

# **Up Your Creek!**

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

## **Alameda Creek Cleanup - November 16**

Join the Alameda Creek Alliance this Sunday, November 16th at our adopted site along Alameda Creek, from 10 am to noon at the Niles Staging Area in Fremont. We'll remove invasive plants and pick up trash along Alameda Creek, and discuss how these efforts protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. Thanks to all who have helped so far- we've made great progress on ivy removal, but there is more to be done!

We'll meet at the [Niles Staging Area parking lot](#) along Old Canyon Road at Canyon Oaks Court in the Niles area of Fremont. Wear work clothes, including long pants and sturdy shoes that can get dirty. A long-sleeve shirt and hat are recommended. We'll provide gloves, waste bags, litter grabbers, water, and a snack. Please bring your own re-usable water bottle to fill. RSVP to Ralph Boniello at [Ralph@alamedacreek.org](mailto:Ralph@alamedacreek.org).

## **Talk On Raptors, Rats, and Riparian Areas November 19**

Lisa Owens Viani, co-founder and director of Raptors Are The Solution (RATS), will talk about raptors and the threats they face, particularly from rat poison, and also discuss less toxic ways of controlling rodents. The talk will be on Wednesday November 19 at 7 pm at the Dimond Branch Library, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue in Oakland. Owens Viani will describe a nine-year study of Cooper's hawks in Berkeley and their connection to riparian habitat, as well as how the study led to the formation of RATS. This presentation takes place at the bimonthly Friends of Sausal Creek meeting. All are welcome! Download a [flyer](#) about the talk.

## **Eastern Alameda Christmas Bird Count - December 19**

Join the Alameda Creek Alliance and Ohlone Audubon Society on Friday, December 19, for the 6th annual [Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count](#), in the upper Alameda Creek watershed.

The count circle is in the vicinity of the towns of Sunol, Pleasanton and Livermore, and includes five East Bay Regional Parks, significant SFPUC watershed lands, and exciting East Bay birding hotspots such as lower Mines Road, Sunol Wilderness, Calaveras Reservoir, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Sycamore Grove Park and Springtown Preserve. Birders and volunteers with any level of experience can participate in the Christmas Bird Count. The count is coordinated with the East Bay Regional Park District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Livermore Area Recreation & Park District, and Lawrence Livermore National Lab, to provide maximum access to significant bird habitats within the count circle.

Please join us for the bird count. You will have a chance to sample the bird life in several interesting habitats that fit a variety of interests and abilities. You'll be contributing to the Audubon database and knowledge of the status and distribution of resident and visiting winter birds and have fun doing it.

If you have questions about the count please contact Rich Cimino, [yellowbilledtours@gmail.com](mailto:yellowbilledtours@gmail.com), (925) 353-0266 - or Jeff Miller, [Jeff@alamedacreek.org](mailto:Jeff@alamedacreek.org), (510) 499-9185.

For more information: <http://www.alamedacreek.org/join-volunteer/CBC.php>

## **UC Study Calls Out Alameda Creek Dams as High Priority Dams In Need of Downstream Flows for Native Fish**

A new U.C. Davis study, [Assessing Flows for Fish Below Dams](#), highlights California dams that are likely depriving native fish downstream of the flows they need to stay alive. The U.C. Davis Center for Watershed Sciences has developed a new tool for identifying dams most need of attention to protect fish, particularly native species. The report highlights 181 "high-priority" California dams where flow modifications and/or other management actions may be warranted to ensure adequate flows for fish under California Fish and Game Code 5937.

The report identifies Calaveras Dam on Calaveras Creek, in the Alameda Creek watershed, as one of the California dams with the greatest alteration to seasonal monthly stream flow patterns downstream of the dam. Operation of the dam will change and flow releases for native fish downstream of this dam will begin once the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission finishes construction of the replacement Calaveras Dam, likely in 2018. The SFPUC will provide year-round water releases into Alameda Creek from Calaveras Reservoir ranging from 5 to 12 cubic feet per second, depending on the time of year and water-year type (wet, normal or dry).

The report also identifies the inflatable rubber dams on lower Alameda Creek as high-priority dams because they are associated with a watershed with a richness of native fish species. The Alameda County Water District permanently removed the lowermost rubber dam from the Alameda Creek flood control channel in 2009. The ACWD will be constructing fish ladders at the other two rubber dams from 2015-2017, and afterwards will be operating the dams with improved bypass flows for native fish.

## **Election Conservation Victories**

Although the midterm elections were generally a disaster for the environment (see [Animals Take A Major Hit In Midterm Elections](#)), there was some positive local news in our watershed:

### **Dublin voted to protect Doolan Canyon from sprawl by rejecting Measure T**

Measure T was a developer-sponsored attempt to break Dublin's new eastern urban limit line, opening the floodgates for sprawl development on 1,650 acres in Doolan Canyon.

### **Union City voted to uphold open space protections by rejecting Measure KK**

Measure KK would have broken voter-approved open space protections to develop 63 acres of open space next to regional parkland.

## **Sign the Petition to Remove Stanford's Obsolete Dam**

Please sign the change.org petition to [Restore Stanford's Watershed and Wildlife](#)

## **Regional Salmon Restoration News**

### [\*\*Dam Study Disappoints Yuba County Water Agency\*\*](#)

Appeal-Democrat – November 8, 2014

### [\*\*Dam Shame: Five of America's Worst\*\*](#)

On Earth – November 3, 2014

**Prop. 1 Passes: The Power of Big Money Overcomes the Power of People**

Indy Media – November 5, 2014

**Fish Die-Off Averted; Salmon Run Going Strong**

Herald and News - November 5, 2014

**The Alameda Creek Alliance is a non-profit community watershed protection group. Please support our efforts by [becoming a member](#)**