

Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

Calaveras Dam Completion



Construction of the new Calaveras Dam in the upper Alameda Creek watershed is now completed. The new reservoir will be operated by the SFPUC to provide cold water summer releases to help steelhead and trout rear downstream of the dam. More importantly, the associated Alameda Diversion Dam now has a new fish ladder and fish screens, and will be operated to bypass much more of the winter and spring high flows in upper Alameda Creek. That will help migratory fish in our watershed get further upstream to better habitat.

See the recent news media on the new fish ladder and SFPUC plans for trout restoration and monitoring:

[Alameda Creek Steelhead Get A Lift Upstream With State-Of-The-Art Fish Ladder](#)

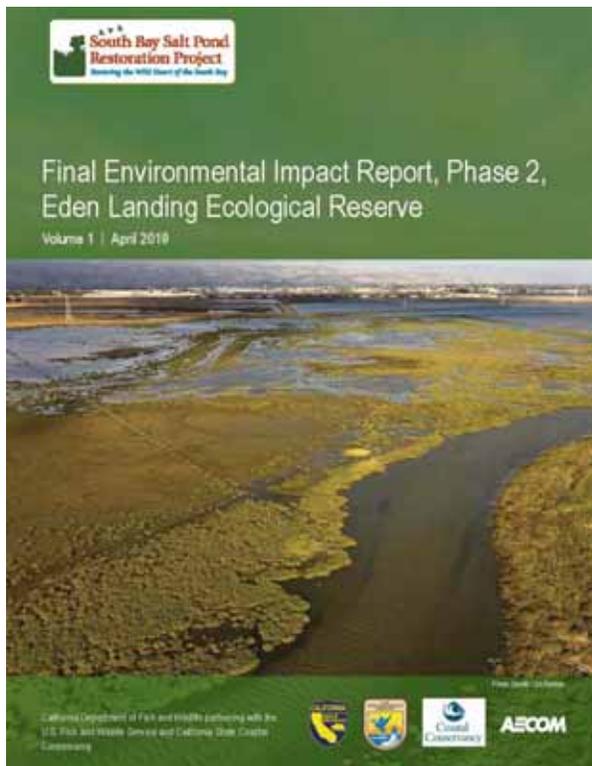
CBS News - March 20, 2019

[SFPUC Works to Bring Back Steelhead Trout](#)

KCBS Radio – March 20, 2019

On Friday, May 3 the SFPUC will host a public celebration of the completion of the rebuilding of Calaveras Dam. Shuttles will be available from Calaveras Road to take the public to the dam site. You must RSVP for the tour by April 22, to Wbusby@swater.org.

Salt Pond Restoration Plan Review Finalized



The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project has finalized the Environmental Impact Report for its planned Eden Landing Phase 2 restoration of former Cargill salt ponds adjacent to the lower Alameda Creek flood control channel.

The final report describes the preferred plan for tidal marsh restoration, wildlife habitat improvements, new trails and flood protection on 2,270 acres of ponds near Union City. It analyzes environmental impacts of four alternative plans for the area covering about half of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Eden Landing Ecological Reserve. This final report also includes responses to public and stakeholder comments received on the Spring 2018 draft report. Download the report [here](#).

The first stage of the preferred project alternative would allow immediate tidal marsh restoration of four former salt-evaporation ponds at Eden Landing closest to the Bay. The Inland and Southern Ponds at Eden Landing would be managed as ponds using temporary mid-complex levee and water control structures, with adaptive management-informed phased restoration if more ponds can be restored to full tidal influence. One pond is proposed to be enhanced and maintained as seasonal habitat for western snowy plover and other pond nesting birds. The Southern Ponds would be opened to muted tidal flows through a culvert system during the first phase of restoration. However, based on the outcome of adaptive-management informed monitoring activities, those ponds could be operated as enhanced managed ponds and not left open to constant muted tidal flows during the second phase of restoration.

The project also includes construction of pilot channels for fish habitat connectivity at two locations through the flood control levee, new public access trails and a viewing platform. Restoring estuary habitat near the outlet of Alameda Creek could be critical to growth and survival of salmonids in our watershed. The project will connect the Alameda Creek flood control channel to restored tidal wetlands and allow steelhead trout access to this prime rearing habitat.

Rural Alameda Soil Dumping



Illicit landfills are a growing problem in eastern Alameda County. Ranchers and farmers are being paid to accept huge amounts of soil dumped onto their properties, often from construction sites around the Bay Area and potentially contaminated with toxics. Since this soil is ostensibly to be used for agricultural purposes it is exempted from any county oversight or regulation. This dirt importing has reached massive proportions in Sunol, unincorporated Livermore, and Pleasanton, up to up to a million cubic yards on some properties. There is potential harm to groundwater, creeks, and drainage and concerns about dust and air pollution.

Because of multiple citizen complaints, Alameda County imposed a temporary moratorium on importing soil to agricultural lands, but the moratorium was ignored by many landowners. The moratorium will expire soon, and Alameda County has been working on a new [Soil Importing Ordinance](#) to manage imported soil.

Unfortunately the ordinance has been watered down and does not fully address the environmental problems caused by soil dumping. The County is trying to exempt the ordinance from a full environmental review, even though the policy would allow sensitive wildlife habitats to be buried by up to 3 to 5 feet of imported soil, and exempts ephemeral and intermittent creeks from the policy. The policy could result in pollution of creeks, and killing of native wildlife, especially animals that depend on underground burrows, such as burrowing owls, tiger salamanders and red-legged frogs.

The Alameda County Planning Department held a public meeting on the proposed soil importing ordinance earlier this week. We will provide an update on the new policy when we get details.

For more information:

Inform Sunol web page: [Soil Importing into Unincorporated Alameda County](#)

Sierra Club web page: [Unregulated Landfills Are a Problem in Rural Alameda County](#)

Alameda Creek Restoration Days



The Alameda Creek Alliance hosts habitat stewardship workdays for volunteers on the 3rd Saturday of each month this winter and spring. You can find more information about each event and register on [ACA's Eventbrite page](#).

Upcoming ACA stewardship workdays include:

Saturday, April 20th 2 pm – 4 pm: Alameda Creek/Niles Habitat Stewardship at 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.*

Sunday, May 18th 10 am – 12 pm: Alameda Creek/Niles Habitat Stewardship at 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 Sabreca 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!

Upcoming Special Events in the Watershed



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

Also come see us at LEAF's Earth Day at the California Nursery Historic Park in Fremont on **Sunday, April 28th**, from 10 am to 3 pm, at the California Nursery Historical Park, 36550 Niles Blvd. in Fremont. LEAF will have 22 booths on gardening and the environment, activities and games for kids, live music, food trucks, handcrafted ice cream, and a bee observation hive.

ACA Outreach Volunteers: Would you like to help staff an ACA table at one of these volunteer events? We'd like to have an art activity for kids, which requires extra hands to manage visitors and supplies. If you'd like to help please e-mail Ralph@alamedacreek.org indicating which event you'd like to volunteer at. No experience necessary. Thanks!

Regional Salmon Restoration News

[Hordes of Fish Killed in Berkeley by Firefighting Water, Foam](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - April 4, 2019

[Dead Steelhead Trout in Codornices Creek after Garbage Truck Fire](#)

Berkeleyside - April 3, 2019

[Soaking Rains A Boost For Salmon](#)

San Francisco Examiner – April 3, 2019

[California Can't Save Fish by Diverting More Water from Rivers](#)

Cal Matters - April 2, 2019

[Creek Restoration Planned for Pescadero Area](#)

Hal Moon Bay Review - March 27, 2019

[Sites Reservoir Project Draws Criticism from Fisherman, Tribes, and Conservation Groups](#)

NewsMaven - March 20, 2019

[CalTrout Wants Old Scott Dam on Eel River Removed To Help Salmon and Steelhead](#)

Santa Rosa Press-Democrat - March 16, 2019

[Long-Sought Creek Restoration in Pescadero Takes Major Step](#)

San Mateo Daily Journal - March 18, 2019

[Seeking a Two-Basin Solution for the Potter Valley Project](#)

CalTrout - March 8, 2019

[Habitat Restoration Project Yields Unprecedented Results for Coho Salmon](#)

Lake County News - March 3, 2019

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