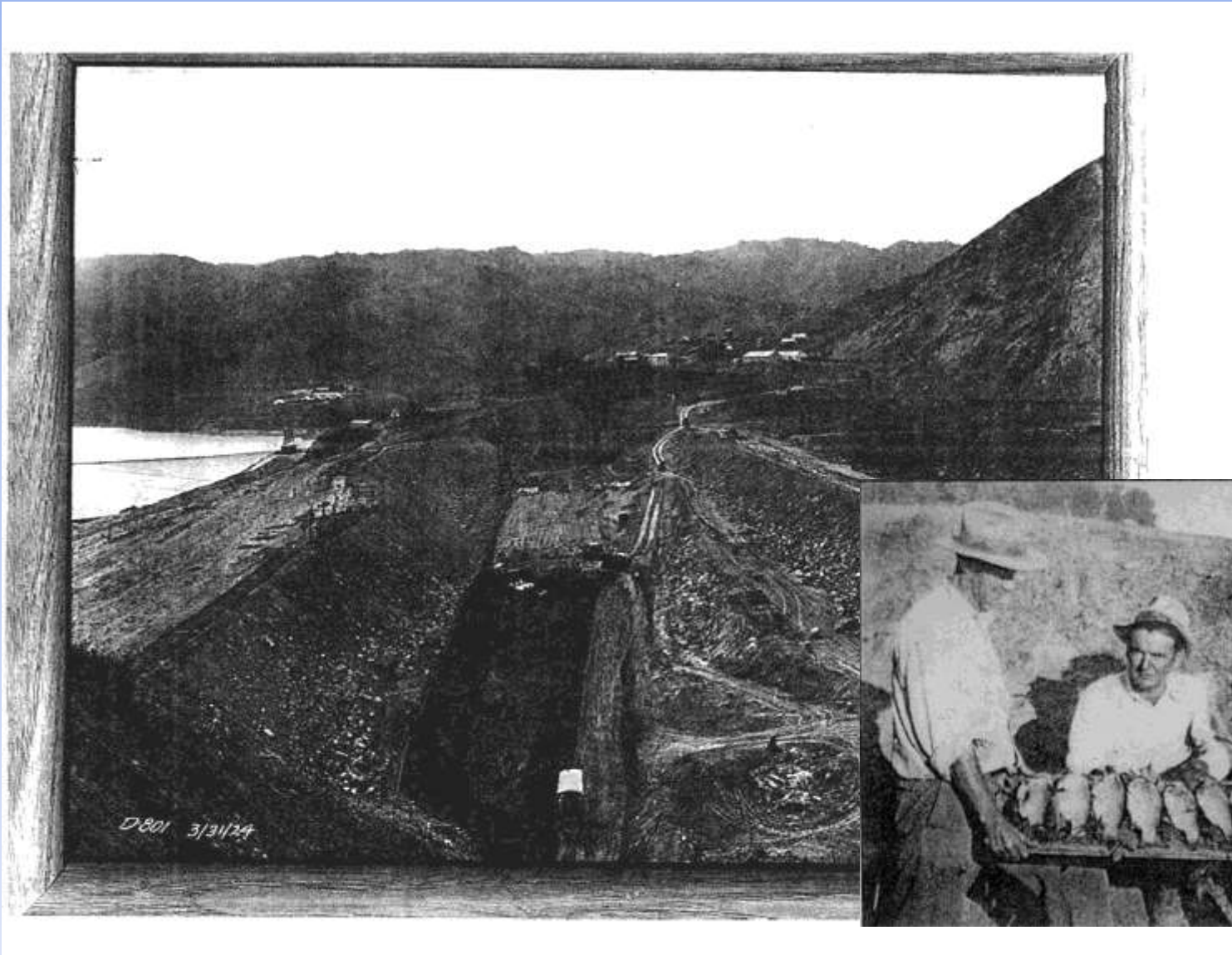


Gaining Momentum for Alameda Creek Restoration



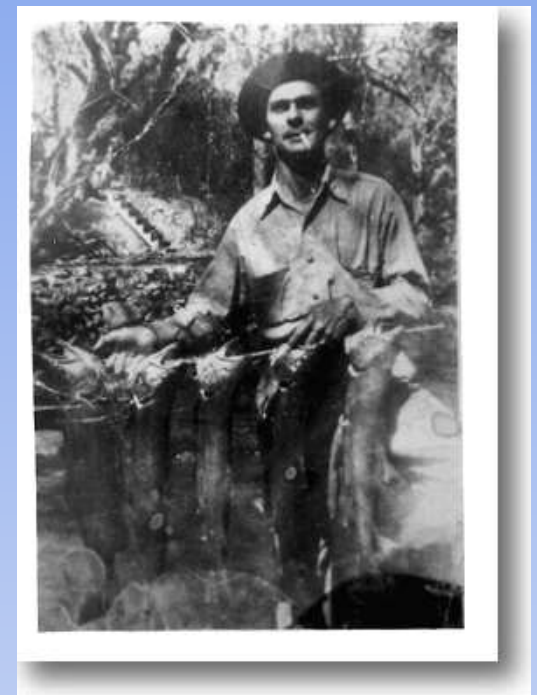
1916 – Calaveras Reservoir



1930 Alameda Diversion Dam



1960s – End of Salmon and Steelhead Runs



1965 - San Antonio Reservoir



1960s – Flood Control Channel



1972 - BART Weir Fish Barrier



State of California

The Resources Agency

Memorandum

To : Files - Alameda Creek, Alameda County

Date: December 3, 1975
*Sub
12/10/75*

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: Steelhead Restoration Policy for Alameda Creek, Alameda County

On June 17, 1975 regional personnel representing WLP and IF functions met with the Regional Manager to discuss our management policy regarding steelhead restoration on Alameda Creek. This meeting was prompted in part by my memorandum report on subject dated March 22, 1975.

Following a comprehensive discussion, the Regional Manager stated:

1. Region 3 will not actively promote steelhead restoration on Alameda Creek at this time. There is little public expression of interest on the subject and no expression of interest from the water agencies in the basin.
2. Options are open for a change in this position if general support for steelhead restoration grows within the public sector and water agencies.
3. The major difficulty facing restoration is the current management policies and operational procedures of the water agencies that control streamflow within the drainage.

Keith R. Anderson

Keith R. Anderson
Associate Fishery Biologist
Central Fishery District
Region 3

KRA:nw

1975 – CDFG Abandons Alameda Creek

1970s – 1980s Rubber Dams



D R A F T

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

for

FABRIDAM #2

FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

Prepared by

ENVIRON

planners - engineers - architects

2551 Merced Street

San Leandro, California

for

ALAMEDA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

38050 Fremont Boulevard

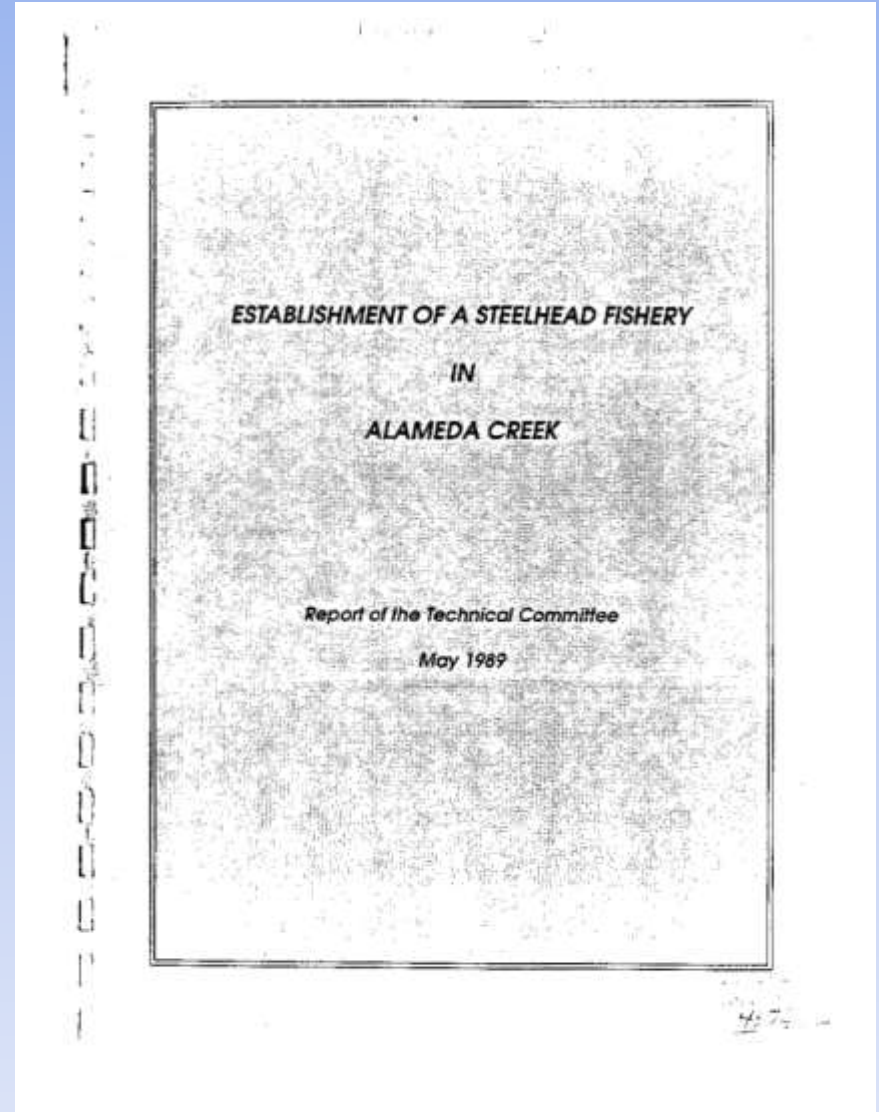
Fremont, California 94536

March 1974

1983–1989 Advisory Committee



**friends of
Alameda Creek**



1990s Water Board Lawsuits



1997 Flows Agreement

SFPUC estimates 86% of stream flows in upper Alameda Creek are diverted for water supply

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
AND
THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REGARDING WATER RELEASE AND RECAPTURE FACILITIES
FOR PURPOSES OF IMPROVING NATIVE FISHERIES
ON ALAMEDA AND CALAVERAS CREEKS

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into as of _____ 1997 by and between the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).

RECITALS

- A. The CDFG is responsible for protecting, managing and enhancing fish and wildlife resources of the State.
- B. The SFPUC supplies water for domestic, municipal and industrial uses to over 2 million people in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda Counties.
- C. In a letter complaint to the State Water Resources Control board (SWRCB) dated September 25, 1990, the organization California Trout (Cal Trout) contended that (1) the SFPUC lacked sufficient water rights to store water in Calaveras Reservoir in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties; (2) the SFPUC's failure to release water from Calaveras Reservoir violated section 5937 of the California Fish and Game Code; and (3) the SFPUC diverted water in an unreasonable manner from Calaveras Reservoir, pursuant to Article X, section 2 of the California Constitution.
- D. On May 1, 1991, the SFPUC submitted evidence to the SWRCB of its pre-1914 appropriative water right for Calaveras Dam, and the SWRCB accepted this evidence as sufficient to establish the SFPUC's water right on a *prima facie* basis.
- E. In an attempt to settle the operational aspects of the Cal Trout complaint, the SFPUC agreed to fund a study (the Alameda Creek Water Resources Study) to determine the reasonableness of delivering a portion of the water stored at Calaveras Reservoir via the stream channel of Calaveras and Alameda Creeks, with the primary goal being to improve fishery conditions while recapturing all of the water released for consumptive use.
- F. The SFPUC has completed the Alameda Creek Water Resources Study, and has determined that water may be released from Calaveras Reservoir for the improvement of native

1997



Alameda Creek Alliance

Alliance seeks to bring back 'wild fish' to Alameda Creek

Tribune

Water district says cost is too high

By Kristin Butler
STAFF WRITER 10/24/97

FREMONT — Environmentalists have started a movement to bring wild king salmon and steelhead trout back to Alameda Creek. But water district officials say the effort would cost too much and deplete local water supplies.

The newly formed activist group — the Alameda Creek Alliance — will hold its first meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday to discuss strategies for bringing the fish back.

"We used to have runs of tens of thousands of fish," said environmental activist Jeff Miller. "These are big, wild fish, and all over the Pacific Coast they are in decline."

The fish — which must migrate between fresh and salt water to survive — are cousin to the freshwater rainbow trout now found in the creek.

Because they must migrate so far, their populations have been destroyed by water district diversion projects, urbanization, cattle grazing, and the building of dams for the Calaveras, San Antonio and Del Valle reservoirs, Miller said.

The steelhead has declined so much that it was listed as a threatened species by the federal government this year. The wild king salmon — once thought to be extinct from the area — were seen last No-



STEPHEN J. PRINGLE

Activists with the Alameda Creek Alliance will meet to devise a plan to bring wild salmon and steelhead back to Fremont's Alameda Creek.

vember trying to scale a dam near the BAIC tracks in Fremont.

Environmentalists say they hope these factors will bring money and support to their effort.

But, this is not the first time people tried to bring the fish back.

In 1989, officials from the Alameda County Water District, the San Francisco Water Department, the East Bay Regional Water District and the California Department of Fish and Game studied the possibility of bringing the fish back to the creek.

The group considered ideas such as annually releasing extra water from several reservoirs above Alameda Creek so young fish could make it to the Bay, building fish ladders and removing temporary dams to help

mature fish travel back upstream. But they decided such a project would cost too much.

"The value of the water alone in 1989 would be \$1.5 million a year," said Paul Pringle of the Alameda County Water District. In addition, wild steelhead and king salmon could interfere with the survival of the 20,000 to 30,000 freshwater rainbow trout that water and parks districts stock the creek with every year, he said.

But such farmed fish should not replace the wild species, said naturalist Joanne Dean-Fremont.

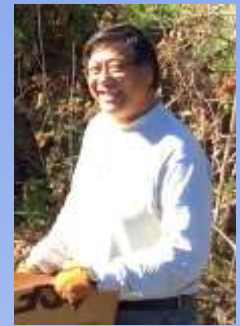
"There is a basic need for nature to be there for us," she said. "With every species we lose, every place we lose it is a little poorer."

For information about the alliance, call 476-6518.

**There is
no
magic
bullet!**



Organizing



Documenting Steelhead



Advocacy

Press Release — Alameda Creek Alliance — June 2, 2005

68 BAY AREA CONSERVATION GROUPS CALL FOR SAN FRANCISCO TO RESTORE ALAMEDA CREEK

Stream Flows, Dam Removal Requested to Restore Fish Runs



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 2, 2005

CONTACT:

Jeff Miller (510) 499-9185
Alameda Creek Alliance

Sunol, CA – While the City of San Francisco hosts a United Nations “Green Cities” conference this week, 68 Bay Area conservation groups are calling on the City’s water agency to improve its stewardship of local watershed lands and restore Alameda Creek in southeastern San Francisco Bay. The Alameda Creek Alliance (ACA) and over 60 other environmental and fishing groups sent a letter today to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), which manages 36,800 acres of public land and operates three dams in the upper Alameda Creek watershed. The groups are requesting that the SFPUC restore stream flows in Alameda Creek sufficient to sustain steelhead and rainbow trout, protect rare fish populations in SFPUC reservoirs, remove a diversion facility that limits steelhead restoration, and abandon plans to construct a new dam in the Sunol Valley reach of Alameda Creek.

“A city is only as ‘green’ as the manner in which it stewards the natural areas which provide its resources,” stated Jeff Miller, Director of the ACA. “After 90 years of water diversions from Alameda Creek, it time for San Francisco to come to the table with a commitment to provide suitable stream flow for fish and wildlife below their diversion dams.”

The SFPUC diverts 86% of natural stream flows tributary to upper Alameda Creek into Calaveras and San Antonio Reservoirs for water supply. Alameda Creek Diversion Dam (ACDD), completed in the 1930s, also diverts water into Calaveras Reservoir from upper Alameda Creek. The groups are asking the SFPUC to abide by state Fish and Game Codes requiring sufficient instream flows to sustain steelhead trout and other native fish in good condition, without impacting other river systems, specifically the Tuolumne River. The SFPUC signed an agreement in 1997 to release minimal flows from Calaveras Reservoir to restore about five miles of Alameda Creek in the Sunol Valley, but to date has not released any water. The groups also want the SFPUC to:

Implement an interim operation plan to protect steelhead and rainbow trout and their habitat (including providing instream flows, excluding cattle from streams, and controlling predaceous bass in reservoirs), prior to the rebuilding of Calaveras Dam, which is scheduled to be completed in 2011;

Cease operation of and remove the ACDD, which captures virtually all stream flow from upper Alameda Creek and is a barrier to steelhead migration into the headwaters of Alameda Creek; and

Abandon efforts to construct an unnecessary water recapture dam in the Sunol Valley (the so-called “Alameda Creek Fishery Enhancement Project”), at a savings of \$17.5 million.

The SFPUC is planning to spend at least \$3.4 billion on their Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) to seismically retrofit the system’s pipelines and other infrastructure. WSIP projects include replacing Calaveras

The Daily Review

Hayward, California

THURSDAY
March 12, 1998

San Gilroy of the National Marine Fisheries Service struggles with a long fight to Alameda Creek Wednesday as he and others try to recapture a school of steelhead trout.

By Bob A. Lawrence



Endangered trout may make comeback

Steelhead school seen in Alameda Creek

By Kristin Butler
Staff Writer

FREMONT — About a dozen steelhead trout were spotted trying to scale a concrete weir to Alameda Creek Wednesday afternoon, suggesting that the threatened species is trying to make a comeback in local waters.

The fish were found by several state and federal officials, who were starting the creek to design a fish ladder for the area near the BART tracks and Fremont Boulevard. Steelhead have been spotted above or in past outwading operations in the creek at least three times since November, but never in such large numbers.

Environmentalists say the latest sighting proves the steelhead are trying to swim up Alameda Creek from the bay to the spawning grounds. They favored diversion ago but the weir and several additional dams used to collect drinking water now alter the flow and bar the way for fish outwading operations.

Swimming is believing

“This, for us, is the proof — a sign — that a number of steel head are trying to swim the system,” said Jeff Miller, co-director with the Alameda Creek Alliance, a group of local environmentalists and fishermen who have been fighting to restore steelhead and

salmon runs to the creek for more than a year.

Regulatory agencies, including the Alameda County Water District, say they are already carrying out measures to protect the fish.

Keeping an eye out

For example, the Alameda County Water District is training employees to look for fish before releasing the flows and to contact the parks district when fish need to be rescued, General Manager Paul Pirovano said.

But officials have also expressed concerns that changes needed to help the steelhead could jeopardize local water supplies. They say the Alameda County Water District

Photo: See Steelhead, NEWS 8

Drama





Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup



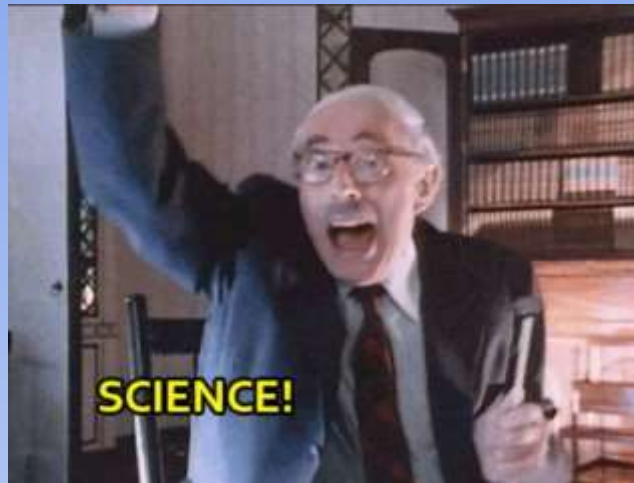
CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

ALAMEDA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
& USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



US Army Corps of Engineers





An Assessment of the Potential for Restoring a Viable Steelhead
Trout Population in the Alameda Creek Watershed

prepared for the

Alameda Creek
Fisheries Restoration Workgroup

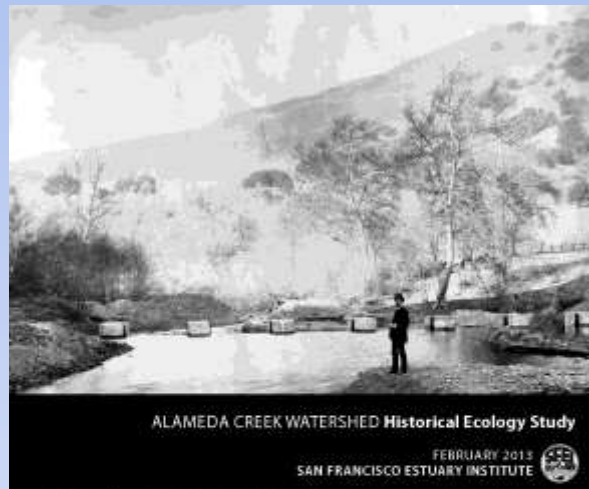
by

Andrew J. Ganther
Jeffrey Hagar
Paul Salop

Applied Marine Sciences, Inc.
4749 Bennett Dr., Suite L
Livermore, CA 94550
www.amarine.com

Hagar Environmental Science
6525 Claremont Ave, Suite B
Richmond, CA 94805

February 7, 2000



ALAMEDA CREEK WATERSHED **Historical Ecology Study**

FEBRUARY 2013
SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY INSTITUTE



**Population Genetic Structure of Alameda Creek
Rainbow/Steelhead Trout - 2002**

By

Dr. Jennifer L. Nielsen

US Geological Survey
Alaska Science Center
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 786-3670

Jennifer_Nielsen@usgs.gov

Moving Forward Together (and separately)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 16, 2006

Contact: Jeff Miller, Alameda Creek Alliance, (510) 499-9185
Maurcen Barry, SFPUC, (415) 554-3297
Bonita Brewer, Zone 7 Water Agency, (925) 454-5015

Agencies Begin Study of Stream Flows Needed for Alameda Creek Steelhead Trout Restoration

Multiple Agencies Join in Cooperative Study

Studies to restore threatened steelhead trout within the Alameda Creek watershed will soon get under way. A formal agreement to collaborate on water flow and fish habitat studies was signed this month by 17 public agencies and nonprofit organizations.

"These studies should identify how much water is needed, when it is needed, and in what stream reaches," said Jeff Miller, Director of the Alameda Creek Alliance. "We believe we can provide water to restore a steelhead run without compromising water supply, and in the process provide beneficial habitat for other native wildlife."

The agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding to conduct jointly-funded studies of how much water might be needed at critical times to support a viable steelhead population - while also considering other native fish and wildlife and minimizing potential impacts to drinking water supplies. The \$240,000 technical study will be conducted in two phases by an independent consultant.

Contributions of \$30,000 each were approved this year by four of the signatories - the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), Livermore-Amador Valley's Zone 7 Water Agency, Alameda County Water District (ACWD) and Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The \$120,000 provided by these four agencies will be matched by the California State Coastal Conservancy, for a total of \$240,000.

"The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding is a milestone in the process of restoring steelhead to Alameda Creek," said Paul Piraino, Alameda County Water District General Manager. "Water supply and environmental issues are not always seen as going hand in hand. In this case, however, all the parties agree that these studies are an important step in determining how to provide enough water for both steelhead and the residents of the Bay Area."



Three-legged race

Regulatory Involvement



Low Hanging Fruit



Grant Funding

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 23, 2018
Contact: Laura Hidas, Special Assistant to the General Manager
Phone: 510.668.4206
Email: Laura.Hidas@acwd.com

Alameda County Water District Awarded \$6.1M in Grant Funding Projects to help restore steelhead in Alameda Creek

Fremont, Calif. — This week, the Alameda County Water District was awarded over \$6.1 million in grant funding to help fund two local fish ladder projects that will play a critical role in restoring threatened steelhead trout to Alameda Creek. With approvals from two different agencies made on the very same day, the District is set to receive up to \$825,000 from the California Coastal Conservancy and \$5.36 million from the California Wildlife Conservation Board for the projects. Both grants are through programs authorized by the voter-approved Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1).

Construction of the first fish ladder will begin later this spring, to be followed by a second fish ladder that will be built in partnership with the Alameda County Flood Control District. Once both ladders are complete, steelhead trout – a federally-listed, threatened species – will have a direct route to pass the District's rubber dams and a large flood control structure to gain access to the Alameda Creek watershed for the first time in nearly 50 years.

"We are thrilled to be receiving these two grants from the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Coastal Conservancy, and are thankful for the support we've received from our local partners" said Jim Gunther, Board Vice President. "These projects will open up the creek corridor and enhance flows for steelhead trout and other fish, which is an exciting advancement for both the environment and our community."

Alameda Creek serves as a major water source for the local area, providing 40% of the annual water supply for over 351,000 people and numerous businesses in Fremont, Newark and Union City.

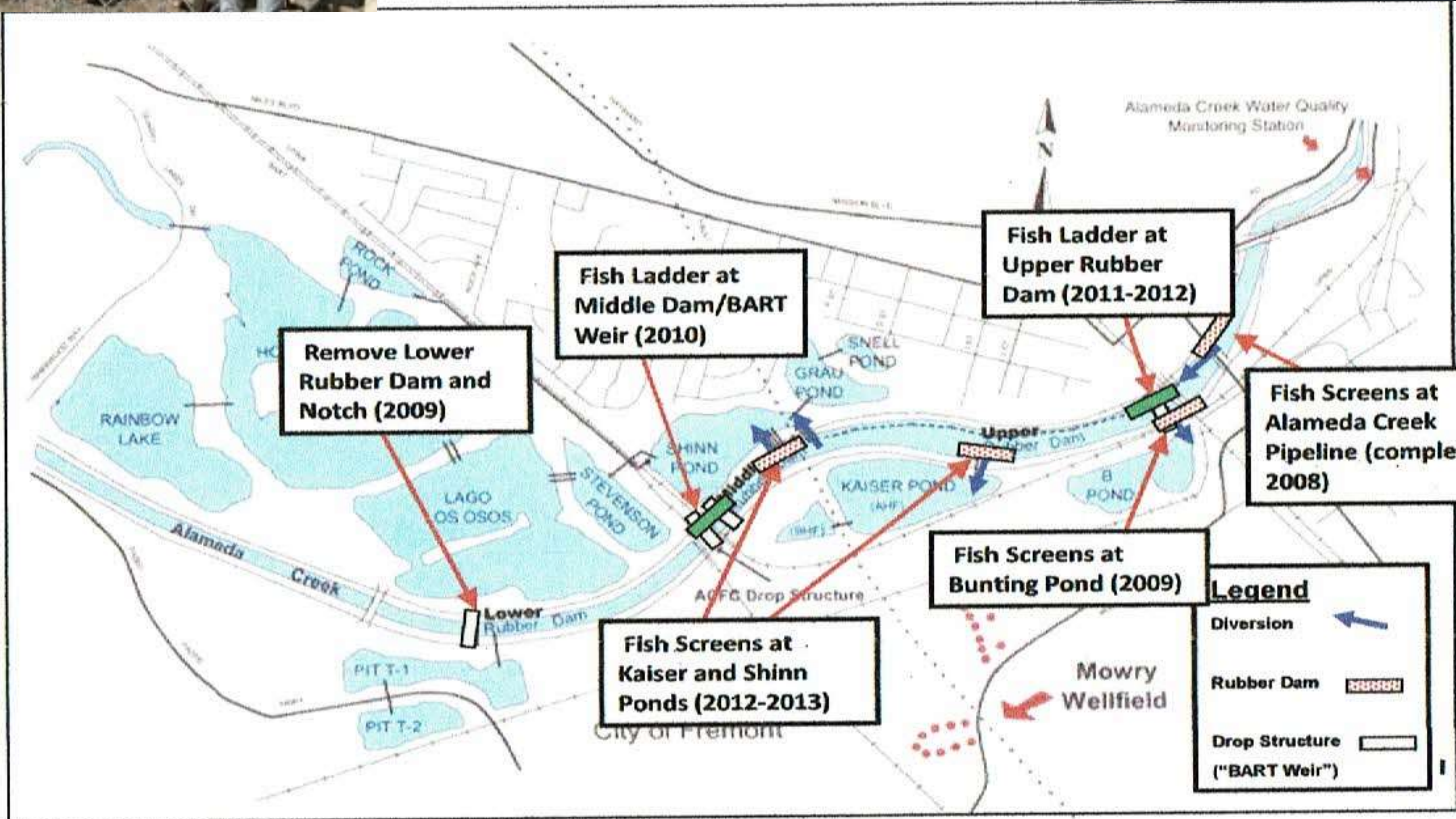
As one of the founding members of the Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup, the District has collaborated with multiple stakeholders since 1999 on efforts to benefit Central Coast Steelhead. The Workgroup includes members from advocacy, water management, consulting, environmental, government and educational groups with interests in the Alameda Creek watershed and steelhead trout restoration.

- more -

Alameda County Water District www.acwd.org
(510) 668-4300 45665 S. Cimarron Blvd. Fremont, CA 94536



Proactive Agencies



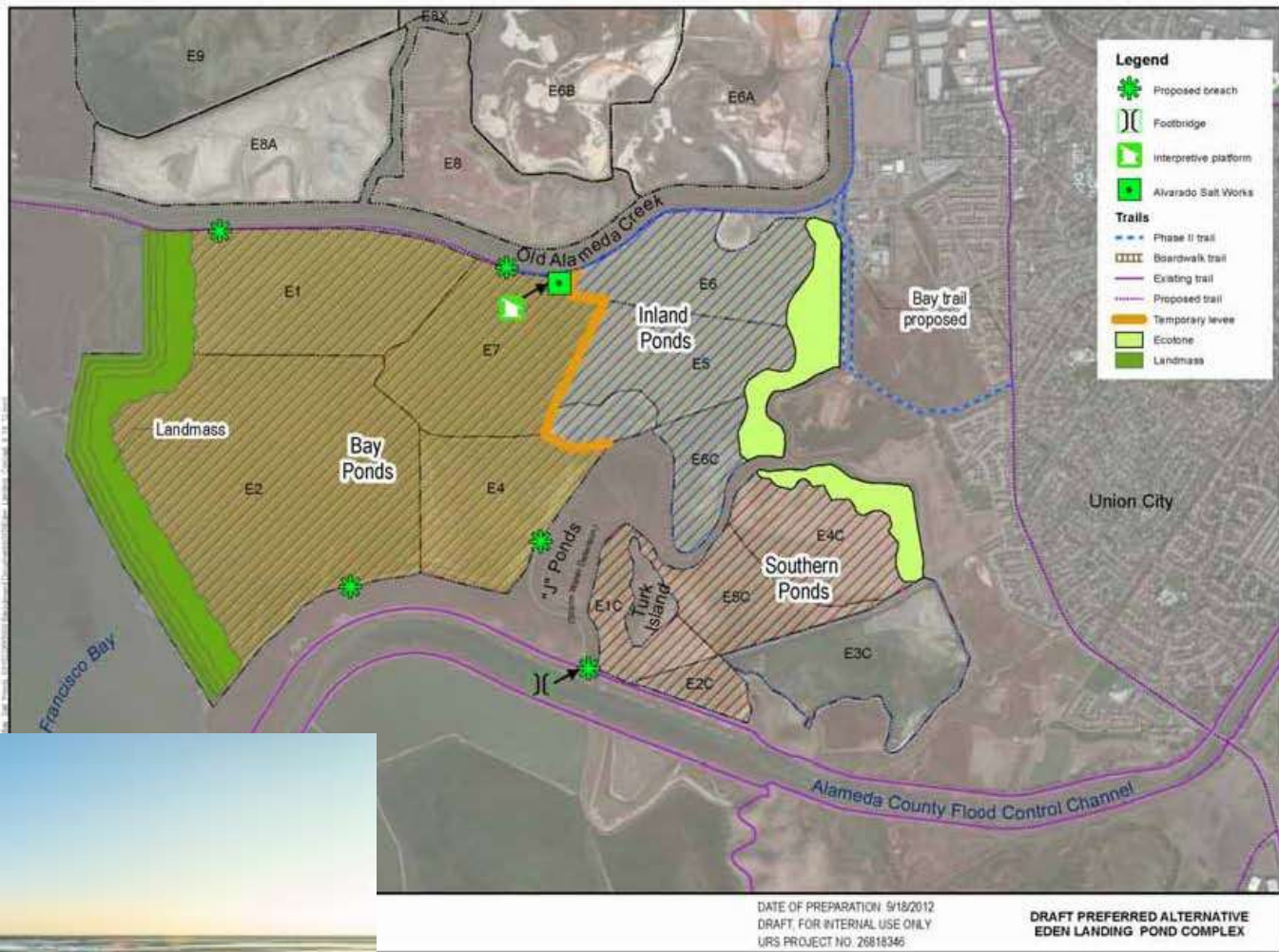


Fish Passage in Lower Alameda Creek



SFPUC Dams – Calaveras and Alameda Diversion

Salt Pond Restoration to Tidal Marsh





www.alamedacreek.org