

## **News in brief from the San Francisco Bay area**

September 22, 2006

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - The last pieces of two obsolete dams were demolished to allow steelhead trout to migrate from the Pacific, through San Francisco Bay and up the creek where the barriers stood for more than a century.

Steelheads haven't been seen for at least 40 years in Alameda Creek. Environmentalists lobbied to have the Sunol and Niles dams, which became outmoded when the Hetch Hetchy dam was erected in Yosemite during the 1930s, taken down so the creek could be restored.

"This is a historic day," Jeff Miller, director of Alameda Creek Alliance, said as a back hoe scooped chunks of the dam. "Having worked on this for nine years, it is staggering to see the creek without Sunol Dam."

Officials with the city's Public Utilities Commission on Thursday called the twin razings the biggest dam removal project in Bay Area history.

The last known barrier to getting trout back to the creek is a concrete apron the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built farther south to prevent erosion and to protect an elevated subway line. Environmentalists want a fish ladder installed so the fish can get over it.