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WATERSHED LOOKOUT AUGUST 2021



Photo: Low Pond by Katie Bergman, P.E., USDA-NRCS

Dear acwForum stakeholders, partners and friends,

Congratulations to longtime acwForum steering committee member **Pam Lung on her retirement!** In this issue she shares with us her most rewarding Alameda Creek Watershed project during her tenure with the City of Livermore. It has been almost a year since the **SCU Lightning Complex Fire**; we check in with East Bay Regional Park District to inquire about the effects of fire on wildlife, vegetation, infrastructure and upland aquatic habitat. In July, Governor Newsome called upon all Californian's to voluntarily **cut their water use by 15%**. We list programs available to help individuals and households reach that goal together. In-person clean up events are scheduled - sign up to volunteer!

Finally, we plan to host a **Spring 2022 photo contest**, so start (or continue) taking photographs of your work or time spent in the Alameda Creek Watershed!

Events

Saturday, August 14
9:30am - 1pm
San Lorenzo Community Park
Clean Up

The Clean Water Volunteers and the Hayward Area Parks & Recreation (H.A.R.D.) Volunteers in the Park (VIP) have partnered to help clean up and beautify this community park. For more information click [HERE](#).

Saturday, September 18
9am - 12pm
Coastal Cleanup Day with Living
Arroyos

Living Arroyos volunteers will be working with the Tri-Valley Adopt-a-Creek Spot to host the Creeks to Bay Clean-up on September 18, 2021. This is part of a global effort called Coastal Clean-up Day to prevent trash from entering our oceans.

For more information and to Register, visit [Living Arroyos](#).

[Register](#)



*Are you hosting an event in
September?
Let us know!
[Allison Rodacker](#)*

**Saturday, September 18
9:00am - 12pm
Coastal Cleanup Day with the
Clean Water Volunteers**

Be part of the 37th annual Coastal Cleanup Day at the Castro Valley Creek Trail! Volunteers* will participate in a litter pickup along the creek trail and beautify the trail starting from the Castro Valley Library to Castro Valley Creek Blvd. Read all the details and register below.

[Register](#)

The Watershed Education Foundation Fall Events & Conference Save the Date

Headwaters Tour: Sept. 30 – Oct. 1, 2021

Two-day, in-person tour beginning and ending in Sacramento

Virtual Water Journeys:

Bay-Delta Tour: Sept. 9, 2021

Northern California Tour: Oct. 14, 2021

37th Annual Water Summit: Oct. 28, 2021

Hosted in person in Sacramento

Visit their [website](#) for more information and to register.

Pam Lung acwForum Steering Committee Member Retires!



Pam Lung, shown here with her husband hiking in the Alameda Creek Watershed, worked for the City of Livermore for 22 years. She retired last month as a Senior Civil Engineer. Pam was an active member of the acwForum steering committee for 10 of those years. We asked Pam about her favorite watershed project while working for the city. "My favorite project in the Alameda Creek Watershed was creating a low flow channel in the Arroyo Las Positas through the Springtown Open Space (formerly the Springtown Golf Course). This was the first time we were able to deepen the creek enough to keep the low flows moving through the reach, preventing cattail growth and increasing open water for habitat. Living Arroyos was able to build willow facines to help stabilize the sides of the low flow channel and plant willows along the toe of the bank. This was one of the first steps to restoring the creek in this area." In retirement Pam plans to spend time with her family hiking, biking along the Arroyo Mocho Trail, and traveling with her husband.

Congratulations from all of us at the acwForum!
Happy trails!

The www.acwForum.org website now includes the
2018 Watershed Confluence
event information and presentations.
It is archived there for your reference.

Tracking the Effects of Fire across the East Bay Regional Park District

East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) has multiple monitoring projects underway in the Alameda Creek Watershed-and beyond-to track effects of the September 2020 SCU Lightning Complex Fire. EBRPD is tracking key wildlife, vegetation changes, infrastructure damage, and aquatic pond habitats. Monitoring of species such as the golden eagle and Alameda whipsnake was being conducted prior to the fire, providing an opportunity to compare pre- and post-fire data. Camera traps have been installed as a wildlife monitoring tool, and sound recordings are being captured at some locations. The Alameda whipsnake has been spotted post-fire in burned plots in Ohlone Wilderness Regional Preserve! Vegetation surveys have captured the presence of “fire followers” like *Emmenanthe penduliflora* in Morgan Territory Regional Preserve and *Camissoniopsis hirtella* in the Ohlone Wilderness. Exciting!



Livestock grazing infrastructure such as fencing has seen the greatest impact. Miles of fence built with wooden fence posts burned and now 15,000 linear feet of fence need to be replaced in Ohlone Wilderness and another 12,000 linear feet in Morgan Territory and Round Valley Regional Preserve. Aquatic ponds are being observed in areas most severely burned for several years to monitor impacts to water quality and sensitive amphibians. It is impossible to monitor ponds without also considering the current drought conditions. According to the [August edition of EBRPD's newsletter](#), “The rapid loss of streams and pond habitats is causing dire situations for animals which depend on water in parklands, and special (endangered) species are being lost at an alarming rate.” While monitoring is on-going and trends cannot yet be established, a few observations have been made. The SCU Lightning Complex Fire burned at a moderate intensity and Park District ecologists and biologists believe, “wildlife had time to burrow or escape to safer areas, and seedlings survived for future regrowth. ... [T]he wildlands are recovering more quickly than expected,” according to the [EBRPD's May 2021 news update](#). We look forward to hearing about the monitoring results over the next few years.

HELP TO REDUCE WATER USAGE BY 15%

- Zone 7 has launched a new [Conservation Rebate Programs website](#). For more water saving tips visit the [Water Wise Wendy page](#).
- SFPUC is offering free water wise phone consultations to customers along with water saving devices and DIY leak detection how-to guides. Find all that information [here](#).
- ACWD is offering rebates, conservation kits and more [here](#). You can also watch the past Landscape workshop presentations [here](#). Read the recent [Drought Edition](#) newsletter for comprehensive information and FAQ's.

The informed participation of all watershed stakeholders (YOU) is key to the success of watershed protection and enhancement efforts.



LOOKING FOR FALL PROJECT UPDATES, EVENTS & PLANS!

Please reply to this email or send a direct message to [Allison Rodacker](#) to share the good work you are doing. It can be one sentence, paragraph, link or press release with pictures by August 27th.

Alameda Creek Watershed
Forum

Click on the logo to view events and past newsletters.

The acwForum's mission is to protect and enhance water-related beneficial uses and resources in the Alameda Creek Watershed in order to create a healthy and sustainable watershed for the community. The acwForum will promote collaboration and the sharing of information among all stakeholders.

You have received this message because of your interest and relationship with Alameda Creek Watershed Forum (acwForum). The monthly e-News will provide you updates of events, news and activities related to the acwForum, whose mission is to protect and enhance water-related beneficial uses and resources in the Alameda Creek watershed in order to create a healthy and sustainable watershed for the community. The acwForum will promote collaboration and the sharing of information among all stakeholders.

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