

Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

Creek Cleanup and Restoration Day – December 10

Join us for a morning of habitat restoration this coming Saturday, December 10 along Alameda Creek, from 10 am to noon. More info and sign up [here](#).

Recent rains have provided us a great opportunity to get some more native plants in the ground at our adopted site. We'll continue clearing invasive plants, plant more native plants, and do some general cleaning around our adopted restoration site in lower Niles Canyon. Your efforts will enhance habitat for fish and wildlife along Alameda Creek for years to come! Meet at 10 am at the Niles Staging Area Parking lot along Old Canyon Road near Canyon Oaks Court in the Niles area of Fremont. We'll work until roughly noon. Please wear long pants and sturdy, closed-toe shoes that can get dirty (no sandals or flip-flops), as the ground can be uneven. We provide gloves and tools. The ground will likely be wet, so please wear clothes that can get dirty. There is no poison oak in the immediate area where we'll be working. Expect cool weather and morning dew when we start. Heavy rain cancels.

Christmas Bird Count - December 16

Join us for the 8th annual [Eastern Alameda Christmas Bird Count](#) on Friday, December 16, 2016.

This Christmas Bird Count in the upper Alameda Creek watershed is sponsored by the Alameda Creek Alliance and Ohlone Audubon Society.

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 to provide maximum access to significant bird habitats within the count circle.

Volunteer bird counters 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.

Please contact Rich Cimino, at yellowbilledtours@gmail.com.

Environmental Review Released for Sunol Recapture Project

San Francisco has released a [draft environmental impact report](#) for the proposed Alameda Creek Recapture Project. The project will recapture water that the SFPUC will release from the Calaveras Reservoir and bypass around the Alameda Creek Diversion Dam when the SFPUC implements the instream flow schedules required as part of the regulatory permits for future operations of Calaveras Reservoir.

Public comments on the draft EIR will be accepted until January 17, 2017. You can find the draft EIR [here](#). A public hearing will be held (time to be announced) on Thursday, January 5th, 2017 in San Francisco.

The SFPUC agreed to implement bypass and instream flow schedules for Alameda and Calaveras creeks, to protect steelhead trout below the Alameda Creek Diversion Dam and Calaveras Dam. The recapture project would recapture water that will be released from Calaveras Reservoir and/or bypassed around the diversion dam during future operations of Calaveras Reservoir. Read more information on the recapture project [here](#).

Creek Alliance Joins Lawsuit Against Off-road Vehicle Park Expansion

The Alameda Creek Alliance has joined a lawsuit by Friends of Tesla Park and the Center for Biological Diversity, challenging the proposed expansion of the Carnegie off-road vehicle park in Livermore into a key wildlife corridor and biodiversity hotspot known as Tesla Park, which is in the eastern portion of the Alameda Creek watershed.

The Department of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission approved the expansion on October 26. The approval of the expansion and associated environmental documents violate the California Environmental Quality Act by inadequately disclosing, analyzing and mitigating likely negative environmental impacts, including impaired water quality, increased hillside erosion, harm to wildlife, degraded local air quality and damage to cultural resources. The expansion of off-road vehicles into Tesla Park would jeopardize threatened and endangered wildlife including California red-legged frogs, California tiger salamanders, San Joaquin kit foxes, Alameda whipsnakes, golden eagles and burrowing owls.

Read more about the lawsuit [here](#).

Election Post-Mortem

The Trump presidency and Republican congress are likely to be a disaster for the environment and result in roll-backs of our bedrock conservation laws. This will make local conservation and restoration efforts that much more important.

Read the Center for Biological Diversity's message on the election: [***Lash Out at the Darkness and Fight Like Hell***](#)

A few articles on the implications for the environment:

[***Trump's Interior Pick Bad News for California Water***](#)

KCET – November 17, 2016

[***What 'President Trump' Might Mean for Delta***](#)

Stockton Record – November 9, 2016

[***Trump Appoints Enemies of Salmon, Delta and Environment to Transition Team***](#)

Indy Media – November 13, 2016

[***Most People Are Wildly Underestimating What Trump's Win Will Mean for the Environment***](#)

Vox – November 14, 2016

Regional Salmon Restoration News

[Young Coho Salmon Arrive At New Home in Porter Creek](#)

Santa Rosa Press-Democrat – November 22, 2016

[Fish Gotta Swim: But Maybe Not in the Delta](#)

California Magazine – November 21, 2016

[Salmon Need Their Fair Share of Water](#)

Santa Rosa Press-Democrat – November 18, 2016

[Trump Win Spells Likely Disaster for Delta](#)

San Jose Mercury News - November 18, 2016

[Trump's Interior Pick Bad News for California Water](#)

KCET – November 16, 2016

[San Francisco Bay Estuary Needs More Fresh Water](#)

San Jose Mercury News – November 14, 2016

[Chinook Salmon Spawning Season Improves](#)

Los Angeles Times – November 11, 2016

[Can California's Winter Run Salmon Be Saved From Extinction? Numbers This Year Show Promise.](#)

Sacramento Bee - November 10, 2016

[California Salmon Avoid Catastrophic Year](#)

Merced Sun-Star – November 10, 2016

[New, \\$12 Million Russian River Fish Ladder Offers Glimpse of Salmon Recovery Efforts](#)

Santa Rosa Press-Democrat – November 2, 2016

[Southern Resident Killer Whales Are Dying of Starvation: Salmon-killing Dams Are the Main Reason, Say Scientists](#)

KCET – October 31, 2016

[Feds Release Salmon Recovery Proposal](#)

Eugene Register-Guard – October 28, 2016

[More Pacific Coast Hatchery Salmon Could Receive Protections](#)

Capital Press – October 27, 2016

[How to Revive a Dying Delta](#)

San Francisco Chronicle – October 25, 2016

[Why Are We Sending Precious Water Downstream for Fish In the Middle of a Drought? Here's Why.](#)

Los Angeles Times – October 22, 2016

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