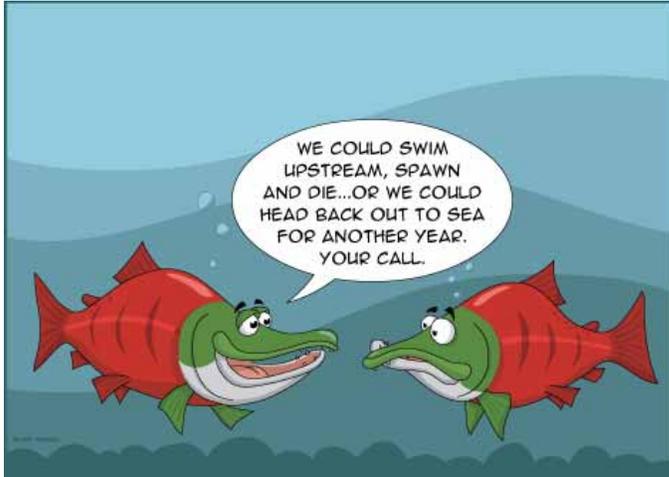


# Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

## Happy New Year!



## Alameda Creek Diversion Dam Fish Ladder Update

As of December 2016, the SFPUC had completed 30% of a fish passage project at the Alameda Creek Diversion Dam in upper Alameda Creek. The SFPUC is modifying the Alameda Creek Diversion Tunnel's intake structure, constructing a fish ladder and installing fish screens to allow for future steelhead trout migration into and out of the upper Alameda Creek watershed. Major construction on the fish ladder will begin early next year and project completion is expected in fall of 2018.





## Watch for Fish in Alameda Creek

With the recent winter storms, stream flow in Alameda Creek is high enough for steelhead trout to try to migrate upstream through the flood control channel in lower Alameda Creek. Please keep an eye out at the BART weir in Fremont and other portions of the flood control channel for steelhead after winter storms.

Adult steelhead have typically been seen in the lower creek from January through early March, trying to ascend the BART weir after a major storm on the declining end of the hydrograph, typically when the stream flow is about 200 to 400 cubic feet/second (cfs). You can check the current Alameda Creek stream flow on the web in [lower Niles Canyon](#) and in the [flood control channel in Union City](#). See our web page on [what to do if you spot fish in the creek](#).

## Next Alameda Creek Restoration Day – **January 21**



Volunteer with the Alameda Creek Alliance for a morning of habitat restoration along Alameda Creek, on Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 am to noon, at the Niles Staging Area in Fremont. Meet at 10 am at the Niles Staging Area Parking lot along Old Canyon Road near Canyon Oaks Court in the Niles area of Fremont (roughly 720 Old Canyon Rd), and we'll work until noon. Visit our [Eventbrite page](#) for more information.

We'll be clearing invasive plants, planting native shrubs and plants, and doing some general cleaning around our adopted restoration site. This continues past work by ACA volunteers, and your efforts will enhance habitat for fish and wildlife along Alameda Creek for years to come. Please wear long pants and sturdy, closed-toe shoes that can get dirty (no sandals or flip-flops). We provide gloves and tools. The work isn't on much of a slope, but the ground can be uneven. The ground will likely be wet, so please wear clothes that can get dirty. There is no poison oak in the immediate area where we'll be working. Expect cool weather and morning dew when we start. Heavy rain cancels.

All participants need signed waiver forms ([one for the ACA](#) and [one for Alameda County](#)), and anyone under 18 needs a parental signature.

**Save the date for future workdays in Niles Canyon:**

Sunday, February 12th, 2017 (10am-12pm)

Saturday, March 11th 2017 (10am-12pm)

## Other Local Volunteer Opportunities

You can help restore the Stanley Reach of Arroyo Mocho with the Living Arroyos project. Living Arroyos is working to enhance and maintain the urban streams and streamside habitats of the Livermore-Amador Valleys. Their next volunteer workday will be Saturday, January 7th from 9 am to noon at the Stanley Reach (10 Rockrose Street, Livermore). Visit the [Living Arroyos volunteer page](#) for more information.

The Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition is looking for volunteer docents for Coyote Creek. Docents will train with a professional naturalist to learn about the ecology, wildlife and plants of the Coyote Creek watershed. Docents lead educational walks for school groups and the general public. The first walk will be on January 21, 2017 in the North Coyote Creek area (in North San Jose). Contact [coyotecreek@calnature.org](mailto:coyotecreek@calnature.org) or (510) 621-3147 to learn more.

## Should the Livermore Aquifer Be Used As An Oil Waste Dump?



Tell local and state officials not to give an exemption to the Safe Drinking Water Act for oil operators to inject waste into a Livermore Aquifer.

A hearing is set for January 11 on allowing oil waste injection into an aquifer near Alameda County's only operating oil field, on Patterson Pass Road east of Livermore. Alameda County's fracking ban, approved in 2016, includes exceptions designed for this small Livermore Oil Field. This oil field pumps up oil mixed with water, removes the oil, and re-injects the water into an aquifer below those currently used to supply drinking water.

The [Center for Biological Diversity is questioning approval](#), arguing that water could migrate beyond the proposed boundaries. They also point out that E&B Natural Resources, which operates the field, was cited by Alameda County in 2015 for improper disposal of hazardous waste. State records show the company had at least 31 spills in California in the past 10 years.

The hearing will be at 5 pm on January 11 at the Livermore City Council Chambers, 3575 Pacific Avenue, in Livermore. Comments may be submitted before January 25 to the Department of Conservation at: [comments@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:comments@conservation.ca.gov) (Subject: Aquifer Exemption, Livermore Oil Field) or by mail to Department of Conservation, 801 K Street, MS 18-05, Sacramento, CA 95814 ATTN: Aquifer Exemption.

## Regional Salmon Restoration News

### [California Salmon on the Brink of Disaster](#)

Santa Rosa Press-Democrat – January 1, 2017

### [Record Numbers of Salmon Are Spawning In Putah Creek](#)

Davis Enterprise – December 28, 2016

### [Trump, Water Policy and California: Big Changes Coming?](#)

San Diego Union-Tribune – December 27, 2016

### [Rain Prompts Return of Coho Salmon in Marin County](#)

KRON4 – December 26, 2017

### [Dead Redwoods Felled To Restore Salmon Habitat in Lagunitas Creek](#)

CBS – December 24, 2016

### [Lagunitas Creek Wayfarers Reconnoiter for Elusive Coho](#)

Marin Independent-Journal – December 24, 2016

### [With Environmental Review Finalized, Could Construction on the Delta Tunnels Begin in 2018?](#)

Sacramento Bee – December 22, 2016

### [Pot a Growing Barrier to Spawning California Salmon](#)

Auburn Journal – December 22, 2016

### [Feinstein Betrays Salmon, Fishing Jobs, Coastal Communities](#)

Eureka Times-Standard - December 22, 2016

### [Doubling Down on the Broken Promise of Fish Hatcheries](#)

Patagonia blog - December 12, 2016

**[California Now Must Take the Lead on Environmental Protections for Salmon](#)**

San Francisco Chronicle – December 12, 2016

**[Congress Approves Water Bill with Feinstein's Environmentally Destructive Rider](#)**

YubaNet – December 12, 2016

**[Salmon Return High Up Sonoma Creek](#)**

Santa Rosa Press-Democrat – December 8, 2016

**[California Drought Bill Victory Could Be Short-Lived: Sen. Barbara Boxer Pledges Filibuster as One of Her Last Acts](#)**

Los Angeles Times – December 8, 2016

**[As Boxer Retires, Feinstein Sells Out the Delta](#)**

San Jose Mercury News editorial - December 8, 2016

**[House Passes Water Bill Seen As Threat to Delta Fish](#)**

Easy Bay Times – December 8, 2016

**[Boxer Slams Water Bill Rider Backed By Feinstein](#)**

San Francisco Chronicle – December 5, 2016

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