

THE PEOPLE OF ACWD

Since grade school, Jose has envisioned a career working with and helping people in his community – a career offering a variety of work in varying environments – sometimes in an office and other times outside. So when the opportunity arose for Jose to join ACWD’s Engineering Division as an Engineering Technician, he knew it was the perfect fit! Fifteen years later, Jose is known at ACWD for his exceptional customer service and extensive on-the-job knowledge.



Jose

As an engineering technician what are some of your duties?

I work with customers who want to upgrade existing water service or install new service to their homes or businesses. I review plans, make sure the installation location is correct, and provide them with a construction cost estimate. I also work on larger-scale projects, like the new Warm Springs BART Station, Pacific Commons Shopping Center and one of my favorites - the Aqua Adventure Water Park in Fremont.

What brings you joy in your job?

Hands down, working with the Tri-City residents! When I review plans with a customer, I sit down with them and treat them like family. I am very honest and try to provide the most cost effective options for their project. I get it – home remodeling can be stressful, and the last thing I want to do is add to the stress. My goal is to be informative so the customer can make knowledgeable decisions.

What do you enjoy doing when you have down time?

Traveling with my family is the best! I love to explore and visit new places with my wife and our daughters. We love to be active; this fall we look forward to joining the East Bay Regional Parks “Trails Challenge” to check out all of the local trails in the area. It’s a great way to spend quality time together and get outdoors!

An Interview with “Anna” the Steelhead Trout



Photo provided by
Alameda Creek Alliance

This past winter, our friends at the Alameda Creek Alliance and fish biologists from the East Bay Regional Park District worked to capture, tag and release a female steelhead trout in Alameda Creek. Here’s how we imagine an interview would be with the gill-bearing, fin-flipping, against-the-odds-determined “Anna” the steelhead.

What is the origin of your name?

Anna is in reference to anadromous, or migratory fish who ascend rivers, streams or creeks from the sea for breeding. Plus, it’s a palindrome – spelled the same forward or backward.

Tell us about your journey into lower Alameda Creek?

It all began in the fresh water creek; one year later I migrated out to the Pacific Ocean where the water was so cold. I’d ventured there when I was young and stay for a few years. Mother Nature beckoned me back to my natural spawning habitat and my migration journey began. Along the way, I encountered some obstacles and needed help to get past inflatable rubber dams.

Understandably, I was a little frightened when the humans netted me but I quickly knew they were there to help. Once I had my new jewelry, or radio transmitter, I was released upstream.

Share what was in store once you made it upstream:

While blissfully swimming in the water of Alameda Creek near lower Niles Canyon I met a rainbow trout – a colorful fella – he looked like me, and even though we’re the same species, we’re actually quite different. Maybe it’s true, opposites attract! The conditions were perfect and he seemed like the right guy for me. Hopefully one day soon our family and other steelhead trout can make their way unassisted upstream and our threatened species can flourish.

Talk about the obstacles you encountered:

I don’t like to dwell on obstacles but I can say they will soon be a thing of the past. With ACWD’s investment of \$78 million in fish passage projects (with support from several partner agencies and grants) including the current construction of the second fish ladder, steelhead trout and other migratory fish like me can make their upstream journey too.

What’s your go-to karaoke song?

I have two – “I Will Survive” by Gloria Gaynor and “Take Me to the River” by the Talking Heads.

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