

Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

More Freight Trains Though Niles Canyon?

The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission is proposing to dramatically increase freight trains through Niles and Niles Canyon as part of an expansion of the existing Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) rail service between Stockton and San Jose. An Environmental Impact Report is being prepared for creating a connection between existing freight rail lines at Niles Junction, either by building a new rail bridge across Alameda Creek at Mission Blvd or connecting tracks at the Niles Junction. In addition to increasing commuter train traffic, the project would allow freight rail from the Port of Oakland to utilize other rail lines used by Amtrak and ACE trains.

What does this mean for Alameda Creek and the Niles neighborhood? Union Pacific is proposing re-routing up to 26 freight trains per day through Niles and Niles Canyon – a dramatic increase from the 2-4 freight trains per day currently. These freight trains would include oil tankers, diesel, and other combustible and toxic materials. The potential for a disastrous derailment in Niles Canyon will go way up. There are significant concerns about safety, noise, air quality, and risk of a major toxic spill into Alameda Creek.

There will be a community meeting to discuss the project tomorrow, Sunday, June 5, in Niles. The meeting will be from 2:00 to 3:30 pm at the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum, 37417 Niles Blvd. You can sign up to receive messages from the Niles Canyon community group [here](#).

The public can submit scoping comments on the project through next Thursday, June 9. Submit comments to:

Mr. Dan Leavitt, Manager of Regional Initiatives

ATTN: ACEforward EIR

SJRRC/ ACE Headquarters

949 East Channel Street

Stockton, CA 95202

or via email with the subject line "ACEforward EIR" to: aceforward@acerail.com

More information about the project on the [ACE website](#)

Measure AA Supports Bay Area Wetlands Restoration

With just \$1 per month from Bay Area property owners, the Measure AA parcel tax on the ballot for next Tuesday will raise \$500 million over 20 years, helping restore thousands of acres of Bay Area wetlands, reduce pollution, benefit wildlife, and protect low-lying communities from rising sea levels. The purpose of Measure AA is to protect and restore San Francisco Bay to benefit future generations by reducing trash, pollution, and harmful toxins, improving water quality, restoring habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife, protecting communities from flood and increasing shoreline public access and recreational areas. You can read text and impartial analysis [here](#), and a find a list of supporters [here](#).

Save Pleasanton Hillsides Recommends NO Vote on Measure K

Pleasanton Measure K would allow the Lund Ranch II development - construction of 43 multi-million dollar homes on the hillsides of southeast Pleasanton. The Lund development, approved

by the Pleasanton City Council in January, would violate Pleasanton's hillside protection ordinance (Measure PP), passed overwhelmingly by Pleasanton voters in 2008. The goal of Measure PP was to preserve the beauty of Pleasanton by preventing construction on its hills and ridges. More information can be found [here](#). A "NO" vote on Measure K tells the Pleasanton City Council and developers to stay off the hills.

Alameda Creek in the News

[New Bay Area Dam Project Reaches Major Milestone](#)

Daily Democrat – April 19, 2016

Return of the River Free Film Showing – July 9

The Niles Discovery Church will host a free screening of *Return of the River*, an inspiring new documentary film about the largest dam removal project in the history of the United States, on the Elwha River. The film showing will be on Saturday, July 9, from 1:30-4:30 pm. The film chronicles the extraordinary effort to restore salmon and an ecosystem and set a river free. The event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Alameda Creek Alliance and Tri-City Ecology Center. Biologist James Starr, who has been documenting the after effects of the dam removal, will lead a post-movie discussion. More details soon.

Regional Salmon Restoration News

[Lawsuit Filed to Restore Santa Clara River Steelhead Trout Runs, Native Birds](#)

Center for Biological Diversity press release – June 2, 2016

[How Do We Sustainably Manage the Delta's Fish?](#)

News Deeply – June 1, 2016

[Unplugging the Colorado River: Could the End be Near for One of the West's Biggest Dams?](#)

New York Times – May 22, 2016

[Sacramento Superior Court Ruling a Bullet in Heart of Delta Plan!](#)

Daily Kos – May 20, 2016

[Judge Finds Fault with "Delta Plan"](#)

Stockton Record – May 19, 2016

[Debate Churns Again Over Salmon Passage around Don Pedro Reservoir](#)

Modesto Bee – May 19, 2016

['Deeply Disappointed' With Garamendi Bill](#)

Stockton Record – May 18, 2016

[When a Right Goes Wrong: Vineyard Frost Protection, River Flows and Salmon](#)

Santa Rosa Press-Democrat – May 14, 2016

[Don't Blame the Smelt: The Salmon Too Reflects the Dire State of the California Delta](#)

Los Angeles Times – May 6, 2016

[Undamming This Major U.S. River Is Opening a World of Possibility for Native Cultures and Wildlife](#)

Fusion – May 4, 2016

[Faulty Comparison on Delta Water Exports, Flows To S.F. Bay](#)

Sacramento Bee – April 30, 2016

[U.S. Taxpayers Are Paying Lion's Share for Brown's Delta Tunnels](#)

Daily Kos – April 28, 2016

[Carmel River Steelhead Trout Numbers on the Rise](#)

Monterey Herald – April 27, 2016

[Lawsuit Accuses Regulators of Loosening Sacramento Delta Water Rules](#)

Sacramento Bee – April 22, 2016

[Is California's Water System Really Broken?](#)

KQED – April 20, 2016

[Drought Proposals in Congress Are So Last Century](#)

Sacramento Bee – April 16, 2016

[Obsolete California Water System Lets Farmers Grow Hay in Drought](#)

San Francisco Chronicle – April 13, 2016

[This Will Be the Biggest Dam-Removal Project in History](#)

National Geographic – April 11, 2016

[Secret Twin Tunnels Deal Sold Out the Delta](#)

East Bay Times editorial – April 8, 2016

[Removal of 4 Dams to Reopen 420 Miles of Historic Salmon Habitat on Klamath River](#)

EcoWatch – April 7, 2016

[Time for Plan B to Save the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta](#)

San Francisco Chronicle opinion piece – April 6, 2016

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