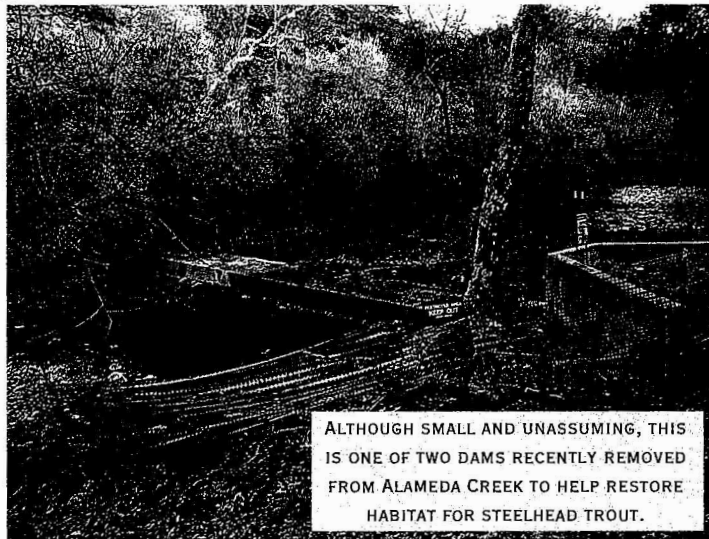


JEFF MILLER



ALTHOUGH SMALL AND UNASSUMING, THIS IS ONE OF TWO DAMS RECENTLY REMOVED FROM ALAMEDA CREEK TO HELP RESTORE HABITAT FOR STEELHEAD TROUT.

## Success Stories – Dam Removal in California

In Alameda County, a small citizens group saw a big victory for steelhead restoration. The Alameda Creek Alliance recently helped prompt the removal of two small dams on Alameda Creek in the Sunol Regional Wilderness Area. The creek empties into San Francisco Bay south of Hayward.

These dams – originally built to create ponds for summertime swimmers – were no more than five-foot-high, but they blocked steelhead passage at all but the highest stream flows. This past August, the local park district threw a huge celebration to celebrate the dams' de-construction. Participants, speakers, and sledgehammer swingers included state Resources Secretary, Mary Nichols, and representatives from San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission, Friends of the River, and many others. Within weeks of the celebration, the dams were completely removed.

But this is only the beginning for the Alliance. The group also has targeted two other dams for removal: Niles and Sunol. These structures could be removed as early as next year, in a dam removal effort that will likely cost several million dollars. Niles Dam, a ten foot-high structure, was built in the 1850's to supply water to the Vallejo Flour Mill. Sunol Dam is a 28-foot-high structure, built in 1898 for water storage. When these dams are removed, steelhead fish will have a clear path to swim for miles upstream.

The creek group also is pushing for the removal of the Alameda Diversion Dam, which is approximately 35 feet high. Removing the dam would allow fish passage upstream more than 20 miles from the bay.

When asked about the success of his steelhead restoration program, Jeff Miller of the Alliance said, "Well, it's a good time to be a fish in Fremont." For more information, or to find out how you can get involved, call Jeff Miller at the Alameda Creek Alliance at (510) 845-4675 or email him at [alamedacreek@hotmail.com](mailto:alamedacreek@hotmail.com).

