

Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

Six Stream Restoration Projects Moving Forward

Fish Passage at Stonybrook Creek Road Culverts

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District is working with Alameda County Public Works to provide fish passage for steelhead trout at two county owned road crossing culverts along Palomares Road, on Stonybrook Creek.

The projects will involve retrofitting a county road culvert one mile up Stonybrook Creek and replacing a second culvert a quarter mile further upstream with a free-span bridge. These projects will allow steelhead trout and rainbow trout to access additional spawning and rearing habitat in Stonybrook Creek. The RCD and Alameda County are evaluating potential costs and looking to ensure funding to complete these projects. They will begin contacting potential design firms and coordinating on a conceptual plan this year.

Fish Ladders for Lower Alameda Creek

The Alameda County Water District and Alameda County Flood Control District have taken the first step in the permitting process for several fish migration projects in the lower Alameda Creek flood control channel. The projects include installation of a fish ladder along the northern embankment of the Alameda Creek flood control channel over ACWD's Rubber Dam No. 1 (middle rubber dam) and the BART weir; installation of another fish ladder along the northern embankment of the flood control channel and ACWD's Rubber Dam No. 3 (upper rubber dam); and replacement of existing unscreened diversion pipes and installing new cylindrical fish screens at Shinn Pond to prevent juvenile steelhead trout from being trapped.

Design for all the projects is underway, and ACWD recently submitted a Biological Assessment to the Army Corps of Engineers, the first step in the federal permit process for the projects. The environmental review process for the projects will begin this spring. The BART weir/middle dam project is scheduled to be constructed in 2014 and the upper rubber dam fish ladder in 2015. See the ACWD [web page](#) for more info on the fish passage projects.

Arroyo Mocho Channel Enhancement and Riparian Restoration

Zone 7 Water Agency is initiating a pilot project along Arroyo Mocho in Livermore to demonstrate the feasibility of transforming a traditional urban flood control channel into a vegetated stream reach. The project will enhance habitat for fish and wildlife, while maintaining flood protection, sediment management and groundwater recharge.

The 4-5 year project will remove cement drop structures that are barriers to fish migration from the channel, replacing them with a roughened channel that provides passage for migratory fish. It also intends to stabilize stream banks and manage sediment, reduce water velocities with non-structural techniques, plant and develop a tree canopy to reduce water temperatures, and enhance and maintain native vegetation in the channel. Much of the vegetation enhancements will be accomplished with volunteers, including local residents, students, and community groups.

Find out more about the project on the Zone 7 [web page](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer for a creek cleanup in Lower Niles Canyon on April 20

See information below in upcoming events

Help give Alameda Creek presentations to Sunol school kids April 26

As part of Earth Week, Ralph Boniello of the Alameda Creek Alliance will give presentations to Sunol Glen School students on Alameda Creek fish restoration. If you are interested in helping with presentations to Sunol kids on Friday, April 26, from 10 am to 2 pm, please contact Ralph at ralph@alamedacreek.org.

Volunteer with Trout in the Classroom

The Alameda Creek Alliance sponsors a [Trout in the Classroom program](#) to provide a unique learning experience for students attending schools within the Alameda Creek watershed. Students are given the opportunity to witness rainbow trout hatching right before their eyes in a special aquarium located in their very own classroom.

If you are interested in helping to set up aquariums, train teachers, provide trout and watershed curriculum, and help with permitted fish releases, please contact Derrell Bridgman at derrell@alamedacreek.org.

Upcoming Events

March 27 – Caltrans Meeting on Niles Canyon Bridge Replacement

Caltrans will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, March 27 to present information and get public feedback on concepts for a proposed replacement of the Alameda Creek Bridge in Niles Canyon. This project will eventually be part of the Caltrans State Route 84 Niles Canyon Safety Improvements. This is an informational meeting – no project has been proposed yet. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1 pm at Caltrans Headquarters in Oakland. More information soon.

April 1 – Alameda Creek Presentation in Albany

Alameda Creek Alliance Director Jeff Miller will give a presentation on Monday, April 1 to the Friends of Five Creeks in Albany: *Long Time Coming: 16 Years' Progress and Peril on Alameda Creek*.

The talk is from 7-9 pm on Monday, April 1, in the Edith Stone Room at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin (at Masonic). The presentation will recount 16 years of adventures restoring Alameda Creek, from rescuing trapped steelhead to removing dams and stopping highway widening. The event is free, and refreshments are provided. Presented by [Friends of Five Creeks](#).

April 20 – Creek Cleanup in Niles

The Alameda Creek Alliance and Alameda County Resource Conservation District are sponsoring a trash cleanup of Alameda Creek. This will be at the Niles Staging Area, from 9-11 am on Saturday, April 20. Please RSVP to Ralph Boniello for more info at ralph@alamedacreek.org.

April 20 – Fremont Earth Day

Come by the Alameda Creek Alliance table at Fremont's Earth Day, from 11 am to 3 pm on Saturday, April 20. The City of Fremont Earth Day "[Let's Go Green Together](#)" will be held at the Conrad E. Anderson Auditoriums, located inside the Washington West building at 2500 Mowry Avenue in Fremont.

May 25 - Sunol Butterfly Walk

Join the Alameda Creek Alliance for a spring walk along Alameda Creek in Sunol to Little Yosemite, to learn more about our native local butterflies with expert Bay Area lepidopterist [Liam O'Brien](#). Meet at 11 am at the Sunol Regional Park Visitor Center. Bring a lunch and water. Please RSVP to Ralph Boniello at ralph@alamedacreek.org.

June 10 to 13 - ACA Birdwatching Trip to Nome, Alaska

Join Rich Cimino of Yellowbilled Tours, Alameda Creek Alliance Director Jeff Miller, and other Alameda Creek Alliance members on a once in a lifetime birdwatching trip to Nome, Alaska, June 10-13. A portion of the trip cost will go to the Alameda Creek Alliance. More information at [Yellowbilled Tours](#).

Help Protect California's Landmark Environmental Law

The California Environmental Quality Act is under attack from industries that want to limit public input into land use planning, threaten public health, and weaken environmental protections. Help stop so-called "reforms" of California's landmark environmental law. Visit [CEQA Works](#) for more information and to take action.

Stop Shasta Dam Expansion

Please see the [action alert](#) by Friends of the River to stop the Bureau of Reclamation from raising Shasta Dam and expanding its reservoir, which would flood segments of the McCloud and upper Sacramento Rivers.

Regional Salmon News

[**Peripheral Tunnel Water Will Go To Agribusiness and Oil Companies**](#)
IndyMedia – March 15, 2013

[**California Officials Unveil Delta Tunnel Plan**](#)
Sacramento Bee – March 15, 2013

[**Steelhead Trout Flopping Around In Dried Up Palo Alto Creek**](#)
Bay Nature Magazine – March 11, 2013

[**Peripheral Tunnel Plan Will Hurt Trinity River Also**](#)
FishSniffer – March 6, 2013

[**Restore San Joaquin River for Salmon**](#)
San Francisco Chronicle opinion piece – March 1, 2013

[**Bond Funds Shouldn't Mitigate Peripheral Tunnels Damage**](#)
IndyMedia – February 28, 2013

[**Court Rejects Biological Opinion That Backed Restrictions on Pesticides to Protect Salmon**](#)
BNA - February 25, 2013

[**The BDCP's Hidden Agenda: Water for Fracking?**](#)

IndyMedia - February 25, 2013

[**Over 300,000 Salmon Returned to Klamath River in 2012**](#)

YubaNet press release – February 25, 2013

[**Steelhead Return to San Francisquito Creek**](#)

You Tube video - February 21, 2013

[**Will California Restore the Lower San Joaquin River and its Salmon?**](#)

NRDC blog – February 21, 2013

[**Something Fishy About Genetically Engineered Salmon**](#)

Bakersfield Californian - February 20, 2013

[**50,000 Young Salmon Released Into Yolo Bypass Rice Fields**](#)

Daily Democrat – February 20, 2013

[**Remove Klamath Dams for Salmon, Tribes**](#)

San Francisco Chronicle – February 11, 2013

[**Report Says Dam Removal Good for Klamath Salmon**](#)

San Francisco Chronicle – February 4, 2013

[**Endangered Coho Salmon Released Into San Vicente Creek**](#)

San Jose Mercury News – January 30, 2013

[**Stanford University Sued Over Searsville Dam**](#)

Palo Alto Online - January 30, 2013

[**Environmentalists File Suit Against Stanford's Operation of Searsville Dam**](#)

Stanford Daily – January 30, 2013

[**Enviros Say Stanford Univ. Harming Threatened Fish**](#)

San Francisco Chronicle – January 29, 2013

[**SYRCL and Friends of the River Sue Army Corps for Failing to Comply with Endangered Species Act Requirements to Protect Yuba River Salmon**](#)

SYRCL press release – January 28, 2013

[**Cost of Peripheral Tunnels Will Exceed \\$60 Billion**](#)

FishSniffer – January 27, 2013

[**Governor Brown Uses Address to Promote Peripheral Tunnels**](#)

IndyMedia – January 24, 2013

[**Mystery Compound Found To Kill Coho Salmon**](#)

Kitsap Sun – January 21, 2013

[**SYRCL Files Suit Against National Marine Fisheries Service for Weakening Endangered Species Act Protections for Yuba River Salmon**](#)

SYRCL press release – January 20, 2013

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