

Watershed Lookout

Alameda Creek Watershed Forum



Spring is here, and it's time for the Annual Conference, just days away. To our delight, the late season rain has caught us by surprise—but we (and hopefully the plants!) are soaking it all in. Let's hope that the spattering of showers and cooler temperatures will continue in preparation for a dry and hot drought summer.

In this Spring edition of the *Watershed Lookout* we present upcoming water related events within the Alameda Creek Watershed. Highlighted in this issue is the interactive photo mosaic #LuvTheBay and a review of results from our Earth Day clean-up efforts in support of Earth Day. As the drought continues, our Toolkit section discusses irrigation techniques that can be applied during dry times. As always, we welcome your feedback and submissions for the next edition of the *Watershed Lookout*. [Contact us](#) to submit your ideas and we will see you all at the Annual Conference, May 28th!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 23

Alameda Creek Cleanup

Join Alameda Creek Alliance in an effort to remove ivy and other invasive plants along Alameda Creek in Niles.

www.eventbrite.com/e/alameda-creek-stewardship-in-niles-tickets-15802079445

May 23

Ponding USA!

Explore the depths of a pond located in Sycamore Grove Park, lead by LARPD Ranger Darren Segur. Alongside the identification of critters in the pond, watershed habitats and the roles of these local inhabitants will be discussed.

www.larpd.org/open_space/upcoming.html

May 28

acwForum Annual Conference 2015

The View Upstream: Water's Journey Across Managed Land in the Alameda Creek Watershed

Hosted at the Zone 7 Water Agency offices, the 2015 acwForum Annual Conference focuses on what else in the midst of a drought—but water. The agenda for the day includes presentations, opportunities for participants to provide relevant organizational updates, and an afternoon field tour! Don't miss it, RSVP today if you have not already.

www.eventbrite.com/e/acwforum-annual-conference-the-view-upstream-tickets-16728608719

Looking into Summer

June—July

Alameda County Fairgrounds Water Conservation Booths

Water conservation (June 17- July 5), as well as agriculture, energy and environmental stewardship (July 3-5) focused booths will be presented by Zone 7 Water Agency.

www.zone7water.com/events-resources/calendar-of-events

Fall

acwForum Technical Symposium

Now's your opportunity to suggest topics for the acwForum Technical Symposium. Any and all recommendations are welcome. [Contact us!](#)

Send us your [upcoming event](#) for the next *Watershed Lookout*, or add a calendar item to www.acwForum.org/calendar by contacting [Haley Burgardt](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

“LuvTheBay” Photo Mosaic — Add Your Photo and Stand Against Litter! By: Stefanie Fruegal, Gigantic Idea Studio

Earlier this year, the Alameda County Clean Water Program launched its “LuvTheBay” campaign encouraging people throughout Alameda County to pledge to eliminate littering and to become part of a piece of art. To participate, residents submit a photo of themselves as a pledge to the interactive LuvTheBay photo mosaic at www.LuvTheBay.org. On the website, users can search the mosaic and share and vote for their favorite photos. The finished mural will be printed and displayed around Alameda County in late 2015. The image for the mural was created by Berkeley-based artist [Christopher Peterson](#).

To submit a photo to the LuvTheBay mosaic, visit www.LuvTheBay.org or post a photo to Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #LuvTheBay. The submission period runs through September 30, 2015, after local Coastal Clean Up Day events conclude. By submitting a photo to the LuvTheBay Mosaic, participants pledge to always use recycling or garbage cans.

Litter leads to water pollution, even when found in communities located far from the Bay. Commonly littered items, such as fast-food packaging, plastic wrappers and cigarette butts, break down slowly, are toxic to wildlife and degrade water quality. Alameda County jurisdictions spend approximately \$24 million every year on litter and storm drain cleanup. Litter also reduces quality of life and attracts more litter if left on streets and sidewalks.

Made up of agencies from around Alameda County, the Clean Water Program has been working since 1991 to facilitate local compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act. For more information visit www.CleanWaterProgram.org. The Program is also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CleanWaterProgram.

Alameda Creek Watershed: Earth Day Cleanup 2015 Results

While there are lots of ways (and places!) to celebrate Earth Day 2015, many individuals chose to help improve our creeks, waterways, and the Bay by participating in volunteer creek cleanup events within the Alameda Creek Watershed.

Creek cleanups held in recognition of Earth Day created an eco-oriented, power packed weekend, where four organizers hosted seven different events over two days (Sat., April 25th and Sun., April 26th). 78 volunteers picked up 232.9 lbs. of trash and 75.4 lbs. of recycling within the Alameda Creek Watershed. The following table contains more details.

Earth Day Cleanups: Alameda Creek Watershed Totals - 2015				
Organizer	Location	Volunteers	Trash (lbs.)	Recyclables (lbs.)
Alameda Creek Alliance & ACRC	Old Alameda Creek	13	23*	5.8*
City of Dublin	Tassajara Creek and South San Ramon Creek	30	40	
City of Livermore	Arroyo Las Positas at Northfront Road	11	60.5*	
City of Livermore	Altamont Creek & Arroyo Las Positas at Bluebell Drive	6	69.1*	52.9*
City of Livermore	Arroyo Las Positas at Heather Lane	10	23*	8.1*
Volunteers of City of Union City	Union City Civic Center Creek	8	17.3*	8.6*
TOTALS		78	232.9*	75.4*

*Indicated trash and recycling volumes were converted to pounds at 100lbs per 1cy (estimate used by City of Dublin staff based on averages from Stop-waste and Recyclemania). Dry gallons were first converted to cubic yards.

Feeling like you missed out on some stewardship opportunities in celebrating Earth Day or want to participate in an upcoming event? Visit the acwForum’s Calendar page www.acwforum.org/calendar to view and post upcoming volunteer events within the watershed.

WATERSHED TOOLKIT

Irrigation Techniques in Dry Times adapted from ‘Watering Natives in Dry Times’ factsheet by Friends of Sausal Creek

Supplying enough water to plants at a restoration project can be challenging during years of normal rainfall. In years like 2014 and 2015, the drought can make it even more difficult. Although many natives are considered “drought tolerant” when established, newly planted natives need extra care in their first couple of years to reach this stage. There are some tools that can assist with irrigating new

The interactive photo mosaic #LuvTheBay allows citizens to upload a photo of themselves making the pledge to eliminate litter.

acwForum

ABOUT US

The Alameda Creek Watershed Forum (a.k.a., acwForum) is a voluntary, non-regulatory stakeholder group that supports the community's interest in protecting and achieving a healthy and sustainable Alameda Creek watershed.

acwForum stakeholders include signatory members—agencies and organizations with stewardship interests and purview in the Alameda Creek watershed that have signed the Letter of Understanding—and other interested local agencies, watershed organizations, landowners, land managers, and residents.

The purpose of the acwForum is to facilitate communication among watershed stakeholders and demonstrate their commitment to understanding, protecting, and restoring the Alameda Creek watershed.

www.acwForum.org

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Irrigation Techniques in Dry Times...



Volunteers water plants and the planting holes during Altamont Creek Planting Workday, Livermore 2015

native plants while they become self-sustaining during drought.

When placing the plants in the ground there are two easy ways you can help them get quick water: 1) Water the hole. When you are first putting the plants in the ground, adding water to the hole where the plant will be placed will help the plant get water during this transition from container to its new home; 2) Add a bottle of water. Cut off the bottom of a medium-sized drink bottle or jug and remove the cap. When you dig the planting hole, plant the bottle upside-down, next to the plant in the plant-

ing basin. Then as you are watering throughout the season, pour water into the bottle, which funnels a drink directly to the plant.

When trying to move a lot of water, there are many tools that can help: 1) Use a [water bladder](#), such as a 60-gallon version that fits in the back of a pickup or car or 2) A wheelbarrow bladder. For example, a 20-gallon bladder can ride in a wheelbarrow and pours when the wheelbarrow is tipped. Nozzles allow you to manipulate the flow of water.

When moving small amounts of water, a bucket and watering can are always helpful and can be refilled from hoses or bladders. Here are some other ideas: 1) Coffee "boxes". Don't toss the Peet's or Starbucks coffee containers from your workdays—reuse them as small water containers. 2) Plastic newspaper bags. These are amazingly strong and easy to fill, even in shallow water. Tie a knot, and you have an easy way to transfer water. 3) Other plastic containers, such as large soda bottles, gallon milk jugs, and buckets. Drip holes can be poked through the cap or near the top of the container, making it easy to fill at home or near a hose then transfer to the plants for a [slow, deep watering](#).

For more information on watering natives in dry times or to see their complete publication, contact the Friends of Sausal Creek at: coordinator@sausalcreek.org.

SPOTLIGHT

Know of someone who deserves recognition in the next Watershed Lookout?

Send us information about your recommended individual(s)! We know there are plenty of dedicated people working within the Alameda Creek Watershed who deserve acknowledgement.

Contact:
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