

Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

Eastern Alameda Christmas Bird Count - December 19

Join the Alameda Creek Alliance and Ohlone Audubon Society on Friday, December 19, for the 6th annual [Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count](#), in the upper Alameda Creek watershed.

The count circle is in the vicinity of the towns of Sunol, Pleasanton and Livermore, and includes five East Bay Regional Parks, significant SFPUC watershed lands, and exciting East Bay birding hotspots such as lower Mines Road, Sunol Wilderness, Calaveras Reservoir, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Sycamore Grove Park and Springtown Preserve. Birders and volunteers with any level of experience can participate in the Christmas Bird Count. The count is coordinated with the East Bay Regional Park District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Livermore Area Recreation & Park District, and Lawrence Livermore National Lab, to provide maximum access to significant bird habitats within the count circle.

Please join us for the bird count. You will have a chance to sample the bird life in several interesting habitats that fit a variety of interests and abilities. You'll be contributing to the Audubon database and knowledge of the status and distribution of resident and visiting winter birds and have fun doing it.

If you have questions about the count please contact Rich Cimino, yellowbilledtours@gmail.com, (925) 353-0266 - or Jeff Miller, Jeff@alamedacreek.org, (510) 499-9185.

For more information: <http://www.alamedacreek.org/join-volunteer/CBC.php>

Watch for Steelhead in Alameda Creek

The upcoming storm could potentially bring chinook salmon or steelhead into lower Alameda Creek. Please check the flood control channel for fish at the BART weir and the former lower rubber dam through this weekend. See our web page on [What to do if you see steelhead or salmon in Alameda Creek](#).

Fish Passage Project at Little Yosemite Moving Forward

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is proposing the [Little Yosemite Fish Passage Project](#) to improve upstream passage conditions for adult anadromous steelhead trout along a 0.4-mile long reach of Alameda Creek through Little Yosemite, in Sunol Regional Wilderness.

Proposed improvements include constructing concrete weirs shaped like natural boulders or bedrock in three strategically located water features. Select boulders would also be cut or removed and some holes, or slots through large boulders, may be filled with concrete to stabilize landing pools at the tops of waterfalls along the fish migration path.

The SFPUC has released a preliminary Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project (available at <http://www.sf-planning.org/puccases>) and will take public comments until December 22. Construction of the proposed project would begin in April 2016 and would take approximately 4 months.

Successful Creek Cleanup!

Thanks to our volunteers who came out on November 16th to continue our work removing cape ivy and English ivy along Alameda Creek in Niles. We removed another 15 bags of ivy, and picked up some trash in the area as well! There is little noticeable re-sprouting of ivy so far around the oaks, willows, and elderberries that we've cleared in the past year. That is sure to change as the rains arrive, but it is certainly very encouraging! Thanks to everyone who has helped in the efforts. Your work is making a real difference, and is greatly appreciated.

Mark your calendars for our next workday on **Monday, Jan. 19th** (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), when we'll meet again from 10 am-12 pm and continue our efforts. As usual, we'll meet at the [Niles Staging Area parking lot](#) along Old Canyon Rd. at Canyon Oaks Ct. in the Niles area of Fremont. Wear work clothes, including long pants and sturdy shoes that can get dirty. A long-sleeve shirt and hat are recommended. We'll provide gloves, waste bags, litter grabbers, water, and a snack. Please bring your own re-usable water bottle to fill.

Niles Canyon Trail

Alameda County, East Bay Regional Park District, Alameda County Water District, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission are conducting a feasibility study of potential multi-use trail routes through Niles Canyon.

Alameda County District 2 Supervisor Richard Valle arranged a guided tour through the canyon last month to highlight some of the challenges and constraints and to receive input on establishing a multi-use trail. [Save Niles Canyon](#) has posted a recap and notes from the tour.

A second public meeting will be held sometime in early 2015. You can subscribe to Supervisor Valle's [newsletter](#) to receive updates.

Regional Salmon Restoration News

[Annual Count of Yuba Salmon Nearing 10,000](#)

Yuba Net – December 4, 2014

[House 'Drought Relief' Bill Would Eviscerate Environmental Protections](#)

Daily Kos – December 4, 2014

[Fall Chinook Salmon Runs Strong](#)

Willits News – December 3, 2014

[Muir Woods Coho Salmon Vanish, Fanning Fears of Extinction](#)

San Francisco Chronicle – November 29, 2014

[Endangered Salmon Struggle to Survive](#)

Marin Scope – November 26, 2014

[Small Placer Dam Is a Big Barrier to Salmon](#)

Sacramento Bee – November 22, 2014

[Feinstein Delays Controversial Drought Legislation Until Next Year](#)

Daily Kos – November 20, 2014

[California Water Bill Sinks for Now](#)

Sacramento Bee – November 20, 2014

[Is Dianne Feinstein Crafting a Secret Water Deal to Help Big Pistachio?](#)

Mother Jones – November 20, 2014

[Secret Feinstein Drought Relief Bill Will Eviscerate Fish Protections](#)

Daily Kos – November 18, 2014

[Sacramento's Salmon Run in Full Swing, but Drought Still a Worry](#)

Sacramento Bee – November 16, 2014

[Whose Groundwater Is It?](#)

California Lawyer – November 2014

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