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Just keep swimming: ACWD opens fish ladder

"Since 1914, our mission has been to get past all financial-related and political barriers to protect water, which is our most precious resource, and to educate those around us about the importance of ecosystems and how our actions not only impact that of other species but our own," says ACWD General Manager Ed Stevenson.

When construction of the ladder was first proposed in 1997, species such as the steelhead trout (known mostly for its famous variant the "Rainbow trout") and Chinook salmon were categorically registered as "threatened species." This led Stevenson, Miller and other leaders such as ACWD Board of Directors President John Weed to mobilize, lobby and raise the millions of dollars needed to facilitate the ladder's construction.

"With so much despair already on people's minds when it comes to the topic

of climate change, it's refreshing and inspiring to see something actionable and positive come out of those concerns like this ladder," said California Coastal Conservancy Executive Officer Amy Hutzel at the ceremony.

Following the ribbon cutting, guests were invited to sign up for guided tours of the ladder while also enjoying complimentary water, snacks, free ACWD reusable water bottles and music. Despite the massive attendance and enthusiasm for the event, ACWD and Alameda Creek Alliance's mission for environmental preservation and restoration is far from over.

"Our job is the effective and responsible management of water, and we hope that with events like these, our local stakeholders not only see their tax dollars actively working to save a species of wildlife but we hope to shed light on the

interconnectedness of ecosystems. Our daily actions, from how often we water our lawns to what we allow to enter storm drains, all tie back to the survival of our species and others," concludes Stevenson.

Miller, who attended the ribbon-cutting wearing a t-shirt listing the species of fish

benefiting from the ladder, was also moved by the opening. "It's a good day to be a fish in Fremont."



ACWD General Manager Ed Stevenson speaks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Lower Alameda Creek fish ladder.



Alameda Creek Alliance Executive Director Jeff Miller speaks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony wearing a shirt listing the endangered species of fish that the ladder is saving. Miller also presents a plaque in memory of close friend and fellow activist Gordon Becker.

Jack in the Box to pilot Miso Robotics' Flippy

THE ROBOT REPORT

By BRIANNA WESSLING

Miso Robotics has partnered with Jack in the Box. Miso

Robotics will be installing its Flippy 2 and Sippy products at one of the chain's standalone locations to free up workers and allow them to focus on customer-facing tasks. Jack in

the Box will be testing the integration of the robots and the benefits of a connected kitchen.

"Beginning our journey with a premier brand like Jack in the Box is an enormous step in our commitment to helping restaurants increase throughput, reduce costs and create a safer environment for their staff," Mike Bell, CEO of Miso Robotics, said. "From tacos and curly fries to fountain sodas, the future is now for Jack in the Box, and we are ecstatic to serve as the company's technological arm to assure a quality product gets into its customers' hands every time they order."

Flippy 2 is a frying robot capable of handling about 60 frying baskets per hour, according to the company. It's

the latest model of the Flippy robot, and it includes upgrades like automatic dispensing and AutoBin options. AutoBin can handle specialty foods like onion rings and chicken tenders with customizable bins. Flippy 2 is also more compact than previous versions of the robot, making it easier to fit into small kitchens.

Sippy is the company's automatic beverage dispenser and sealer. The robot moves cups along a fully automatic conveyor, and dispenses precise amounts of ice and beverages into each one. It groups cups by orders and seals them with an airtight seal.

"This collaboration with Miso Robotics is a stepping stone for our back-of-house restaurant operations. We are confident that this technology will be a good fit to support our growing business

needs with intentions of having a positive impact on our operations while promoting safety and comfort to our team members," Tony Darden, chief operating officer at Jack in the Box, said. "We are looking forward to testing Flippy 2 as our new hire at our San Diego location!"

Miso Robotics' Flippy 2 is currently being deployed at 100 White Castle restaurants across the U.S. The company announced in February 2022 that White Castle has decided to expand its partnership that began in 2020 with Miso Robotics' first deployment with the company.

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Miso Robotics' Flippy and Sippy are being deployed at a Jack in the Box restaurant. Credit: Miso Robotics



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