

## **Water district moves to help steelhead trout**

Meeting will detail schedule for placing fish screens on intake pipes

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FREMONT — Swimming upstream for local steelhead trout may get easier.

That is the goal of the Alameda County Water District, which is spending about \$500,000 of a federal grant on the installation of fish screens in the Alameda Creek Flood Control Channel in Fremont's Niles neighborhood.

The district will hold an informational meeting about the screens at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Niles Elementary School, 37141 Second St.

District officials there will discuss with the public the screens' installation and the Alameda Creek Fish Passage Program. The project's work schedule also will be detailed.

The program is intended to improve the migration of California steelhead trout, which the National Marine Fisheries Service has deemed a threatened species, district spokesman Frank Jahn said.

The fish screens specifically will prevent the trout from being trapped in the pipelines and ponds at Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area. They also will help the district maintain its core mission — providing water to Tri-City area customers, Jahn said.

This portion of the Alameda Creek Fish Passage program is being paid for by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Other local agencies also have removed barriers to help the steelhead trout travel upstream to spawn. The East Bay Regional Park District and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission each have removed barriers in the creek, which is 633 miles long.

"Alameda Creek is one of the largest watersheds in the Bay Area," Jahn said.