

Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

SF's Proposed Sunol Recapture Facility

The SFPUC is proposing a project to recapture stream flows that will be released from Calaveras Reservoir and bypassed around the Alameda Creek Diversion Dam as part of steelhead trout restoration and mitigations for the Calaveras Dam project. The recapture project has changed from a proposed rubber dam in the Sunol Valley to proposed construction of an infiltration gallery under Alameda Creek, to the current project: passive water recapture through a quarry pit in the Sunol Valley. The SFPUC intends to recapture an annual average of 9,800 acre-feet of water that percolates into the Sunol Groundwater Basin, by pumping it out of quarry Pit-F2 into San Antonio Reservoir or the Sunol Water Treatment Plant, essentially mining the groundwater. The SFPUC proposes construction from 2017-2018.

While the project represents an improvement over previous project designs and avoids construction impacts to Alameda Creek, there are some concerns about potential impacts on surface flows in Alameda Creek, and on fish passage and aquatic habitat in the Sunol Valley and Niles Canyon. The SFPUC proposes to operate the quarry pond as a reservoir, but the connection between groundwater in the Sunol Basin with surface flow in Alameda Creek is unclear.

The SFPUC issued a Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report in June 2015. The Alameda Creek Alliance, Alameda County Water District and Save The Frogs submitted extensive scoping comments regarding these concerns. You can learn more about the recapture project and read our scoping comments here: <http://www.alamedacreek.org/take-action/sunol-recapture-facility.php> - click on "documents."

Sunol Ag Park Threatened By SFPUC Expansion

At a community meeting on July 22, the SFPUC announced its intention to expand the Sunol corporation yard into the organic farmland at the Sunol AgPark, in order to expand the vehicle and fuel storage yard. The proposed expansion would take 4.5 acres of prime agricultural land out of production, and was not discussed in the SFPUC's environmental review for the Sunol Yard upgrade project.

SAGE, the Sunol AgPark farmers, Save Our Sunol, and the Alameda Creek Alliance have sent a [letter](#) asking the SFPUC to re-design the corporation yard and develop an alternative plan for parking, to avoid any impacts to the Sunol AgPark and prevent conversion of prime farm land. Read the subsequent [letter](#) from the SFPUC that they are reassessing the project.

Caltrans Stakeholder Meeting on Niles Canyon – September 3

Caltrans has scheduled a Niles Canyon stakeholder meeting for Thursday, September 3, 2015, from 10 am to 12 pm in Oakland. The meeting will provide updates and discussion on all the upcoming Caltrans projects in Niles Canyon, including the short-term and medium-term safety projects, the Alameda Creek Bridge, the mitigation for tree cutting during Niles I project, and Stonybrook Creek plans. View the meeting agenda [here](#). The meeting will be at: Caltrans District 4 Office, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, in the Parkview Conference Room, 15th floor.

Join the ACA Outreach Committee and Share Your Love for the Watershed

Meeting on Thur. Sept. 10th in Niles

Do you have passion for the Alameda Creek watershed or knowledge that you'd like to share with others? Do you like to meet and interact with members of your community? Do you have creative energy that you're looking to focus?

If you answered 'Yes' to any of these question, please consider channeling some of that passion and energy into helping with the **Alameda Creek Alliance's Outreach Committee**. The goal of the Committee is to increase awareness of Alameda Creek in our communities. We do this by producing and distributing informational materials, tabling at festivals, and hosting events like hikes and tours. What we do will ultimately be up to Committee members and how they want to spend their time and efforts.

The Outreach Committee will have its inaugural meeting on at **6:30pm on Thursday, September 10th at Bronco Billy's Pizza Palace in Niles, CA** (37651 Niles Blvd., Fremont, CA). We'll meet casually over pizza and drinks, so don't worry if you're late. **Please RSVP on [Eventbrite](#)** so that we have an idea of how much space we'll need, or e-mail ralph@alamedacreek.org if you're interested in participating but can't make it. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your ideas!

Visit ACA at the 2015 Harvest Festival at the Sunol AgPark - September 27

Join the Alameda Creek Alliance us at the 3rd annual [Sunol AgPark Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Patch](#) hosted by SAGE. It will be on September 27, from 10 am to 3 pm at the Sunol AgPark, located at 505 Paloma Way, Sunol 94586. The festival will feature farmer activities, pumpkin patch, farm produce for sale, kid's crafts and games, food & drink, live music, and more. Bring your bikes, wagons, and a reusable water bottle (and be prepared for sun and warm weather). We're excited to be a community partner, and will have an ACA outreach table with information about watershed happenings, and a fun activity for kids! We hope to see you there.

Possible Niles Canyon Roll & Stroll - October 11

Save the date: Sunday, October 11

Subject to Caltrans approval, the public may be able to bike, walk or run through Niles Canyon without any vehicle traffic on Sunday, October 11, from 8 am to 2 pm. The canyon would be closed to cars, to allow the public to view potential routes in the canyon for the proposed Niles Canyon Trail. This initiative is sponsored by Supervisor Richard Valle's office. Stay tuned.

Alameda Creek Alliance Membership Dinner – October 17

Save the date for our annual membership dinner, to be held on Saturday, October 17, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, at [Chouinard Winery](#) along Stonybrook Creek, in Niles Canyon.

Dinner provided by [Catering by Gilda](#)
Music by [Michael McNevin](#)

More details soon

Limited-Time Solar Opportunity for Fremont Residents

As part of Fremont's participation in the \$5 Million [Georgetown University Energy Prize](#), the City is teaming up with the nonprofit [Vote Solar Initiative](#) and other East Bay cities to launch an exciting new solar group-purchasing (bulk buy) program for homeowners. Called "East Bay SunShares", the program pools the buying power of individual participants to get more competitive pricing from solar companies.

East Bay SunShares is a limited-time opportunity that launches in August and runs until mid-October. Homeowners are eligible to receive over a 15% discount off the current market price of solar through this program, with pricing as low as \$3.50/watt. In addition, the Federal Renewable Energy Tax Credit is still available, providing an incentive of 30% off the installed cost of the system. This tax credit is slated to sunset on December 31, 2016.

Sign up for a no-cost no-obligation site evaluation on the [City of Fremont website](#). There will also be two information workshops at the Fremont Main Library, Fuyaka Room (2400 Stevenson Blvd.), on Saturday September 12, from 10am-12pm and on Tuesday, September 29, from 7-8:15pm.

Alameda Creek in the News

[Open Space Committee Hear about Area's Environmental 'Hot Spots'](#)

Livermore Independent – July 23, 2015

[Plan To Ease Steelhead Barriers Stirs Concerns about Frogs in Little Yosemite](#)

Contra Costa Times – July 20, 2015

[Sick Frogs Stymie Fish Ladder Project](#)

Livermore Independent – August 6, 2015

There are a few errors in this article. The project is not a fish ladder, but creation of jump pools through Little Yosemite. The Alameda Creek Alliance has not filed an appeal on the project – Save The Frogs has. The ACA position is that it is unclear if this project will be needed for steelhead trout to migrate through Little Yosemite, and that this project should be delayed until steelhead actually return to the Little Yosemite reach. The project absolutely should be redesigned to avoid impacts to the frogs.

Update on CEMEX Mining Expansion in Livermore

CEMEX has issued a [Notice of Preparation](#) of an Environmental Impact Report for plans to amend its reclamation plan for the 966-acre Eliot sand and gravel mining operation in Livermore along Arroyo del Valle. Read the Alameda Creek Alliance's [scoping comments](#).

CEMEX mining and reclamation activities at the site will be completed in approximately 2056, at which point CEMEX plans to create two lakes that will be added to the Zone 7 "Chain of Lakes." It also intends to majorly reroute Arroyo del Valle, with a potentially significant loss of existing riparian trees and impacts to hydrology of the arroyos and Alameda Creek.

Regional Salmon Restoration News

[**The Drought's Hidden Victim: California's Native Fish**](#)

Los Angeles Times – August 24, 2015

[**Federal Authorities Release Extra Water to Save Klamath Salmon from Disease**](#)

Eugene Register-Guard – August 24, 2015

[**Marin Court Loosens County's Grip on Secret Sessions**](#)

Marin Independent-Journal – August 15, 2015

New Marin IJ editorial calling out Marin County's failure to act legally around creekside ordinance issue

[**When Dams Come Down, Salmon and Sand Can Prosper**](#)

New York Times - August 10, 2015

[**River That Runs Through Downtown San Jose Goes Dry; Fish and Wildlife Suffer**](#)

San Jose Mercury News – August 10, 2015

[**West Marin Salmon Flap Spurs Public Record 'Test Case'**](#)

Marin Independent-Journal – August 7, 2015

[**Delta Tunnels Plan Is Still Flawed**](#)

Sacramento Bee – August 6, 2015

[**Biologists Fear Repeat of 2002 Salmon Kill in Klamath River**](#)

ABC News – August 6, 2015

[**Hoopa Valley Tribe Holds Protest to Save Salmon**](#)

North Coast News – August 5, 2015

[**2 Of Oregon's Worst Dams for Fish Are Coming Down**](#)

KUOW - August 5, 2015

[**San Clemente Dam Teardown Work Begins; Completion Expected By End of Month**](#)

Monterey Herald – August 4, 2015

[**Removing Dam Won't Save Yuba Salmon**](#)

Sacramento Bee - August 4, 2015

[**Tribes Blast Feds' Klamath Plan**](#)

Eureka Times-Standard – August 3, 2015

[**Kinsey: West Marin Salmon Organization Is 'Not a Friend of the Fish'**](#)

Marin Independent-Journal – July 29, 2015

An absolute hit piece on salmon advocates, by Marin County's anti-salmon Supervisor

Read Jeff Miller's response letter to the editor: [**Kinsey Should Quit His Finger-Pointing**](#) – scroll to the bottom of the letters section

[**Salmon Surveys Find Low Fish Counts On Salmon, Trinity Rivers**](#)

Eureka Times-Standard – July 29, 2015

[**Protesters Blast "Forces of Political Control" at Delta Tunnels "Open House"**](#)

Daily Kos – July 29, 2015

[***Klamath Spring Salmon Numbers Plummet***](#)

Daily Kos – July 29, 2015

[***Salmon Numbers 'Alarming' in Yuba River***](#)

Appeal-Democrat – July 28, 2015

[***Snowpack Drought Has Salmon Dying In Overheated Rivers***](#)

Seattle Times – July 25, 2015

[***Yuba Spring-Run Salmon Count Indicates a Record Low***](#)

SYRCL – July 24, 2015

[***Yurok Tribe Finds Deadly Fish Disease in Lower Klamath River***](#)

Daily Kos – July 23, 2015

[***The Wrong Way to Save Salmon on the Yuba***](#)

Sacramento Bee opinion - July 22, 2015

[***State Accused of Killing Off Endangered Fish***](#)

Central Valley Business Times – July 22, 2015

[***Environmental Groups Blast Delta Twin-Tunnels Plan***](#)

Sacramento Bee - July 22, 2015

[***Conservation Groups Slam Delta Tunnels Plan As Brown Grandstands at Vatican***](#)

Calitics – July 22, 2015

[***Agencies Promoting Delta Water Diversions Asked to Correct Tunnel Vision***](#)

Center for Biological Diversity press release – July 22, 2015

[***Brown's Delta Tunnels Benefits Plummet; Drop It***](#)

Vacaville Reporter editorial – July 21, 2015

[***Small Salmon, Big Threat***](#)

Berkeley Research – July 7, 2015

[***Saving Salmon: California Orders New Water Restrictions***](#)

Circle of Blue – June 20, 2015

[***Legendary Fish Advocate Honored at Sausalito Gathering***](#)

The EcoReport – April 15, 2015

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