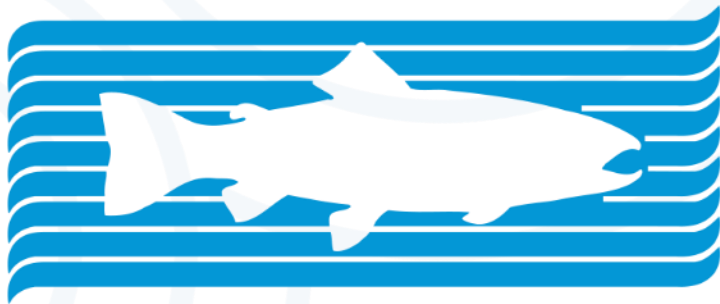


Sunol Valley Fish Passage Project

CALIFORNIA TROUT



FISH · WATER · PEOPLE

State of the Alameda Creek
Watershed Conference

Claire Buchanan, Senior Project Manager

May 9, 2024

 californiatrout.org

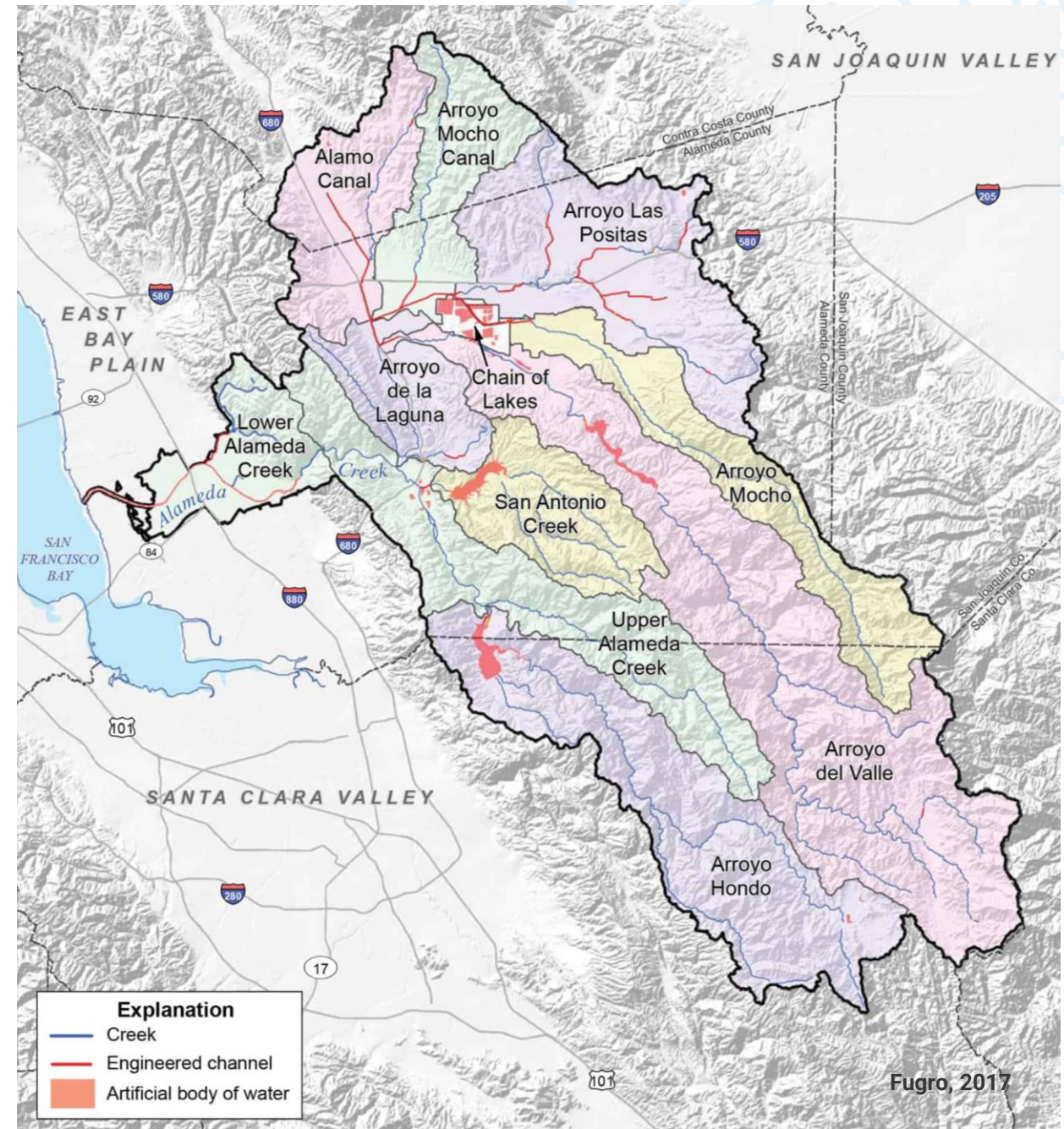
 [@californiatrout](https://www.instagram.com/californiatrout)

 [@caltrout](https://twitter.com/caltrout)

 facebook.com/californiatrout

Alameda Creek

- largest local tributary to the San Francisco Bay
- historically supported anadromous cold-water fish; Chinook, coho, & lamprey
- likely supported one of the SF Bay's largest historical steelhead runs
- **substantial decline in the population of steelhead and salmon entering the watershed to spawn**



Importance of Fish Passage



- Reduces habitat restriction
- Provides access to high-quality spawning and rearing locations
- Promotes resilience in changing water years
- Encourages recovery of species

Alameda Creek...

- ✓ is an essential watershed for the federally threatened CCC steelhead
- ✓ may have the highest steelhead restoration potential of any stream in the Bay Area due to size and quality of habitat

History of Fish Passage

- Since 2006, 5 fish passage barriers have been removed from mainstem Alameda Creek.
- In the past 2 years, barriers downstream of the project site have been remediated with fish ladders.
- In Fall and Winter of 2022/2023 access was restored to the upper watershed for the first time in more than 50 years.
- **This Project is the last piece of a multi-decade effort to restore full fish passage to upper Alameda Creek.**



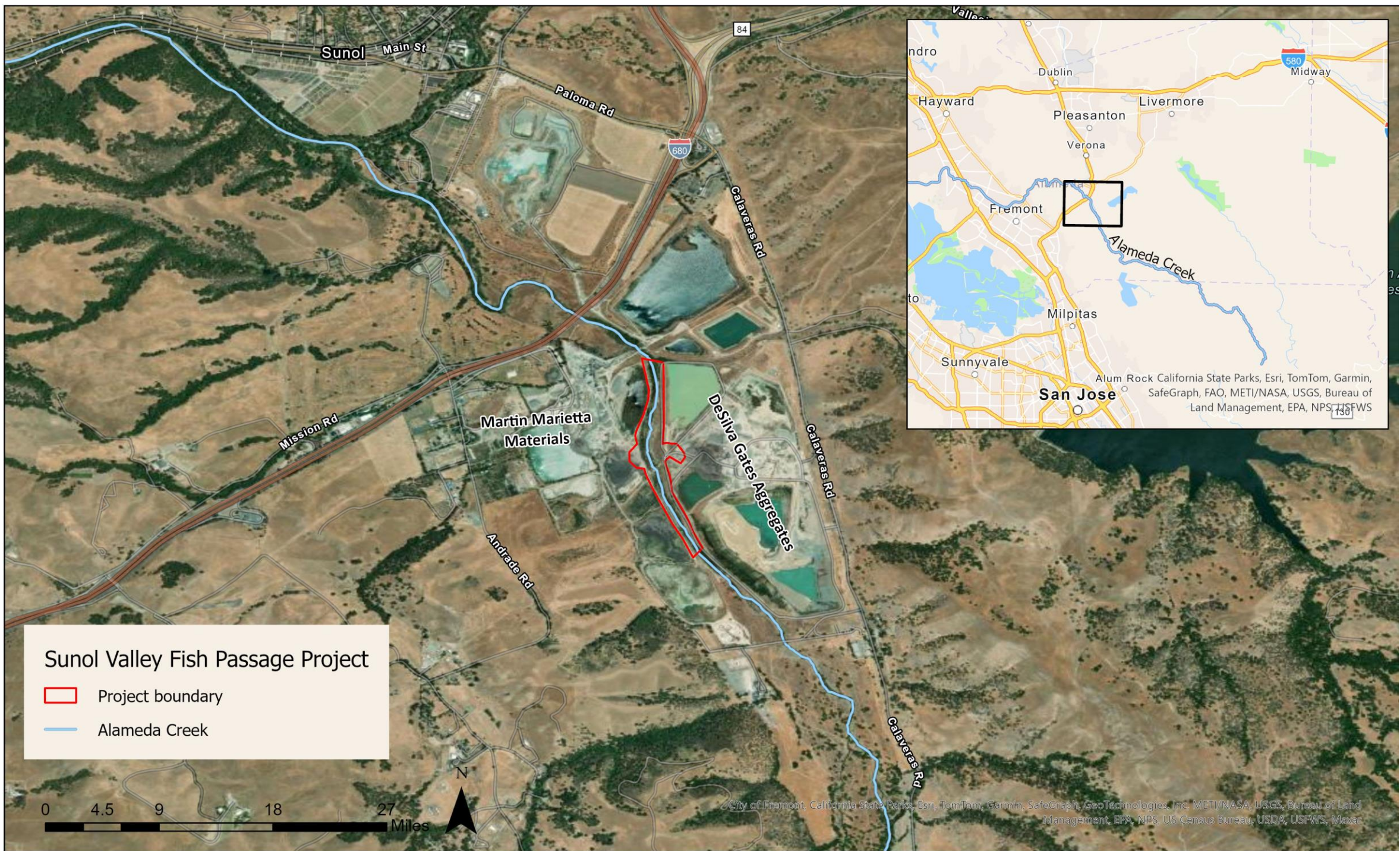
Alameda County Water District fish ladder

Last Piece of the Puzzle





Concrete erosion control mat protecting PG&E gas pipeline blocks up and downstream migration at most flows

- 1963: Pipeline installed
- 1970: Creek relocated
- 1997: Erosion control mat installed
- 2002: Barrier identified and effort to remove it began
- 2023: CalTrout joined project team



Sunol Valley Fish Passage Project

-  Project boundary
-  Alameda Creek

0 4.5 9 18 27 Miles



City of Fremont, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc., METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, Maxar

Project Partners



Pacific Gas & Electric Company



**McBain Associates
Applied River Sciences**



Hanford ARC



**San Francisco Public
Utilities Commission**

DeSilva Gates Aggregates

Alameda Creek Alliance

Sequoia Ecological Consulting

Stantec Consulting Services

The Watershed Nursery

Anticipated Goals



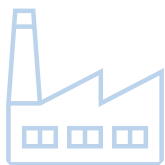
Restore access to 20+ miles of high-quality habitat for migratory fish



Achieve NOAA Priority Recovery Action



Improve both riparian corridor with native species cover and a dynamic channel



Maintain quarry operations throughout project

Restoration Plan

Remove Fish & Dewater

Exclude and relocate fish then remove water from the project reach of the creek

Installation

Install new pipeline, tie in new pipeline to old pipeline, and backfill new the pipeline trench

Remove Concrete & Pipeline

Remove 15,400 sq ft erosion control mat and old pipeline

Regrade

Regrade creek and reconstruct new primary stream channel that is allowed to be dynamic

Revegetate

Revegetate creek with native tree, shrub, and grass species

Monitoring

Post-project monitoring

Anticipated Project Timeline



Permitting, Planning, & Coordination	May 2024 – June 2025
Pre-Construction Surveys	May 2025
Implementation	June - October 2025
Post Project Monitoring	November 2025 - ongoing



Next Steps

- Ongoing coordination between all partners
- Moving through designs for grading, revegetation, and pipeline burial
- Securing implementation funding
- Working with resource agencies on biological compliance
- Exploring opportunities for outreach and education within the watershed





Questions?
Claire Buchanan
cbuchanan@caltrout.org

 californiatrout.org

 [@californiatrout](https://www.instagram.com/californiatrout)

 [@caltrout](https://twitter.com/caltrout)

 facebook.com/californiatrout