

Alameda Creek Alliance celebrates milestone

Nonprofit has spent 10 years restoring creek watershed, fish populations

September 28, 2007

After 10 years, not only is the Alameda Creek watershed vastly improved, so are the fish populations that call it home.

The Alameda Creek Alliance, a nonprofit community watershed restoration group, now celebrates a decade of work. The group was formed in August 1997 after steelhead trout in the Central California coast were listed as a threatened species. Over the past 10 years, the organization has worked to restore runs of the trout and salmon to the Alameda Creek watershed, the largest tributary to southern San Francisco Bay.

According to the Alameda Creek Alliance, the watershed encompasses nearly 700 square miles and drains roughly the southern two-thirds of the East Bay. The southern portion includes wildlands along upper Alameda Creek within Sunol and Ohlone Regional Wilderness Preserves. The northern portion includes Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and San Ramon along the Arroyo Mocho and Arroyo de la Laguna tributaries. The middle includes the Sinbad and Stonybrook Creek tributaries in Niles Canyon and the lower portion includes Fremont, Union City and Newark. The watershed also contains Mount Isabel and Mount Hamilton, Murrieta Falls, Little Yosemite in the Sunol Preserve and Coyote Hills.

"Over the next decade, we intend to make Alameda Creek one of the success stories in urban stream restoration," said Jeff Miller, director of the Alameda Creek Alliance.

The alliance continues to work with local, state and federal water supply and land management agencies in an effort to restore the native fish habitat in the creek. In the past 10 years, the group's work has resulted in the removal of four dams and the construction of two fish ladders that allow fish to migrate to better habitats upstream. The removal of one more dam and the construction of four fish ladders are currently in the planning stages.

The organization now has 1,400 members and has organized more than 70 local and regional conservation and flyfishing groups in support of the creek restoration. For more information on the alliance, visit www.alamedacreek.org.