

## **Up Your Creek!**

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

### **Last Chance for Alameda Creek Alliance Dinner Tickets!**

Get your tickets for the Alameda Creek Alliance's annual membership dinner, to be held on Saturday, October 17, from 5:30 to 8:30 PM, at [Chouinard Winery](#) along Stonybrook Creek, in Niles Canyon. **Buy your tickets by Monday, October 12.**

Dinner will be provided by [Catering by Gilda](#). The buffet-style dinner will include lemon pepper chicken, roasted vegetables, tri-tip steak, organic salad and dessert.

Many of Chouinard's fabulous wines will be available for purchase by the glass or by the bottle.

Music by [Michael McNevin](#) & The Spokes

There will be brief presentations by Jeff Miller and Ralph Boniello of the Alameda Creek Alliance on the status of restoration projects in the watershed and ongoing volunteer projects.

Tickets are \$55 per person, which includes dinner.

You can easily and safely buy your dinner ticket through PayPal on our [Upcoming Events page](#) (you can only purchase one ticket at a time; return for additional tickets). Or send a check to the ACA at P.O. Box 2626, Niles, CA 94536, for \$55 per ticket to reserve your spot.

### **Meeting on Niles Canyon Highway Widening – October 14**

Caltrans' highway widening project is back, in a different form. Caltrans is now proposing the Niles Canyon Safety Improvements Project. Caltrans describes the project as implementing "multiple spot safety improvements" on State Route 84 from Mission Boulevard to Interstate 680. This project will involve: major construction and tree cutting at the low-speed curve; cable netting and rock fall fencing in the western portion of the canyon; 6,000 feet of highway widening; two traffic signals in Sunol; railing replacements and upgrades; removal of the Stonybrook Creek box culvert; and removal of 35 trees and relocation of 17 utility poles next to the roadway.

The scoping comment period is through October 30. Caltrans will then prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the project. There will be a public scoping hearing in Sunol the evening of Wednesday, October 14, to provide updated information about the safety improvements planned to date and considerations in forming the range of possible alternatives to be evaluated in the EIR. The meeting will include a brief presentation at 6:30 pm followed by an opportunity to provide verbal or written comments to Caltrans staff.

*Public Scoping Meeting Information:* Wednesday, October 14, 6 to 8 pm, at the Sunol Glen Elementary School Cafeteria, 11601 Main Street, Sunol.

[Notice of Preparation for the Niles Canyon Safety Improvements Project](#)

### **Stonybrook Creek Fish Passage Project Underway**

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District has begun construction on the Stonybrook Creek Crossings and Fish Passage Improvement Project, to improve fish passage at two

Alameda County owned culverts in lower Stonybrook Creek along Palomares Road. Baffles have been installed in the lowermost culvert at milepost 8.75 and the creek channel has been re-graded to remove a boulder jam above the culvert. A culvert upstream at milepost 8.60 will be replaced with a bridge, but construction has been delayed until June 2016. More info here: <http://www.acrcd.org/NewsEvents/ProjectNotices.aspx>

## **Sunol Ag Park Reprieve**

The SFPUC has announced a re-design of the Sunol corporation yard to avoid any encroachment into the organic farmland at the Sunol AgPark. The SFPUC responded to concerns from SAGE, the Sunol AgPark farmers, Save Our Sunol, and the Alameda Creek Alliance regarding impacts to the Sunol AgPark and prime farm land.

The SFPUC has confirmed that the project will not use any temporary or permanent storage space in the Sunol AgPark directly south of the existing Sunol Yard. The SFPUC will move forward with the Sunol Corporation Yard and Watershed Center project as proposed in the previously released Mitigated Negative Declaration. The SFPUC proposes to site temporary staff and equipment activities in a 4-acre area in the southeast quadrant of the Paloma Road/ Temple Road intersection during construction. This parcel is presently part of a buffer around an aggregate-mining lease. The SFPUC will use the existing Sunol Yard footprint as best they can to accommodate staff and operational needs - any additional future needs will be reassessed after construction of the currently proposed project. The SFPUC has also initiated discussions with SAGE to extend their lease, which will expire in March 2016, to provide certainty to the farmers as part of their ongoing efforts to manage the AgPark.

Read the Contra Costa Times article, [\*Sunol Organic Farm Won't Shrink with Corp Yard Expansion\*](#)

## **Little Yosemite Project Delayed To Protect Rare Frogs**

The SFPUC has decided to withdraw its environmental evaluation application for the controversial Little Yosemite Fish Passage Project along upper Alameda Creek in Sunol Regional Wilderness, due to concerns over significant impacts to endangered frogs. The project is intended to improve upstream passage conditions for migrating steelhead trout through the natural boulder cascades in Little Yosemite. The SFPUC will drop the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project and will work with agencies and frog experts to re-evaluate the project.

## **Regional Salmon Restoration News**

[\*California Drought Revives a River — and a Poignant History\*](#)  
KQED – October 2, 2015

[\*Santa Rosa Winery Fights to Save Coho Salmon\*](#)  
NBC News – October 2, 2015

[\*Experts Reveal Many Terminal Flaws of Delta Tunnels EIR\*](#)  
Daily Kos – September 29, 2015

[\*Chinook Salmon Health Improves After Dam Water Release to Drought-Stricken Klamath River\*](#)  
CBS News – September 26, 2015

**[Salmon to Swim Above Shasta Dam for First Time In Nearly 80 Years](#)**

Sacramento Bee – September 24, 2015

**[Coalition Urges Interior Secretary To Reject Delta Tunnels](#)**

Daily Kos – September 21, 2015

**[Rising Seas Threaten San Francisco Bay and Delta Wetlands and Land](#)**

San Jose Mercury News – September 17, 2015

**[Yurok Tribe No Longer Supports Klamath River Agreement](#)**

North Coast Journal – September 16, 2015

**[Yurok Tribe Withdraws From Klamath Basin Agreements](#)**

Eureka Times-Standard – September 15, 2015

**[Groups Slam Sweetheart Settlement for Westlands Water District](#)**

Daily Kos – September 15, 2015

**[Zeke Grader, Fish and Rivers Advocate, Passes Away](#)**

Daily Kos – September 9, 2015

**[Letter: Delta Water Tunnels Project Violates Endangered Species Act, Will Hurt Imperiled Salmon](#)**

Center for Biological Diversity press release - September 9, 2015

**[Conservationist Zeke Grader, Advocate for Fish, Dies](#)**

San Francisco Chronicle – September 8, 2015

**[Going To the Mat for Fish and Fishermen](#)**

National Geographic – June 29, 2015

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