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

Sunol Wildflower Festival This Saturday

The 12th annual Sunol Wildflower & Nature Festival will be held this Saturday, April 18, from 11 am to 4 pm, in Sunol Regional Park. Pack a picnic lunch and put on your hiking boots and for a glorious day filled with flowers in this very special wilderness. The festival will feature hikes, crafts, music, slideshows and nature activities. Hikes are geared for different ages, distances and topics - there is something for everyone.

Stop by the Alameda Creek Alliance table while you're there and say hello. E-mail Ralph (ralph@alamedacreek.org) if you're interested in spending an hour or two helping at our outreach table. It's a great way to meet people with similar interests!

FREE event, parking is $5 cash. Please carpool as parking is limited. For a schedule of hikes and more information visit the East Bay Regional park District's festival web page or call (510) 544-3249.

Earth Day Restoration along Alameda Creek - April 25

Join fellow Alliance members as we continue stewardship at our adopted stretch of Alameda Creek in Niles on Saturday, April 25, from 10 am to noon.

We'll continue our focus on Cape and English ivy removal at the site, and discuss how these efforts protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. Come and enjoy a couple hours working with us along a beautiful reach of Alameda Creek!

We'll meet at 10am at the Niles Staging Area Parking lot along Old Canyon Road near Canyon Oaks Court in the Niles area of Fremont (roughly 720 Old Canyon Rd). We'll take a short walk upstream, where we'll perform habitat enhancement work until about noon. We'll provide gloves, waste bags, tools, water, and a snack. Please wear work clothes - including long pants and sturdy, closed-toe shoes that can get dirty. The work isn't on much of a slope, but the ground can be uneven and the work can be dusty. There is poison oak nearby but not in the immediate area where we'll be working. However, a long-sleeve shirt and hat are recommended. Please bring your own re-usable water bottle to fill.

More information, including a map with the site location can be found at our Eventrbrite page for the event.

ACA Comments on Caltrans Bridge Project

The Alameda Creek Alliance organized local groups to oppose Caltrans' Alameda Creek Bridge Replacement Project in Niles Canyon, exposing it as an overbuilt highway widening project that would increase driving speeds though the canyon and could actually reduce safety for motorists and bicyclists, while cutting down 300-400 native trees and damaging wildlife habitat along Alameda Creek. Read our comments on the draft Environmental Impact Report for the project.

See our April 6 press release: *Groups Blast Caltrans Construction Plans in Niles Canyon*

Read the April 8 article in the Fremont Argus: *Citizen Groups Blast Caltrans' Niles Canyon Bridge Replacement*

Do You Need A Permit To Work Near the Creek?

The San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board has updated and clarified their guidelines on best management practices and permit requirements for stream maintenance and enhancement projects, and specifically what activities are allowed with and without a Water Board permit. Some activities that do not require permits or prior notice to the Water Board include:

- Collecting and removing trash, as long as the trash is not embedded in stream beds or banks.
- Removing properly identified non-native invasive plants by hand without the use of any machinery or power saws.
- Planting appropriate native vegetation by hand with minimal soil disturbance.
- Fencing of riparian corridors to protect stream banks from livestock damage.
- Removing graffiti, as long as the cleaning agent is non-toxic and efforts are made to keep the cleaning products from discharging to surface water.

The full 4-page document and guidelines can be downloaded or read here.

Regional Salmon Restoration News

Shrinking Sonoma County Streams Put Young Coho Salmon in Peril
Santa Rosa Press-Democrat – April 14, 2015

The Extinction Governor Rips the Green Mask off His Tunnels Plan
Calatics – April 14, 2015

Fishery Legend Zeke Grader, PCFFA Executive Director, Honored at Sausalito Gathering
Daily Kos – April 12, 2015

American Rivers Announces America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2015
American Rivers press release – April 7, 2015

Stanford Advised To Take Down Bay Area Dam
NorCal Fish Reports – April 5, 2015

With New Thinking, Flood Control Projects Can Ease Drought
Sacramento Bee – April 5, 2015

$25-Billion Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Tunnel Project Reexamined
Los Angeles Times – April 4, 2015

Governor Brown's Drought Order Lets Agribusiness, Oil Companies Off the Hook
Indy Media **-** April 4, 2015

Fish and Wildlife Proposes Closing Part of River to Fishing to Help Chinook
Redding Record- Searchlight – April 3, 2015

Water Board Tells Stanford It Supports Removing Searsville Dam
The Almanac – April 2, 2015

How Growers Gamed California's Drought
The Daily Beast – March 30, 2015

State Grants to Marin Will Help Local Endangered Fish at Golf Course, Other Locales
Marin Independent-Journal – March 28, 2015

Thirsty Crops Should Require State Regulation
Los Angeles Times editorial – March 22, 2015

Zone 7 Supports Salmon
Livermore Independent – March 19, 2015

New Study Throws Environmental Spotlight on Marijuana Cultivation in Emerald Triangle
Emerald Triangle blog – March 19, 2015
Read the study here

Prepare for Extinction of Delta Smelt
California Water Blog - March 18, 2015

California Targets Wrong Water Wasters
East Bay Express – March 18, 2015

Rep. Huffman: Legalize Pot to Regulate It and Save Environment
Santa Rosa Press-Democrat – March 13, 2015

California Has About One Year Of Water Left. Will You Ration Now?
Los Angeles Times – March 12, 2015

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