

Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

Sunol Water Recapture Project Meeting This Thursday

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission will hold a public information and scoping meeting on the proposed Alameda Creek Recapture Project this Thursday, July 9, at the Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main Street in Sunol, starting at 5:30 pm.

From 5:30 to 6:30 pm the SFPUC will provide an informational open house. Come to learn more about the proposed project from team members. At 6:30 pm the Planning Department will hold a public scoping meeting at the same location.

The proposed Alameda Creek Recapture Project would recapture water that infiltrates into a quarry pit in the Sunol Valley, in an amount equivalent to future water releases from Calaveras Reservoir and flows bypassed around the Alameda Creek Diversion Dam for steelhead trout restoration. The proposal to pump water from the quarry pit replaces a proposal to construct a dam or filter gallery in Alameda Creek to recapture the water.

The notice of preparation of an environmental impact report and a description of the project is [here](#).

Sunol Watershed Center Meeting – July 22

The SFPUC will share updates regarding the planned Sunol Watershed Center and the Sunol Yard renovations, on Wednesday, July 22, at 10 am. Meet at the Sunol Yard Conference Room, 505 Paloma Way in Sunol, adjacent to the water temple. For more info contact Betsy Rhodes of the SFPUC at blauppe@sflower.org

Movie and Wine Night in Niles - July 24



Only two weeks away! Join the Alameda Creek Alliance for a screening of the film [DAMNATION](#), the award-winning and inspiring documentary about dam removal. Friday, July 24, from 7-9 pm at the [Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum](#), 37417 Niles Boulevard in Fremont.

Watch the [trailer for DamNation](#)

Special guest Gordon Becker of CEMAR will speak after the film about the need to remove Stanford University's Searsville Dam to restore steelhead trout.

Tickets are only \$5 and benefit the Alameda Creek Alliance. Visit our [Upcoming Events](#) page to purchase advanced tickets. Seating is limited.

We need help with publicity. You can [download a poster for the movie event here](#) to be printed and posted at your favorite location or community billboard. Or you can email ralph@alamedacreek.org if you'd like hard copies to post or hand out.

Help Research to Identify and Protect Native Walnut Trees in the Alameda Creek Watershed



Did you know that Walnut Creek was named for the Northern California Black Walnut, the only species of walnut tree that grew in the Bay Area when the pioneers arrived in the 1800s? Today there are only three known old growth stands of this native tree left in California. Expensive genetic testing is required to identify whether a wild walnut tree is a native (*Juglans hindsii*), or if it is a hybridized orchard species, because they look quite the same.

The Native Northern California Black Walnut Conservation Project is partnering with U.C. Davis in a research study to do DNA testing to identify rare heritage native walnut trees throughout Contra Costa, Alameda and Napa Counties this summer. The project hopes to sample and DNA test up to 10 heritage Northern California Black Walnut specimens in the Alameda Creek watershed, including specimens in Livermore and a large heritage tree in Sunol that a dendrochronologist estimated to be at least 165 years old. Native status is assumed for trees 175 years or older.

The project will share information about native walnut trees to inform conservation planning and mitigation, and to foster proactive habitat restoration and educational outreach. They will also provide a local source of native nuts for propagation - heritage trees will provide the hardiest and best adapted native seed sources to support creek restoration projects for the benefit of fish and wildlife throughout our East Bay watersheds. Native walnut trees are best adapted to the climate and soils of California. They are more likely to survive the increasing climate fluctuations that are putting more stress on our ecosystems.

Help the Native Northern California Black Walnut Conservation Project crack this nut! You can help fund this important walnut research [here](#) or visit www.FriendsoftheCreeks.org for an informative slideshow and information about donation by mail.

Regional Salmon Restoration News

[*A Confusing, Compelling Wild Fish: Steelhead in the Delta*](#)

KCET - July 6, 2015

[*Groundwater \(Ab\)use In the Scott Valley*](#)

YouTube video by Klamath Media – July 6, 2015

[*Drought Sends U.S. Water Agency Back to Drawing Board*](#)

New York Times – July 5, 2015

[*California's 50,000 Pot Farms Are Sucking Rivers Dry*](#)

Scientific American – July 3, 2015

[*The Drought's Scapegoat*](#)

East Bay Express – July 1, 2015

[*Making Rivers Flow Uphill*](#)

KCET – June 26, 2015

[*Damming the Chinook to Near-Extinction*](#)

KCET – June 25, 2015

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