

The ACWD Aqueduct

News and Information for the Customers of the Alameda County Water District

Volume 11, Issue 2
Autumn, 2007

Fish Passage Improvement Projects Update

Progress is ongoing on two fronts in the effort to improve steelhead trout migration in Alameda Creek.

ACWD and the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Flood Control District) recently entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to begin preliminary design work on eliminating two barriers to migrating steelhead in Alameda Creek. The BART weir, owned by the Flood Control District, and an adjacent inflatable rubber dam owned by ACWD, are two of several barriers that have prevented the return of steelhead to their historic spawning areas in the upper watershed.

Since 1997, both Districts have been significant contributors to the Alameda Creek Fisheries Workgroup. The Workgroup has played a vital role in removing barriers to the reintroduction of steelhead to the watershed. In 2001, the East Bay Regional Park District initiated the fish passage recovery effort by removing two concrete swim dams located within Sunol Regional Wilderness. During the summer of 2006, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission also removed Niles Dam in Niles Canyon and Sunol Dam in the upper watershed. With the signing of this Agreement, ACWD and the Flood Control District seek to continue the barrier elimination process.

In June, Mitchell Engineering of San Francisco began construction of three fish screens at ACWD's water supply diversion point near the mouth of Niles Canyon. These screens will help prevent juvenile steelhead from being carried into the diversion pipelines and adjacent groundwater recharge ponds at Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area. The fish screens were installed in October and the project is scheduled for completion in December.