

## ***Up Your Creek!***

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

### **Open House on CEMEX Mining Expansion in Livermore – March 19**

CEMEX is planning to amend its reclamation plan for its 966-acre sand and gravel mining operation in Livermore along Arroyo del Valle.

CEMEX will be holding a public open house to discuss the plan amendments on Thursday, March 19, from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Robert Livermore Community Center, Larkspur Room, at 4444 East Avenue, Livermore.

CEMEX mining and reclamation activities at the site will be completed in approximately 2056, at which point CEMEX plans to create two lakes that will be added to the Zone 7 "Chain of Lakes" It also intends to majorly reroute Arroyo del Valle, with a potentially significant loss of existing riparian trees.

There will be an Environmental Impact Report on the amendments to the reclamation plan.

More info on the CEMEX web site: <http://www.cemexeliotmine.com>

### **Caltrans Hearing on Alameda Creek Bridge Project - March 23**

Caltrans has released a draft [Environmental Impact Report](#) for the Alameda Creek Bridge Replacement Project in Niles Canyon. Caltrans is proposing to replace the Alameda Creek Bridge and realign the eastern and western approaches to the bridge on SR-84.

**Caltrans will hold an additional public open forum in Sunol to solicit comments on the draft EIR on Monday, March 23, from 6 to 8 pm at the Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main Street in Sunol.** A brief presentation on the project will be given at 6:30 pm. The public can ask questions about the project and provide comments.

The draft EIR is online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/nilescanyon/>

Caltrans is taking public comments on the draft EIR until April 3.

**Take action:** [Tell Caltrans](#) that replacing and upgrading the Alameda Creek Bridge does not require overbuilt roadway approaches and that the bridge segment can be made safer without massive cut-and-fill or removing hundreds of trees.

ACA action alert and sample letter here: <http://www.alamedacreek.org/take-action/current%20niles%20canyon%20alert.php>

### **Sunol Wildflower Festival - April 18**

Save the date - more info soon.

### **Alameda Creek Cleanup - April 25**

Join us for a creek workday to continue our efforts removing ivy and other invasive plants along Alameda Creek in Niles, on Saturday, April 25, from 10 am to 1 pm. We'll continue clearing ivy from the crowns and bases of trees and we'll pick up any trash we find along the creek. We'll also take time for a short walk along the creek to observe and discuss the local ecology.

Meet at the [Niles Staging Area parking lot](#) along Old Canyon Road at Canyon Oaks Court, in the Niles area of Fremont. Work clothes are recommended, including long pants and sturdy, closed-toe shoes that can get dirty (sneakers or boots). A long-sleeve shirt and hat are recommended. Be prepared for cool weather in the morning when we begin, with dew possible on the ground. We'll provide gloves, waste bags, litter grabbers, water, and a snack. Please bring your own reusable water bottle to fill. Heavy rain cancels.

## **Environmental Review Released for Sunol Watershed Center and Corporation Yard Improvements**

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission has released a draft environmental review document for the proposed Sunol Long Term Improvement Project, which consists of improvements to the existing Sunol Corporation Yard and development of a new interpretive center, the Alameda Creek Watershed Center, in the vicinity of the Sunol Water Temple.

The project will improve the existing SFPUC Sunol Yard by replacing outdated and no longer serviceable facilities with new structures in an updated facility layout in order to efficiently provide operations and maintenance support to SFPUC operations in the East Bay area; and enhance the use and educational value of the Sunol Water Temple site through the establishment of an interpretive facility to provide information and activities that allow visitors to learn about and further appreciate the Alameda Creek Watershed, including its natural resources, history, and role in the SFPUC water system.

Construction activities at the Sunol Yard are proposed to begin in October 2015 and estimated to take approximately 18 months to complete. Construction activities for the Watershed Center are proposed to begin in March 2016 and also estimated to take approximately 18 months to complete. Project construction activities would include site preparation, earthwork, demolition of select buildings at the Sunol Yard, construction of new facilities, road work, and landscaping.

The new Watershed Center will house informational displays on the San Francisco water system, the history of the Sunol Valley, and the ecological features of the Alameda Creek watershed, and will allow visitors to learn about and further appreciate Alameda Creek. Access to the Watershed Center will be offered to the general public and educational institutions. The project will also provide additional recreational opportunities at a restored picnic area, including limited pedestrian access to Alameda Creek.

The improvements to the existing Sunol Corporation Yard will be done according to LEED Gold Certification for Green Buildings and will be consistent with San Francisco green building requirements.

The SFPUC's preliminary Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project can be downloaded from <http://www.sf-planning.org/puccases>. The SF Planning Department will take public comments on the environmental review document **until March 20, 2015**.

**The Alameda Creek Alliance supports this project and concurs with the conclusions of no significant environmental impacts in the environmental review, given the mitigations proposed.**

## Countdown to Extinction – Bay Institute Action Alert

March is an important month for California – it marks the best chance to preserve four of our native species of the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary. Due to the extreme drought, the state has held back the March water flows that are critical for these fish to survive.

Let the State Water Resources Control Board know that relaxing Bay inflows in March could mean extinction for some of our native species. Take action through the Bay Institute's [alert](#).

## Regional Salmon Restoration News

### [Salmon Finding A Home In My Backyard – Could It Be?](#)

California WaterBlog – March 11, 2015

### [Worst American River Steelhead Run on Record Nears Dismal End](#)

Daily Kos – March 6, 2015

### [Fish, Out of Water](#)

Comstock - March 3, 2015

### [California Salmon Dodge Drought Bullet for Another Year](#)

Los Angeles Times - March 3, 2015

### [Klamath Salmon Numbers Strong In 2014](#)

Siskiyou Daily News - March 3, 2015

### [If Delta Salmon Die, They Could Take Orcas With Them](#)

KCET – March 3, 2015

### [Marin's Winter Coho Run Ends With A Thud](#)

Marin Independent-Journal – March 2, 2015

### [Three Restoration Grants Totaling \\$665,237 Go to Salmon Projects in Marin](#)

Indy Media – March 2, 2015

### [Defying Drought, Salmon Continue To Return To Mokelumne in Record Numbers](#)

Lodi News-Sentinel – February 27, 2015

### [Salmon Hold On, But Drought, Heat May Take Toll Next Year](#)

San Francisco Chronicle – February 27, 2015

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