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FREMONT FESTIVAL TO FETE WORK ON ALAMEDA CREEK EDUCATIONAL EVENTS ABOUT RESTORING STEELHEAD RUNS, TWO RACES AND FLY- FISHING DEMONSTRATIONS ARE ON TAP FOR SATURDAY

TIMES STAFF

FREMONT - The third annual Fremont Steelhead Festival and Watershed Awareness Fair will be held Saturday at Niles Community Park in Fremont.

The festival is an educational event and a celebration of the progress made toward restoring native steelhead trout and salmon runs along Alameda Creek from San Francisco Bay to Sunol Regional Wilderness.

The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is free.

The creekside park is on Third Street between G and H streets in Fremont's Niles District. A 10-kilometer race will begin earlier, at 9 a.m., and a five-kilometer run will begin at 9:30. Race registration, including a T-shirt, is \$25 the day of the event and benefits the steelhead restoration effort.

Activities at the festival will include educational and informational displays by organizations and agencies working to restore Alameda Creek and other creeks in the East Bay.

Local fly-fishing groups will teach fly casting and fly-tying techniques and promote fish conservation and catch-and-release fishing.

The California Department of Fish and Game will provide tanks with live steelhead, salmon and other native fish on display.

There also will be walking tours of proposed restoration sites in lower Alameda Creek, creative activities for kids, food and a live bluegrass band.

For information, call 510-845-4675.

The Alameda Creek Alliance, a co-sponsor of Saturday's event, has been working to restore native steelhead trout to Alameda Creek since 1997.

A group of 11 local, state and federal agencies have been planning a number of restoration projects to allow adult steelhead, which have been blocked by barriers in lower Alameda Creek, to reach spawning and rearing habitat 25 miles upstream in Sunol Regional Wilderness.