

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

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

### **Maguire Peaks Hike This Sunday**



**[Note Updated Meeting Location]**

Join us for a late spring hike around Maguire Peaks in Sunol Regional Wilderness this Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8 am.

We'll host Theo Fitanides, manager of the California Native Plant Society's Native Here Nursery in Tilden, who will help us identify birds by sound in addition to lending his expertise on the native flora of the area.

We'll hike the Maguire Peaks Loop trail, accessing it via the Upper Maguire Peaks Trail. The entire trip is 6.4 miles, and we will have the option of a short side-trip to the peak itself. This hike contains plants that are rare in other areas of the park, and will treat us to views of San Antonio Reservoir. The Maguire Peaks Loop Trail itself is easy to moderate. The entire trip will take roughly 5 hours. This [webpage](#) has a map of the route we'll take, along with an elevation profile.

**UPDATE: Meet at 8 am at the Upper Maguire Peaks Trailhead (1.6 mile marker on Welch Creek Road) in Sunol** (Welch Creek Road is approximately 4 miles from the junction of I-680 and Calaveras Road). We've changed the meeting location due to closure of the lower trail. As a result, the hike will be about 1.5 miles longer than previously described, but with less total elevation gain.

Space is limited, so RSVP today. Additional information and free tickets can be found on our [Eventbrite page](#) for the hike.

## See the Epic Dam Removal Film in Niles July 24



Join the Alameda Creek Alliance for a special screening of [DamNation](#), the award-winning documentary about dam removal.

The event is Friday, July 24, from 7-9 pm at the [Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum](#), 37417 Niles Boulevard in Fremont.

Get your tickets today to view this powerful film odyssey across America that explores the sea change in our national attitude from pride in big dams as engineering wonders to the growing awareness that our own future is bound to the life and health of our rivers. Dam removal has moved beyond the fictional Monkey Wrench Gang to go mainstream. Where obsolete dams come down, rivers bound back to life, giving salmon and other wild fish the right of return to primeval spawning grounds, after decades without access. DamNation's majestic cinematography and unexpected discoveries move through rivers and landscapes altered by dams, but also through a metamorphosis in values, from conquest of the natural world to knowing ourselves as part of nature.

Watch the [trailer for DamNation](#)

**Tickets are only \$5 – buy your film ticket [here](#) via PayPal**

The screening is a benefit for the Alameda Creek Alliance.

The 87-minute film will be followed by a brief discussion of the progress on dam removal and fish passage projects in the Alameda Creek watershed and San Francisquito Creek in Palo Alto.

*Special guest:* Gordon Becker, Senior Scientist at the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration, will speak on the topic of Stanford University's Searsville Dam. Gordon is expert for the plaintiff in an Endangered Species Act lawsuit alleging harm to steelhead and other species from the dam and its operations. He will offer his observations on Stanford's track record regarding regulatory compliance and their proposed solutions to the problems presented by the dam and diversion.

## Update on Alameda Creek Adopted Site, Niles

Last week we had a great group of Girl Scouts and local high-school students from Pleasanton come out to help control invasive plants in the riparian (creekside) forest along Alameda Creek in Niles. Many areas that have been cleared of ivy are now covered with vigorous sprouts of native California grape (*Vitis californica*) with the native wild cucumber (*Marah sp.*) mixed in. The progress that we've made in enhancing habitat along Alameda Creek in Niles is really amazing, and a testament to our volunteers and the power of working together.



This hillside, once covered with ivy, is now full of California grape - a valuable native plant that provides food and cover for wildlife.



Stay tuned for fall work events at this and our other adopted site along Stonybrook Creek. We'd like to begin planting natives in areas that volunteers have cleared, and which are being re-invaded by annuals like fennel and poison hemlock. Keep your fingers crossed for rain this winter so that we can have a successful planting season, and come join us along the creek.

## Save Tesla Park from Off-road Vehicle Destruction



Carnegie State Vehicle Recreation Area has released a draft Environmental Impact Report for the expansion of off-road vehicles into Tesla Park in eastern Alameda County. Public comments are due by June 8.

Incredibly, the draft environmental review concludes that there are no significant impacts from ongoing off-road vehicle damage at Carnegie and claims there would be no impacts from opening 3,100 acres of Tesla Park to all types of off-road vehicle recreation. The state's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division is attempting to require no mitigation for the damage off-road vehicles will cause beyond their vague General Plan guidelines and some weak "best management practices."

You can view the environmental review documents [here](#)

Please submit comments opposing the draft EIR by June 8.

Written comments can go to:  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division  
c/o AECOM, attn. Carnegie SVRA General Plan  
2020 L Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95811

E-mail comments can go to:  
[carnegiedeircomments@gmail.com](mailto:carnegiedeircomments@gmail.com) and [dan.canfield@parks.ca.gov](mailto:dan.canfield@parks.ca.gov)

More information at [Save Tesla Park](#)

## Will the Next Oil Train Spill Be In Alameda Creek?

Don't let Alameda Creek be the site of the next oil train disaster.

Every day the oil industry sends millions of gallons of highly flammable crude oil through cities and towns across North America. Yet our rail system was never built for this dangerous cargo. There are already crude oil trains rolling through Niles Canyon and Fremont daily. The aging oil tanker cars are often laced in-between other freight cars, so that the railroads do not have to

disclose the cargo to the public. Now the oil industry is now poised to ramp up shipments of heavy tar sands and Bakken crude oil by rail from Canada to California refineries, five of which are in the Bay Area.

In the wake of the recent [West Virginia](#) and [Ontario oil train disasters](#), it has become clear that we need to protect our communities and environment against oil train derailments, spills and explosions.

A Phillips 66 rail project proposal is threatening to bring trains carrying 2.5 million gallons of toxic tar sands crude oil through the Bay Area each day. This could be in your backyard threatening public safety, health and the environment. The federal government predicts that in the next two decades [oil trains will derail an average of 10 times a year](#); a severe accident in a highly populated area could kill 200 people and cause \$6 billion in damage. A spill of tar sands crude into Alameda Creek would cause long-term contamination and be almost impossible to clean up.

Read the Green Party article: [Exploding Oil Trains in Fremont? What You Need To Know About the Oil Trains Slated for the Tri-Cities.](#)

Find out how close you are to a potential oil train explosion using the Forest Ethics [blast zone map](#)

Read the Center for Biological Diversity's report: [Runaway Risks: Oil Trains and the Government's Failure to Protect People, Wildlife and the Environment](#)

Sign the Center for Biological Diversity's online petition to [Keep Dangerous Oil Trains Out of California](#)

## **Regional Salmon Restoration News**

### **[Swimming Pool Owner Fouls San Pedro Creek, Kills Many Fish](#)**

Pacifica Riptide – May 27, 2015

### **[Fishermen Combat Drought's Salmon Impact: Thousands of Juvenile Fish Released into Nets at Pillar Point Harbor](#)**

San Mateo Daily Journal – May 22, 2015

### **[Drought Leaves No Water to Combat Salmon-Killing Klamath Parasite](#)**

Capital Press- May 21, 2015

### **[California's Glass Is Less Than Half Full, and Sacramento's Policies May Dilute Conservation Efforts](#)**

California Magazine – May 21, 2015

### **[A Fish Tale with a Dam Hero? Pulling Coho Salmon Back from the Brink in Russian River](#)**

California Magazine – May 13, 2015

### **[Flood Control 2.0](#)**

Bay Nature Magazine – May 12, 2015

### **[California's Current Water Crisis Is a Man-Made Phenomenon](#)**

The Core Report – May 11, 2015

### **[New Pact to Aid Yuba River Salmon](#)**

Appeal-Democrat – May 8, 2015

**[Governor Jerry Brown Tells Tunnels Critics to "Shut Up" As He Babbles About "Spaceship Earth"](#)**

Daily Kos – May 7, 2015

**[Diverse Coalition Negotiating Historic Venture to Reintroduce Salmon to North Yuba](#)**

YubaNet – May 7, 2015

**[Jerry Brown to Water Tunnels Critics: 'Shut Up'](#)**

Sacramento Bee – May 6, 2015

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