

## **Up Your Creek!**

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

### **Creek Restoration Days – Feb 8 and 28 in Niles**

We'll host two creek workdays this month to continue our efforts removing ivy and other invasive plants along Alameda Creek in Niles - Sunday February 8 and Saturday February 28, from 10 am to 1 pm. We'll continue clearing ivy from the crowns and bases of trees and we'll pick up any trash we find along the creek. We'll also take time for a short walk along the creek to observe and discuss the local ecology.

We've had great turnouts recently, including formidable efforts by Irvington and American High students who have come to learn about and help with our stewardship efforts. Thanks to all those who have helped! We've recently seen some native Marah and elderberry sprouting in the areas we've cleared of ivy.

Meet at the [Niles Staging Area parking lot](#) along Old Canyon Road at Canyon Oaks Court, in the Niles area of Fremont. Work clothes are recommended, including long pants and sturdy, closed-toe shoes that can get dirty (sneakers or boots). A long-sleeve shirt and hat are recommended. Be prepared for cool weather in the morning when we begin, with dew possible on the ground. We'll provide gloves, waste bags, litter grabbers, water, and a snack. Please bring your own reusable water bottle to fill. Heavy rain cancels.

### **Caltrans Hearing on Alameda Creek Bridge Replacement – February 23**

Caltrans has announced the availability of a draft Environmental Impact Report for the Alameda Creek Bridge Replacement Project in Niles Canyon. Caltrans is proposing to replace the Alameda Creek Bridge and realign the eastern and western approaches to the bridge on SR-84.

The draft EIR is online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/envdocs.htm> or at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/nilescanyon/> and hard copies of the report at the Niles Library (150 I Street, Fremont, CA 94536), the Fremont Main Library (2400 Stevenson Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94538), and the Pleasanton Library (400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566).

Caltrans is taking public comments on the draft EIR. The most beneficial comments include specific alternatives or mitigation measures that would provide better ways to avoid or mitigate any potential environmental effects of the project, concerns that are not addressed in the draft EIR, inaccuracies or missing information, and/or statistical data or facts to support your concern. Submit written comments to Caltrans District 4, Attn: Elizabeth White, 111 Grand Avenue MS 8B, Oakland, CA 94612, or via email to [nilescanyonprojects@dot.ca.gov](mailto:nilescanyonprojects@dot.ca.gov). All comments must be received by 5:00 pm on **Friday, March 20**.

A public open forum hearing will be held to solicit comments on the draft EIR on **Monday, February 23**, from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm at Niles Canyon Elementary School Cafeteria (37141 2nd Street, Fremont, CA 94536). A brief presentation on the project will be given at 6:30 pm.

### **Niles Canyon Multi-use Trail Feasibility Study**

Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle held a second public meeting on development of a pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian trail through Niles Canyon. The trail would originate in Fremont at Mission Boulevard and end in Sunol. This project is co-sponsored by East Bay Regional Parks, SFPUC, and ACWD.

The project includes a crossing of the Niles Canyon railroad track in Fremont and connection to the planned Bay Area Ridge Trail; a class 1 multi-use path through Niles Canyon; and a connection from the Sunol Water Temple to the Vargas Plateau.

Slides from the [2<sup>nd</sup> community meeting on Jan. 27 in Niles can be found here](#). Slides from the [1<sup>st</sup> community meeting \(Oct. 14, 2014 in Sunol\) can be found here](#).

Comments are welcome and can be directed to Chris Miley at [Alameda County's District 2](#) office. A third community meeting is planned for April, where a preferred alternative and implementation plan is to be presented.

## Regional Salmon Restoration News

[\*One Year Later, Filmmakers Find Dam Removal Has Captured the Public's Imagination\*](#)

National Geographic – February 3, 2015

[\*Stanford Ordered To Remove Abandoned Lagunita Dam: Silence on Searsville Dam\*](#)

Beyond Searsville Dam – January 30, 2015

[\*Plan to Raise Shasta Dam Takes Hit After Federal Biologists Say They Can't Support It\*](#)

San Jose Mercury News – January 27, 2015

[\*Wildlife Agencies See Collapse of 2014 Winter Run Salmon\*](#)

Capitol Public Radio – January 27, 2015

[\*No More Red Herrings in Water Talks\*](#)

Santa Rosa Press-Democrat editorial – January 24, 2015

[\*Save Delta Salmon: Smelt Are Red Herring in California Water Wars\*](#)

San Francisco Chronicle – January 21, 2015

[\*California Drought Prompting Extraordinary Measures To Safeguard Salmon\*](#)

Union-Gazette – January 17, 2015

[\*California Court Threatens to Reopen Rivers to Destructive Suction Dredge Mining\*](#)

YubaNet – January 14, 2015

[\*May the River That Runs Between Us Reunite Us in the End\*](#)

The Oregonian – January 10, 2015

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