

## Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

### Steelhead Trout Back in Alameda Creek



High flows in Alameda Creek have brought anadromous (migratory) fish into the lower creek in the flood control channel. Adult steelhead trout and Pacific lamprey were seen below the BART weir in early February, and steelhead and lamprey continued to be seen all this week. Alameda Creek Alliance member Dan Sarka captured some photos of steelhead jumping at the weir and of lamprey trying to sucker their way over the drop structure. Flows in the lower creek are still too high to attempt to tag or move these fish. This fish passage barrier is scheduled to have a fish ladder built by 2019, so steelhead, lamprey and salmon can move upstream to more suitable spawning habitat. More information about the fish ladder on the Alameda County Water District' [web page](#). You can check out more fish photos on the Alameda Creek Alliance's Facebook page.

### Alameda Creek Restoration Day – March 11



Join us for a morning of habitat restoration along Alameda Creek. We will be working to enhance riparian habitat along Alameda Creek this Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to noon, at the Niles Staging Area in Fremont.

We'll continue clearing invasive plants this month, and do some general cleaning around our restoration site. We're making great progress clearing invasive cape ivy from riparian trees at our

adopted spot in Niles and will continue with those efforts. We'll also weed around our recent plantings and give them some water.

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 (roughly 720 Old Canyon Rd). We'll work until noon. Visit our [Eventbrite page](#) for directions and more information.

Please wear long pants and sturdy, closed-toe shoes that can get dirty (no sandals or flip-flops). We provide gloves and tools. The work isn't on much of a slope, but the ground can be uneven. 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.

All participants need signed waiver forms ([one for the ACA](#) and [one for Alameda County](#)), and anyone under 18 needs a parental signature.

## March for Science – April 22



Join the Alameda Creek Alliance at the San Francisco March for Science on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, from noon to 4 pm.

The March for Science is a call to support and safeguard the scientific community and science-based decision making. Recent Trump administration policy changes have caused heightened worry among scientists. The mischaracterization of science as a partisan issue, which has given policymakers permission to reject overwhelming evidence, is a critical and urgent matter. It's time for people who support scientific research and evidence-based policies to take a public stand and be counted.

Science is a method to study the physical and natural world with observable physical evidence as the basis of that understanding. Science has guided the activities of the Alameda Creek Alliance and the restoration of steelhead fisheries in Alameda Creek since our inception in 1997. Science has helped us to answer such questions as, "Can the Alameda Creek system support a steelhead fishery?" (YES!), "How large of a population can the system support?", "Where is the best habitat located in the Alameda Creek watershed?", and "When are creek flows adequate for steelhead to exist in the system, how does this match with the life cycle of the fish, and what changes could be made to water management to support steelhead recovery?"

The March for Science is an international movement, led by organizers distributed around the globe. Join us this Earth Day in San Francisco to march in support of science! More information to come.

Are you interested in helping to organize people for the march? Contact Ralph ([ralph@alamedacreek.org](mailto:ralph@alamedacreek.org)) to help organize, make signs, or outreach for the event.

## Earth Day Creek Restoration – April 23

Save the date for our Earth Day Cleanup and Habitat Enhancement in Niles Canyon on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. More information [here](#).

## Caltrans Niles Canyon Project



Caltrans has re-circulated a revised [Draft Environmental Impact Report](#) for the proposed Alameda Creek Bridge Replacement Project. This is the project to incrementally widen the highway and increase traffic speeds through Niles Canyon, disguised as a bridge replacement project. The revised EIR fails to inform the public what changes were made to the project and why recirculation is needed. There were extensive public and expert comments on the original environmental review document, criticizing the project. Now Caltrans will discard those comments.

Read the Alameda Creek Alliance's [new comments](#) on the inadequacy of the environmental review.

## Help Improve Habitat Along the Arroyos in Livermore

You can help the Living Arroyos program create and improve habitat for native fish and wildlife along the Arroyos in the Livermore-Amador Valley. Their next work party is on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to noon at the Stanley Reach (Cottonwood Court and Summertree Drive, in Livermore). Volunteers will spread mulch around recently planted oak trees in order to keep weeds down while holding in soil moisture. You can find more information on the [Living Arroyos website](#) or on their [Eventbrite page](#) for the event.

## Regional Salmon Restoration News

[Water, Water, Everywhere](#)

LARPD Valley Wilds – March 2017

[\*\*\*What Do Stream Fish Do During Flood Flows?\*\*\*](#)

California WaterBlog – March 5, 2017

[\*\*\*Low Numbers of Sacramento and Klamath Salmon Point to Poor Fishing Season\*\*\*](#)

Daily Kos – March 2, 2017

[\*\*\*Returning Klamath Salmon Numbers Looking Meager\*\*\*](#)

Herald and News – March 1, 2017

[\*\*\*County Needs to Complete Creek Report\*\*\*](#)

Marin Independent-Journal editorial – February 22, 2017

[\*\*\*This Year's Floods May Be Good for California's Salmon\*\*\*](#)

KCET – February 21, 2017

[\*\*\*California Can Revive San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary\*\*\*](#)

San Jose Mercury News – February 16, 2017

[\*\*\*CDFW Rescues 8 Million Young Salmon, 1 Million Steelhead on Feather River\*\*\*](#)

YubaNet – February 11, 2017

[\*\*\*Federal Court Protects Klamath Salmon, Tribal and Fishing Communities\*\*\*](#)

EarthJustice press release – February 8, 2017

[\*\*\*Hoopa Valley Tribe, Allies Win Big Legal Fight for Salmon-Saving Klamath River Flows\*\*\*](#)

Lost Coast Outpost – February 8, 2017

[\*\*\*With Dam Gone, California River Comes Back to Life\*\*\*](#)

KQED – February 6, 2017

[\*\*\*Threatened Salmon a Concern as PG&E Plans to Pull Plug on Butte Creek Hydro Project\*\*\*](#)

Chico Enterprise-Record – February 2, 2017

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