

Up Your Creek! The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

Tell Caltrans No Niles Canyon Project Next Monday in Niles

Caltrans will hold a public meeting next Monday, July 30 to present the results of the Federal Highway Administration's Road Safety Assessment for State Route 84 in Niles Canyon. The meeting will be at 6:00 pm at the Niles Elementary School, 37141 2nd Street, in the Niles District of Fremont.

A Federal Highway Administration team of safety experts, supposedly independent of Caltrans, evaluated State Route 84's current accident data, traffic patterns, and motorist behaviors to determine if safety improvements are needed. The federal team will present their findings and give their recommendations at the meeting. The FHA team will present safety-solution concepts based on the recommendations of the Road Safety Assessment that supposedly take into consideration community and stakeholder feedback regarding environmental effects.

The meeting is for the public to hear the results of the Road Safety Assessment and proposed safety solutions and provide feedback. Although we are very skeptical of the objectivity of the FHA, we are willing to hear what they have to say and see if they reach different conclusions than Caltrans' manipulated safety statistics and whether they propose reasonable safety solutions that do not involve needless environmental destruction. We hope they have the imagination and common sense to evaluate some safety solutions within the existing roadway that do not involve highway widening.

Read our [letter](#) to Caltrans and FHA requesting they share the Road Safety Assessment with the public before the meeting; which of course they have not responded to.

September 28 - Presentation on Historical Ecology of the Alameda Creek Watershed

Don't miss this event! Robin Grossinger with the San Francisco Estuary Institute's Historical Ecology Program will give a presentation to Alameda Creek Alliance members on the fascinating findings of SFEI's soon-to-be-published historical ecology study for the Alameda Creek watershed. The event will be Friday evening, September 28, at the [Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum](#) in Fremont. More information about the details of the event will be posted soon.

Find out what the Alameda Creek watershed looked like 200 years ago and how it has changed through time. The Alameda Creek historical ecology study assesses historical watershed conditions prior to European contact, looks at changes in the watershed, and evaluates potential options for future restoration and environmental management. The geographic focus is the floodplains, valleys, and alluvial plains adjacent to Alameda Creek and its tributaries, including the Livermore-Amador Valley, Sunol Valley and Niles Canyon, and the Niles cone and adjoining baylands. See the SFEI [web page](#) for more information about the study.

October 14 - Stonybrook Creek Cleanup

Join the Alameda Creek Alliance and Grizzly Peak Fly Fishers for a trash cleanup of Stonybrook Creek on Sunday, October 14, from 10 am to 2 pm. Stonybrook Creek is a tributary of Alameda Creek in Niles Canyon along Palomares Road that has native resident trout and important spawning and rearing habitat for a future steelhead run. The ACA will provide lunch and drinks for all volunteers.

Please RSVP to alamedacreek@hotmail.com.

Coming Soon: Damnation

Damnation: An exciting new movie by Patagonia about dam removal. See the trailer for the film [here](#). We will work on getting a showing in the watershed.

Tell Stanford to Remove Searsville Dam

The Wild Steelhead Coalition has made it very easy for you to tell Stanford they need to practice what they preach with Searsville Dam in Palo Alto.

San Francisco Creek runs through Stanford University's campus on its way to San Francisco Bay. Historically it was home to healthy runs of steelhead and salmon. However, this ecosystem was drastically changed when Searsville Dam was built in 1892. The reservoir at Searsville Dam has filled with sediment and lost over 90% of its water storage capacity. Searsville Dam does not provide potable water, flood control, or hydropower; but it blocks steelhead migration into the best habitat in the watershed, in the Corte Madera Creek tributary.

Click on the [petition](#) to tell Stanford that you support the responsible removal of Searsville Dam to help to return wild steelhead to their historic spawning habitat in Corte Madera Creek.

More background info [here](#).

Some Words of Praise for Pete Stark

Congressman Pete Stark has gotten a lot of heat in the press recently for calling out his bought-and-paid-for-by-developers challenger. Pete has been a consistent supporter of the Alameda Creek restoration and the primary federal official who has helped out the Alameda Creek Alliance when we have asked for support. We are working with his staff right now to try to come up with a solution to restore riparian habitat and enhance fish migration through the lower Alameda Creek flood control channel, while continuing to provide adequate flood control.

Pete Stark's challenger for the 13th Congressional District, which includes much of the lower Alameda Creek watershed, has been getting a lot of promotion in the press. Eric Swalwell is a Dublin City Council Member running for Pete's seat. Swalwell seems beholden to real estate and developer interests, and in fact is too cozy with developers. He is being accused by some of his constituents who are trying to recall him of trading favorable and lucrative zoning decisions while on the Planning Commission and the City Council in exchange for campaign contributions from developers.

Read the articles in the Around Dublin blog:

[**Dublin, CA Gearing Up for Recall of Controversial Councilmember**](#)

[**U.S. Congressional Candidate Eric Swalwell Bought and Paid for by Lin Family and Other Developers**](#)

Regional Salmon News

[**Fishermen, Tribal Members And Enviros Blast Brown Tunnel Plan**](#)
IndyMedia – July 25, 2012

[**State, Federal Officials Reveal Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Plan**](#)
Sacramento Bee – July 25, 2012

[**California's Next North-Vs.-South Battle Over Water Begins Today**](#)
San Jose Mercury News – July 23, 2012

[**Delta Water Deal Defers Key Details, At Considerable Risk**](#)

Sacramento Bee editorial – July 22, 2012

[**Feds Plan to Release Trinity Water to Prevent Klamath Fish Kill**](#)

Bay Area Indymedia – July 19, 2012

[**Tea Party Blocks Pact to Restore a West Coast River**](#)

New York Times - July 18, 2012

[**Feds Urge Water to Prevent Repeat of Salmon Kill**](#)

San Jose Mercury News – July 18, 2012

[**Saving Money and a River**](#)

San Mateo Daily Journal opinion piece – July 18, 2012

[**Salmon Didn't Budge After Experiment With Water Pulse On Butte Creek**](#)

Chico Enterprise-Record – July 12, 2012

[**Salmon Water Now's Newest Video: A Costly Mistake**](#)

YubaNet – July 11, 2012

[**Copper Making Salmon Prone to Predators**](#)

Science Codex – July 10, 2012

[**Legislature Delays Water Bond Until November 2014**](#)

AlterNet – July 7, 2012

[**CalTrout Publishes First Ever Mt. Shasta Springs Study**](#)

[**Searsville Dam: Time for Stanford to Walk the Walk**](#)

Wild Steelhead Coalition – July 6, 2012

[**Steelhead Spawning In the Elwha**](#)

Seattle Times – July 5, 2012

[**Sockeye Salmon Adult Populations in Widespread Decline**](#)

Canadian press – July 3, 2012

[**Federal Officials Delay Calif. Salmon Restoration**](#)

Sacramento Bee – July 2, 2012

[**San Joaquin River Restoration Will Cost \\$900m**](#)

Fresno Bee – June 30, 2012

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