

## Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

### Next Alameda Creek Restoration Day – February 12

Join us for a morning of habitat restoration along Alameda Creek in lower Niles Canyon. We'll continue clearing invasive plants this month, and do some general cleaning around our 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!

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 directions and more information.

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 our next workday in Niles Canyon: Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (10 am to 12 pm)**



### High Flow in Alameda Creek – Watch for Fish

Stream flow in lower Alameda Creek in the flood control channel has been consistently about 2,000 cubic feet per second for the last couple weeks. Water is being bypassed at the Calaveras Dam construction site and flows are also being released from Del Valle Reservoir. The flow releases are likely to continue for another couple weeks. Mid- to late-February when the flows start to come down may be the best time to locate steelhead trout in the lower creek at the BART weir. You can monitor the stream flow of Alameda Creek in lower Niles Canyon [here](#).

### Two Important Fish Passage Projects Completed Along Stonybrook Creek

The Stonybrook Creek Crossings and Fish Passage Improvement Project is completed! The project was led by The Alameda County Resource Conservation District, in partnership with the Alameda County Public Works Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Zone 7 Water Agency and the EPA. The project removed and modified two known fish migration barriers in Stonybrook Creek, which runs alongside Palomares Road, and



opened up quality trout spawning and rearing habitat in Stonybrook Canyon to migrating fish.

The project addressed the aging masonry culvert at MP 8.60 along Palomares Road in Alameda County and improved fish passage conditions within Stonybrook Creek. The project included the retrofit of an existing County-owned culvert (at milepost 8.75) and a full bridge replacement (at milepost 8.60) to address public safety and improve access for native fish, including landlocked rainbow trout and anadromous steelhead. At MP 8.75 the stream was re-graded to remove a boulder back up at the inlet of the culvert and installing 22 concrete baffles to make fish passage possible through the culvert. At MP 8.60 the project included a full replacement of the bridge, removal of the grouted masonry channel to restore the creek bed to a natural channel bottom. At both locations the stream was re-graded to restore the natural channel grade and morphology by reshaping the channel bed to form boulder step pool and cascade features.



You can see before and after photos of Stonybrook Creek in the project area [here](#)

## Sinbad Creek Monitoring Meeting a Success

Thanks to all those who came out recently to hear about Sinbad Creek and upcoming stewardship opportunities along the creek in Sunol. We've started our monitoring program, which will continue into the spring. Our goal is to collect baseline information for Sinbad Creek and to observe how it's changing over time. We have plans to monitor macro invertebrates (aquatic insects) that live in the creek, monitor water temperature and flow of Sinbad Creek, measure bacteria, and address concerns with invasive plants.



E-mail Ralph Boniello ([ralph@alamedacreek.org](mailto:ralph@alamedacreek.org)) if you'd like to be added to the Sinbad Creek Stewards e-mail list. We'll use this list to focus on issues specific to Sinbad Creek and to our activities there.

## Fish and Game Considers Action on Local Endangered and Invasive Species

The State Fish and Game Commission, which rotates meetings around the state, meets February 8-9 in Rohnert Park. The meeting also will be live-streamed at [www.cal-span.org](http://www.cal-span.org). The [agenda](#) for Feb. 8 includes declaring the Livermore tarplant (right) a state endangered species, plus discussing a possible ban on importing invasive non-native turtles and American bullfrogs (which are harmful to native wildlife), sought by the [Center for Biological Diversity](#) and [Save the Frogs](#). The Commission has see-sawed on the ban for years. Rules for comments are [here](#).



## Regional Salmon Restoration News

[\*Endangered Chinook Salmon Return to Marsh Creek After Decades\*](#)

East Bay Times - January 19, 2017

[\*Study Questions Stanislaus Releases for Salmon in Fall\*](#)

Modesto Bee – January 19, 2017

[\*Uncertainty over How Recent Storms Impacted Salmon Population\*](#)

Capital Public Radio - January 16, 2017

[\*Retired Warden Says Salmon Planted In Green Valley Creek\*](#)

Solano Daily Republic - January 14, 2017

[\*California's Recent Storms Are Devastating Endangered Salmon\*](#)

San Francisco Chronicle – January 13, 2017

[\*'Salmon' In Green Valley Creek Cause Quite a Splash\*](#)

Solano Daily Republic - January 11, 2017

[\*Record Number of Salmon Enter Putah Creek\*](#)

Capital Public Radio - January 6, 2017

[\*Quit Your Bellyaching and Restore the San Joaquin River\*](#)

Sacramento Bee opinion – January 6, 2017

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