

Steelhead, growth on agenda

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FROM STAFF REPORTS

PLEASANTON -- Potential steelhead trout restoration in the Alameda Creek watershed and its possible effects on development in the Livermore-Amador Valley and elsewhere will be discussed during a meeting today.

A summary of rules for Pacific salmon and steelhead proposed by the National Marine Fisheries Service will be addressed by the Steering Committee of the Alameda Creek Watershed Management Program, said Helen Ling, facilitator of the group.

Members of the program, which are working on a plan to manage the Alameda Creek watershed, will meet at the Zone 7 Water Agency office in Pleasanton.

"If these regulations do become enacted, then there is a likelihood it could affect permitting, planning and how you do flood control work," Ling said. "It could also affect how you develop land upstream."

The Central Coast steelhead is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Ling said the proposed rules establish protective regulations that apply to listed threatened species.

The regulations are significant to the Alameda Creek watershed -- which includes Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin -- because a wide range of land and water planning as well as permitting activities have been identified as having potentially adverse effects.

For example, fish habitat in the watershed could be impacted by zoning and development permitting, water use, wastewater discharge and road construction.

The upstream use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer and other chemicals could also have impacts.

The Alameda Creek Watershed Management Program is a consensus-based effort being undertaken by cities, agencies, business people, the public and the agriculture community to develop strategies to protect and enhance the watershed.

The Steering Committee of the Alameda Creek Watershed Management Program will meet at 1:30 p.m. today at the Zone 7 Water Agency office, 5997 Parkside Drive, Pleasanton.