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## WATERSHED LOOKOUT MAY 2021





Photo: Lake Del Valle

Dear acwForum stakeholders, partners and friends,

May is water awareness month and the Alameda Creek watershed is once again experiencing drought conditions. Stay up to date on statewide drought conditions with the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) map. In the events section below, please see three events that will help you plan for these conditions in your yard and garden and register to learn more about watershed health and homelessness. Read on to learn about the 5th acwForum goal of water supply, register for the 4th State of the Alameda Creek watershed webinar scheduled for May 13th, which will focus on horizontal levees, and **sign up to share your "minute news" during that webinar!** Finally, remember to **reply now** to share any events, project updates or watershed photos you or your organization have.

# Events

May 5, 8:30am - 12pm

**IRWM Summit** Watershed on Health and People Experiencing Homelessness with Keynote Speaker: Senator John Laird.

[Register](#)

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Thursday, May 13, 4pm

The Alameda County Clean Water Program invites you to the 2nd class in a monthly series of webinars about organic gardening and non-toxic pest control. **Topic: Waterwise Gardening 101.**

[Register](#)

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Sunday, May 16 & 23, 10am - 3pm

The free 17th annual **Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour** continues this month. If you have missed the first two Sunday tours, visit their [youtube channel](#).

*Are you hosting an event in June?  
Make sure to let us know by  
replying to this email or sending a  
direct message to [Allison Rodacker](#).*



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Alameda Creek Watershed  
**Forum**

Click on the logo to view events and past newsletters.

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Saturday, May 22, 10am - 11:30am

Free and open to the public, this workshop will teach you how to **Prepare to Irrigate Efficiently This Summer** with BAWSCA. For a list of all their workshops, click [here](#).

[Register](#)

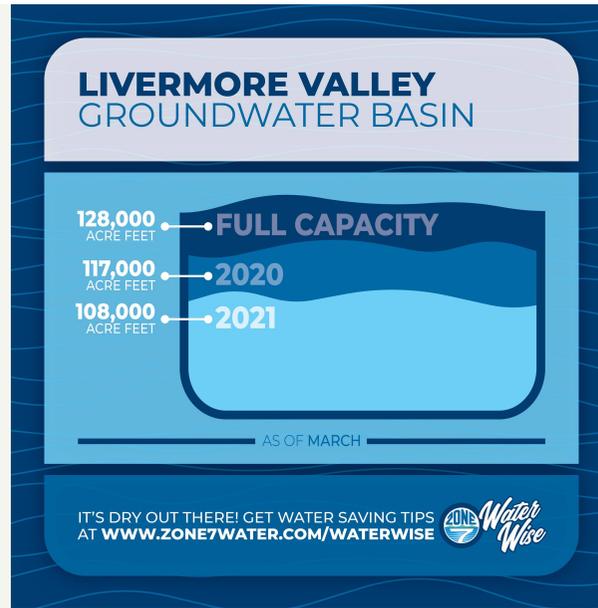
## Watershed Goal 5: Water Supply

May brings us to our fifth acwForum goal of water supply. As we again are experiencing drought, the topic of water supply is at the forefront of this group's collective work. Water supply is a multi-agency tributary with many sources, so we will focus on just one aspect this month: groundwater.

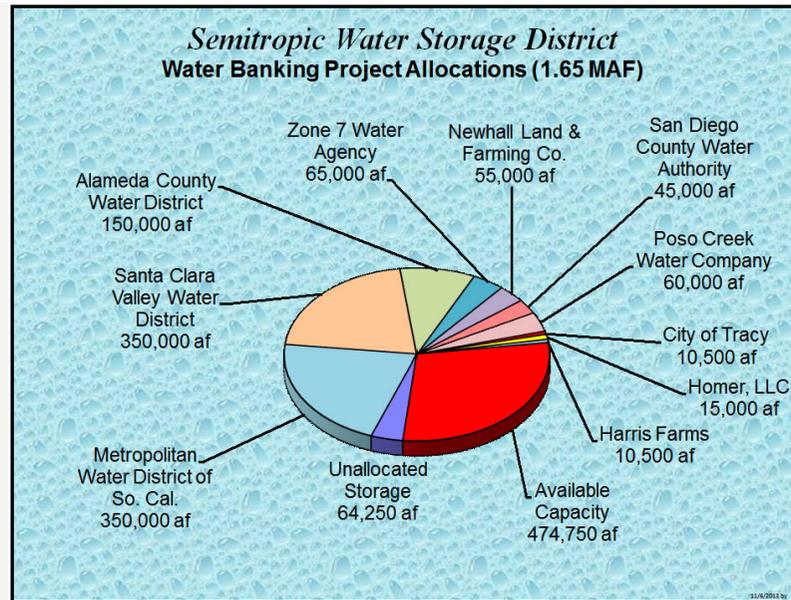
Groundwater is one of the various water sources used to supply Alameda Creek watershed residents with a quality and consistent water supply, especially during dry years. According to the [California Department of Water Resources](#), groundwater makes up 38% of the state's total water supply and 46% or more during drought years. Alameda County Water District and Zone 7 Water Agency both manage, sustain and utilize groundwater in their jurisdictions. The topic of groundwater and regulations around groundwater use and recharge is deeper than space allows for here. Please use the links referenced in this article for in-depth information. Locally, groundwater is stored in two main locations. One is the Niles Cone Groundwater Basin which measures 103 square miles and, according to the ACWD [website](#), about 40% of the supply comes from Alameda Creek watershed runoff. The estimated total capacity was calculated in two ways because of the proximity to seawater which you can read about [here](#). At last measurement in 1999-2000, the Niles Cone Groundwater Basin held 38,000 acre feet (1 acre foot = 326,000 gallons of water, or enough water to cover a football field with one foot of water).



The second is the Zone 7 managed Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin which measures 109 square miles. According to Zone 7's April 29th Facebook post, at full capacity, the basin can hold up to 128,000 acre feet of water. Last year at the end of March, the basin had 117,000 acre feet of water in it. This year at the end of March, that dropped to 108,000 acre feet of water.



Additionally, both agencies use the Semitropic Water Agency Storage District's groundwater storage and banking services in Kern County. The graph shows the total amount of groundwater that can be banked at this facility in southern California.



Sustaining the groundwater supply is multifaceted. The agencies monitor for quality, ensure over-pumping does not happen, take care of the above ground replenishing sources (creeks, streams, storage ponds) and keep out seeping seawater. As needed, recharge, or pumping surplus surface water into the groundwater basins, is also a part of the process to maintain the groundwater supplies for current and future use.

Groundwater, while handled separately, is connected to every source of water used for the Alameda Creek watershed residents. We must continue the interconnected work of the acwForum members to meet the water supply goals of (1) making efficient use of water, (2) providing adequate, high quality, reliable, and sustainable water supplies at a reasonable price throughout the region, (3) protecting and enhancing water resources for beneficial use in the watershed, avoiding any activity that could threaten the water supply and (4) promoting appropriate reuse of water in ways that protect existing water resources and enhance the water supply.

National Groundwater Awareness Week was held March 7 – 13, 2021. Here are [some tips](#) we all can use to protect this valuable resource.

1. Go native in your garden.
2. Reduce chemical use.
3. Manage waste.
4. Don't let it (your water tap) run.
5. Fix the drip.
6. Wash (yourself, your dishes and your laundry) smarter.
7. Reduce, reuse and recycle.
8. Clean with natural alternatives like lemons, vinegar and baking soda.

## Revisiting Watershed Goals: Education

The Forum, under our previous name as the Alameda Creek Watershed Council, identified goals in five categories that address water quality. The categories are flood control and storm water quality, recreation, agriculture, natural resources and wildlife and water supply. An additional goal, public education and outreach, spans all five of these categories and is recognized as a key component of each. ***The informed participation of all watershed stakeholders (YOU) is key to the success of watershed protection and enhancement efforts.***

Next month, we will focus on **public education and outreach.**



**WHAT ARE YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATIONS  
DOING IN SUPPORT OF THIS GOAL?**

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 May 21st.



**State of the Alameda Creek Webinar Series 4**

**Thursday, May 13**

**11:30am - 1:00pm**

*Grab some lunch and join us for the third  
State of the Alameda Creek Watershed Webinar Series*

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**Jackie Zipkin**

General Manager, East Bay Dischargers Authority

and

**Angela Stiegler**

Doctoral Student, University of California, Berkeley

**Horizontal Levees**

**Current Understanding and Future Opportunities**

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## Minute News: Updates from the Alameda Creek Watershed

SIGN UP TO SHARE TODAY

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Brought to you by



[REGISTER TODAY](#)

**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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