



## **Dam removal will save fish, keep water flowing**

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Inside Bay Area

FREMONT — The Alameda County Water District has been given \$1 million to help make 15 miles of Alameda Creek available for steelhead trout to migrate and spawn.

Two grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will help pay to remove an inflatable rubber dam near Quarry Lakes. The 200-foot-wide dam, which helps the water district provide up to half of the water used in Fremont, has the side effect of preventing the fish from migrating, the district said.

To keep the water from being lost once the dam is removed, a pipeline will be built to keep it flowing to the aquifers below the Fremont area.

"It's a win-win situation," district General Manager Paul Piraino said.

The grant also will be used to install high-tech screens over the 54-inch-wide pipes. The screens will prevent the fish from becoming trapped in the pipes.

Removing the dam and installing the screens will be the first step to restoring the migration path of the steelhead. Later phases will remove similar dams upstream.

The district is looking for state and federal funds to offset the additional \$7 million it expects the project to cost, Piraino said.

The first phase is expected to be completed by the end of next year.