce in Alameda Creek watershed since early 1960s
- May 2009 Conservation groups announce agreement with mining company that will restore stream sections adjacent to gravel quarry in Sunol Valley and provide major funding for fish-passage projects in Alameda Creek
- Dec. 2009 California Fish and Game Commission votes for year-round closure on fishing in Alameda Creek and tributaries downstream of major dams to protect native trout

- January 2010 Alameda County Water District decommissions and removes Rubber Dam No. 2 and installs an associated fish passage facility
- January 2010 Alameda County Water District completes construction of Bunting Pond Fish Screen
- July 2010 SFPUC announces draft scope for Sunol Valley Restoration Plan to determine what restoration is physically and biologically feasible in the Sunol Valley reach
- January 2011 SFPUC approves revised Calaveras Dam replacement project with significant changes to dam operations, fish ladder and fish screens at Alameda Diversion Dam; new water flow releases in 2015 and habitat management plan will benefit restoration of steelhead
- August 2011 Alameda County Water District awarded \$1.45 million grant to improve passage for steelhead in the flood control channel

**Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup:**

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
Alameda County Water District  
Alameda Creek Alliance  
California Department of Fish and Game  
California Department of Transportation  
California Department of Water Resources  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration  
East Bay Regional Park District  
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
San Jose State University  
Tri-Valley Fly Fishermen  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Zone 7 Water Agency