

EDITORIALS

Steelhead Lawsuit

The Alameda Creek Alliance, which seeks to restore steelhead trout to Alameda Creek, has joined seven other organizations in a lawsuit aimed at strengthening the federal government's protection of the fish.

Jeff Miller of the Alliance observes that although the government has placed steelhead restrictions on fishermen, the real problem involves dams, water diversions and habitat destruction. Without regulations that address those matters, steelhead are doomed, both here and in all other creeks and rivers where they've traditionally run.

We want to express our support for this lawsuit. It is an important action.

Alameda Creek, which drops down from the mountains and passes through Sunol and Niles Canyon on its way to the bay, was once abundant with steelhead trout. Their restoration would be significant not only for the fish themselves, but also as a signpost that civilization can overcome its environmental mistakes. That would be a wonderful way to help open the 21st century.