

Group Aims to Bring Steelhead Back to Arroyo Mocho

An organization called Friends of Arroyo Mocho is being organized with the goal of restoring steelhead to the waterway.

The Alameda Creek Alliance is initiating the formation of two local creek protection groups. One is Arroyo Mocho. The other is Stonybrook Creek along Palomares Road. Both have been identified as potential restoration sites for steelhead, containing suitable spawning and rearing habitat. They

also contain populations of native rainbow trout.

The county has conducted a study into the feasibility of restoring steelhead. One of the conclusions of the study is that steelhead can be restored to the upper reaches of Arroyo Mocho, if the fish can make it through Arroyo de la Laguna in Pleasanton and up the Arroyo Mocho through Livermore.

Alameda Creek Alliance mem-

bers plan to contact landowners, mainly ranchers, along the upper arroyo with help from the Alameda County Resource and Conservation District. The goal will be to do habitat assessment and monitoring.

There are also plans to work with the county on modifying drop structures. These are barriers which have been built across the stream at the confluence of Arroyo Mocho and Arroyo de la Laguna and at Stanley

Blvd. They are believed to be acting as barriers to fish migration.

The new Friends of Arroyo Mocho plans to oppose construction of an inflatable rubber dam proposed by Zone 7 for flood control. In addition, they will work to ensure that further sections of the arroyo are not channelized.

For additional information, call Jeff Miller at 510-845-4675.

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