

Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

Urgent – Support Protection of Huge N3 Ranch near Livermore



The 50,500 acre N3 Ranch, located south of Livermore, is being offered for sale for \$72 million. This huge cattle ranch covers 12% of the entire Alameda Creek watershed and contains significant wildlife habitat. Much of the property is located in watersheds that supply water to Alameda County Water District customers, and is above critical water supply facilities, including Lake Del Valle, Calaveras Reservoir, and Alameda Creek. This is the largest land sale in California. It is a critical opportunity to protect this land from development.

You can watch a [video](#) to get an overview of this spectacular ranch.

Read the July 9 San Jose Mercury News article, [51,000-Acre Bay Area Cattle Ranch Goes Up for Sale](#)

The Alameda County Water District (ACWD) is considering purchasing the N3 Ranch in its entirety, to protect a sizable portion of its watershed for generations to come.

The ACWD District Board of Directors will hold a special meeting this Thursday, October 17, to discuss the N3 Ranch sale. The meeting will be at 4:00 pm in the ACWD Multi-Purpose Room at 43885 South Grimmer Boulevard, Fremont. The meeting will discuss the potential merits of ACWD acquiring an ownership share in the N3 Ranch Property, and ACWD's interest in water supply, water quality, and watershed protection. Other topics include the potential establishment of a mitigation land bank, existing and potential future water resources-related facilities, partnering with other parties, costs, financial implications, water rates, and other related issues. The meeting notice is [here](#).

Please attend the ACWD meeting this Thursday October 17 and speak in favor of ACWD purchasing this property! If you cannot attend the meeting, please email the Board of Directors and indicate your support. You can contact the ACWD Directors [here](#).

ACWD purchasing this ranch would have many public benefits, in addition to protecting the water supply and the watershed from development. 80% of the ranch is located in the Alameda Creek watershed. ACWD could open up the property to hiking, camping, and recreation for the general public. This could be done through a partnership with East Bay Regional Parks District under a similar model to how ACWD now operates Quarry Lakes Park. Partnerships could be made with other agencies on a case by case basis after ACWD purchases the property.

Finances: The property could be financed with 30-year bond, which could then be issued as a green bond. In the long run this property would become an appreciating asset for ACWD. Financing could include 1% additions to forecasted ACWD rate increases over five years, or use some of the district's

\$10M rate stabilization fund, or a combination of both. The N3 Ranch is currently being offered at about \$1,425 per acre. If the land was sold with the possibility of future development, it would most likely sell for \$5,000 - \$10,000 per acre.

Regional Salmon Restoration News

[*Chinook Salmon Flocking to Revitalized San Joaquin River*](#)

Courthouse News Service - October 8, 2019

[*Trump Administration Surrenders to California, Backs Off on Delta Water Fight*](#)

Sacramento Bee - October 2, 2019

[*Marin Salmon Advocates Sue County over Habitat 'Neglect'*](#)

Marin Independent-Journal - September 30, 2019

[*Lawsuit Challenges Marin County's Inadequate Protections for Endangered Coho Salmon*](#)

Center for Biological Diversity press release - September 27, 2019

[*A New California Fight against Trump over Water, Fish, the Delta and the Environment*](#)

Sacramento Bee - September 25, 2019

[*Governor Newsom Says He Will Veto Bill Blocking Trump Rollback of Endangered Fish Species Protections*](#)

CounterPunch - September 17, 2019

[*Tire Melt in Salmon Stream?*](#)

Estuary Newsletter - September 2019

[*The Klamath River Basin is Headed Toward Disaster. Here's How We Can Save It.*](#)

Sacramento Bee - September 17, 2019

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