

Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

Steelhead Make a Showing in Alameda Creek



Apparently not willing to wait until all of the fish ladders are constructed in Alameda Creek, adult steelhead trout were seen on multiple occasions in the lower creek from early February through this week. Numerous steelhead were seen jumping at the BART weir, a concrete barrier that blocks upstream fish migration.

On February 5, fisheries biologists with the East Bay Regional Park District captured one steelhead, a 25" female, attached a radio tag, and moved her upstream into lower Niles Canyon. This radio tagged female migrated into the Stonybrook Creek tributary, where she was observed exhibiting spawning behavior in a stream reach that has native rainbow trout. She stayed in this tributary for at least a few weeks before moving back downstream.

The Alameda County Water District and California Department of Fish and Wildlife helped coordinate the fish capture and tagging. The Alameda Creek Alliance, Trout Unlimited, South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition and Diablo Valley Fly Fishers also provided volunteers. Another attempt was made on March 7 to capture steelhead for tagging, but no trout were caught.

The Alameda County Water District will begin construction this summer on a fish ladder at the BART weir, which by 2021 will allow salmon and steelhead to migrate upstream on their own to reach suitable spawning areas in the Alameda Creek watershed. The ACWD has begun testing the completed fish ladder at the upper rubber dam, one mile upstream from the BART weir.

[***Tracking the Trout: East Bay Biologists, Volunteers Give Spawning Fish A Leg Up***](#) - San Jose Mercury News article February 5

[***Lone Alameda Creek Steelhead Spawns with Native Trout***](#) – Alameda Creek Alliance press release February 11

Caltrans Agrees To Plant More Sycamore Trees in Niles Canyon



The Alameda Creek Alliance has secured a settlement agreement with Caltrans regarding mitigation planting of native sycamore trees along Alameda Creek, as part of the agency's Alameda Creek Bridge Replacement Project in Niles Canyon. Under an agreement signed by an Alameda County Superior Court judge in late February, Caltrans will replant sycamore trees that are cut during the bridge project at a 4:1 replacement ratio, and will also remove invasive trees and plants within and around the project area in Niles Canyon.

Read more in the Alameda Creek Alliance press release: [Caltrans Agrees To Increased Tree Planting Mitigation for Niles Canyon Bridge Project](#)

Read the March 5 San Jose Mercury News article: [Niles Canyon: Caltrans Settles In Alameda Creek Tree Removal Lawsuit](#)

How Steelhead Will Use Habitat in the Alameda Creek Watershed

Check out the second of the Alameda Creek Alliance's new educational materials series, Ecologist Corner, by ACA Volunteer and Restoration Coordinator Ralph Boniello.

Ecologist Corner #2 - [How Steelhead Use Habitat in the Alameda Creek Watershed](#)

Join Us for Creek Restoration Days



The Alameda Creek Alliance hosts habitat stewardship workdays for volunteers on the 3rd Saturday of each month this winter and spring. We'll continue our work controlling invasive plants at our adopted site this month on Saturday, March 16th. You can find more information about each event and register on [ACA's Eventbrite page](#).

Upcoming ACA stewardship workdays include:

March 16th 10 am – 12 pm: **Alameda Creek/Niles Habitat Stewardship**, Niles Staging Area, Fremont:
Invasive plant control: cape ivy, English/Algerian ivy, poison hemlock

April 20th 2 pm – 4 pm: **Alameda Creek/Niles Habitat Stewardship**, Niles Staging Area, Fremont.
Special: Plant Mapping and Monitoring. *Calling all botanists and plant enthusiasts! We need your plant ID skills, or your enthusiasm to learn as we map the plants in and around our adopted site in Niles. Your efforts will help inform future stewardship activities in this part of the watershed.*

May 18th 10 am – 12 pm: **Alameda Creek/Niles Habitat Stewardship**, Niles Staging Area, Fremont:
Invasive plant control: cape ivy, English/Algerian ivy, poison hemlock

Ongoing habitat stewardship opportunities in and around the Alameda Creek watershed include:

- 1st and 3rd Saturdays volunteer workdays with [Living Arroyos in Livermore](#)
- Habitat restoration days on Sabrekat Creek with the [City of Fremont Environmental Services](#).
- Volunteer work-parties in Albany, Berkeley, and El Cerrito with [Friends of Five Creeks](#).
- Volunteer opportunities in Oakland with [Friends of Sausal Creek](#).

Your participation helps keep our creeks and watersheds healthy for everyone to enjoy and appreciate!

Invasive Plant Management for Volunteers

Do you volunteer working to improve habitat in local parks or open spaces? Would you like to steward a local natural area but don't know where to begin? The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), Living Arroyos, and the Alameda Creek Alliance are partnering to bring you Invasive Plant Management for Volunteers, a free 1-day training on for individual stewards or members of local groups to learn more about why it's so important to control invasive plants and how to address the issue. Participants will learn the basics of weed management, hear about diverse restoration efforts in our area, and meet fellow volunteers. The training will be held on Saturday, March 30th from 10am-3pm at the Livermore Public Library (1188 S. Livermore Ave. Livermore, CA 94550). Everyone is welcome! Register [here](#).

Save the Date for Spring Events



Join the Alameda Creek Alliance at the Sunol Wildflower Festival in Sunol Regional Wilderness on **Sunday, April 14.**

Also come see us at LEAF's Earth Day at the California Nursery Historic Park in Fremont on **Sunday, April 28th.**

More information to come – check our [upcoming events](#) page

Save the Date for Niles Canyon Stroll & Roll



The 3rd Niles Canyon Stroll & Roll will be on **Sunday, September 22**. This is an opportunity to walk, bike or run through Niles Canyon along the road, on a day the roadway will be closed to car traffic. It is an opportunity to visit some of the route locations for the planned Niles Canyon Trail. More details soon.

Caltrans Required to Control Trash Along State Highways

Thanks to [Friends of Five Creeks](#) for this item

A three-year campaign by Save the Bay has led to an order that Caltrans must find ways to keep trash out of waterways for almost 9,000 of its 25,000 acres of its Bay Area rights-of-way by 2026. The order will require actions ranging from trash pick-ups to screens to costly vortex separators on freeway edges, on- and off-ramps, rest areas, and state highways running through industrial or commercial areas.

At a [Feb. 13 hearing](#) lasting more than seven hours, members of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board voted to more than double its staff's recommendation for the area where trash must be controlled. In addition to pressure from Save the Bay and other environmental organizations, Bay Area local governments argued that since they must make waterways effectively trash-free by 2022, they were being forced to bear the cost of Caltrans' inaction.

The order threatens fines of up to \$25,000 per day and includes requirements to complete work on about 2,000 acres every two years. Caltrans objected that the high cost of devices such as trash separators is compounded by the difficulty of installing them in limited rights-of-way.

Regional Salmon Restoration News

[Trump's California Water Order Rushes Science and Cuts Out Public, Emails Show](#)

KQED - March 7, 2019

[Stanford Removes Dam, Giving Endangered Fish Room to Roam](#)

Palo Alto Online - March 6, 2019

[As Relicensing Looms, Aging Dams Face a Reckoning](#)

The West Blog - March 5, 2019

[Good Riddance to the Delta Twin Tunnels Boondoggle](#)

San Jose Mercury News editorial - February 14, 2019

[Newsom Kills Controversial Delta Twin Tunnels Plan](#)

San Jose Mercury News - February 12, 2019

[Newsom Ends Twin Tunnels](#)

Restore the Delta press release - February 12, 2019

[Top Leader at Interior Dept. Pushes a Policy Favoring His Former Client](#)

New York Times - February 12, 2019

[Steps Made to Protect the Klamath Spring Run Chinook](#)

North Coast Journal - February 7, 2019

[Marin County's Lagunitas Creek Sees Best Coho Salmon Return in 12 Years](#)

ABC7 News - February 6, 2019

[Big Surge in Coho Salmon Population, But the Endangered Species Still Needs Protection](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - February 2, 2019

[Dam Removal Isn't Over Yet](#)

Eureka Times-Standard opinion - January 30, 2019

[Four Exciting Dam-Removal Projects to Watch](#)

The Revelator - October 18, 2018

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