

Watershed Lookout



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We welcome your feedback and submissions for the next edition of Watershed Lookout. [Contact us](#) to submit your ideas.

In the wake of the inaugural Alameda Creek Watershed Confluence, the inspired collaborative work continues to improve the Alameda Creek watershed. In this issue we revisit the status of storm damaged waterways in Livermore Valley as the final repair work is completed. We discuss the importance of volunteers to our efforts and how to find them. Finally, we salute the 100th volunteer event for the Living Arroyos program! As we look into 2020 we begin planning efforts for a spring State of the Alameda Creek Watershed conference and look forward to sharing more of the conservation plans on the horizon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 21

Coastal Clean Up Day

There are nearly a dozen Coastal Cleanup Day events within the Alameda Creek Watershed, making it easy to get involved with this great initiative! Find the event for you by visiting the following link: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/publicized/ccd/ccd.html>

September 22

Niles Canyon Roll & Stroll

This is an opportunity to visit some of the route locations for the planned Niles Canyon Trail. Come walk, bike or run along Niles Canyon Road on a day the roadway will be closed to vehicle traffic. For more information visit <https://www.84strollroll.com/>

October 4-6

Alameda County Fall Home and Garden Show

Head to the Alameda County Fairgrounds to learn more about how you can create a watershed-friendly home and yard at the Fall Home and Garden Show. Event details: <http://capitalshowcase.com/alameda.html#>

October 5 & 19

Living Arroyos Volunteer Days

Community engagement opportunity that renews and enhances urban stream and riparian (streamside) habitats in the Livermore-Amador Valley. These workdays take place on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 9am–11:30am. For more information visit www.livingarroyos.org

October 12

Zone 7 Water Agency Open House

A fun and informative day to learn about water supply, water quality, flood protection, and groundwater management. Optional tour of the Arroyo Mocho Demineralization Plant (NOTE: tour requires pre-registration) 9am to 3pm. www.zone7water.com

October 21–22

State of the Estuary Conference

The Conference showcases the latest information about the region's work to sustain and improve the estuary's habitats, living resources, water quality, climate resilience, and environmental stewardship. For more information please visit <https://www.sfestuary.org/state-of-the-estuary-conference/>

HIGHLIGHTS

Zone 7's 2017 Storm Damages Nearly Repaired

By Elke Rank, Zone 7 Water Agency

Zone 7 of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Zone 7) is committed to providing an effective flood control system to the Livermore-Amador Valley. This includes maintenance and repair of the 37 miles of flood control channels owned by Zone 7 throughout eastern Alameda County.

In January and February of 2017, the Valley saw multiple severe storms – so severe, in fact, that the governor issued two Emergency Declarations. The result of these storms was a total of 208 channel sites showing potential damage, ranging from severe to minimal damage. By contrast, Zone 7 expects to incur approximately 10 damaged bank sites in a typical year.



These exceptional circumstances necessitated a different approach to stream maintenance in order to return the expected level of service and safety to Zone 7 owned or maintained channels within a reasonable timeframe. Staff worked quickly to (1) assess and prioritize the sites; (2) work with state and federal agencies to seek assistance; and (3) secure permits to complete the repair work.

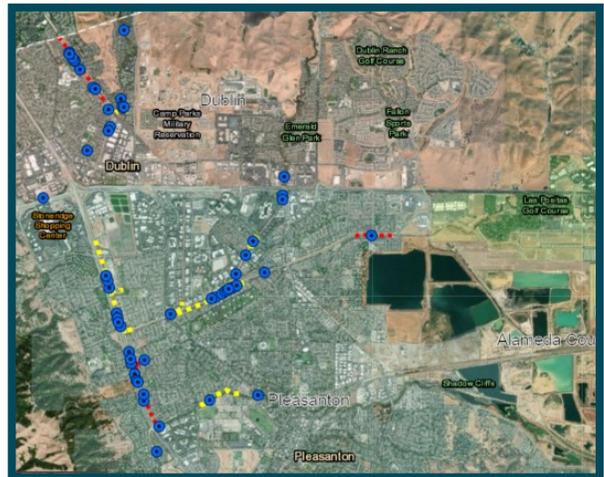
Upon further analysis, staff engineers determined that 121 of the 208 initially identified sites required a constructed repair. Of these, 49 were



repaired in 2017 or 2018 (the highest priority sites were completed first, typically those threatening utilities or structures), an additional 47 will be repaired in 2019, and the remaining 25 will be further evaluated for potential repair in 2020.

Two positive outcomes from these storm events are Zone 7's new interactive map to help share information with the public, and funding assistance from federal and state agencies.

INTERACTIVE FLOOD PROTECTION MAINTNANCE PROJECTS MAP. As a result of the unprecedented number of repairs being completed the last few summers, Zone 7 implemented a new interactive map found on the Zone 7 home page (www.zone7water.com). This map shows the planned and completed repairs for the current year, as well as trail closures as a result of the work.



HIGHLIGHTS *(continued from p. 2)*

ZONE 7 Repair Efforts Receive Grant Funding

Zone 7 has sought available grants and emergency funding to complete storm damage repairs as soon as practicable. Because Zone 7 participates in the US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP), the highest priority sites, especially those in close proximity to utilities, were determined to be eligible for USACE assistance. This includes USACE design, project management, and construction management as well as funding for 80 percent of the construction costs (approximately \$6.5M). Zone 7 also sought reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with a cost share from the Cali-

fornia Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for emergency measures, debris removal, and any projects to repair damages that are not within USACE's jurisdiction. FEMA/Cal OES funding is expected to total approximately \$430,000.

We want to hear from you!

Send us a photo of you in the Alameda Creek Watershed along with a short write up about how you interact with the watershed and why the health of the watershed is important to you. We'll feature these stories and photos in the "Highlights" section of the next issue of the Watershed Look-out. Send information and photos to:

allison.rodacker@acrcd.org

WATERSHED TOOLKIT

Corporate Volunteer Programs

In each issue of the Watershed Forum the list of events is always full of volunteer opportunities. The health and improvement of the Alameda Creek Watershed has long depended on volunteers who are not afraid to roll up their sleeves and work hard. As we know, watershed maintenance and improvements could not be a success without them!

Our organizations are already utilizing individual volunteers, but did you know there is a growing number of corporations providing incentives for their employees to volunteer? Corporate workgroups will use volunteering as a teambuilding exercise and employees are offered paid time off to volunteer in their communities. According to a November 3, 2016 article on Forbes.com, there are four reasons why this type of program is beneficial. Paid volunteer programs improve collaboration, increase employee self-awareness, positively impacts revenue through employee retention and lastly, it is important to the millennial workforce.

How can organizations working to improve the Alameda Creek watershed take advantage of these corporate volunteers? Each company's benefits and volunteer programs are different, so it is important to do research and make a personal connection with the person in charge of the program or department. Some quick online research pointed in the direction of Salesforce's employee benefits stating "Salesforce.org seeks to support and encourage each employee's personal generosity and community volunteering. We provide: The opportunity for employees to take up to 7 days of paid Volunteer Time Off per year to support their communities." FedEx is another example of a company that encourages employees to volunteer and has branches in many of our communities. Look to the corporations in your area first.

Another way to appeal to teams of corporate volunteers is to create a program that recruits them. A great example of this is the [Golden Gate National Conservancy's Corporate Volunteer](#) program. Highlighting teambuilding and an educational opportunity are pinnacles for a program like this, as well as, keeping the time commitment within a few hours mid-week so it fits easily into a workday.

Lastly, it goes without saying, retaining good volunteers is the goal of any volunteer program. Thanking volunteers and sharing measured results of their efforts is the best way to close the loop and accomplish this goal. There are many ways to say thank you. Hand-written notes are impactful. Phone thank-a-thons that ask employees to spend a few hours making quick and simple thank you calls is a nice touch. Additionally, a thank you event can be tied into a volunteer work-day like the Living Arroyos program did in April! (See page 4)

HIGHLIGHTS

Living Arroyos Celebrates 100th Volunteer Event!

By Tami Church, Zone 7 Water Agency

Successful restoration of natural habitats in urban areas requires long-term engagement and stewardship. The Living Arroyos Program (“Living Arroyos”) was first established in 2013 to create a mechanism to engage the community in stewardship of the streams and waterways of the Tri-Valley area with the following goals:

- Increase opportunities for local residents of all ages to learn about and engage in hands-on stewardship of natural resources close to home;
- Increase public awareness of important watershed and water management issues;
- Increase habitat and water quality of local streams while maintaining and enhancing both public safety and regional flood protection; and
- Train local interns in water and watershed management practices as a complement to classroom learning.

Through its volunteer and intern program, Living Arroyos has accomplished quite a bit over the past six years in the Livermore-Amador Valley and all partners remain committed to working together to leverage resources and maximize effectiveness to achieve program goals.

On April 20, 2019, Living Arroyos celebrated its 100th volunteer event which also coincided with the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party. Event organizers were hoping to

get 100 people registered for the event and volunteers did not disappoint. Over 100 volunteers showed up to Zone 7’s Stanley Reach (the section of Arroyo Mocho between Isabel Ave. and Murrieta Blvd. in Livermore) where the Living Arroyos Program first kicked-off in 2013. Zone 7 General Manager, Valerie Pryor and LARPD Board Member, David Furst welcomed the group and spoke highly of the volunteers, the program, and what has been accomplished. Volunteers set off to plant over 100 native trees and shrubs provided by The Watershed Nursery. Sandwiches, cake, t-shirts, and other giveaways were provided by the program to celebrate the volunteers and all the great things they’ve been able to accomplish with their help.

SPOTLIGHT



From right to left:

Renee Lau, Brenda Tantzen, June Wong, Andrew Tantzen, and Steve Bonham.

This “Rockstar” group of Living Arroyos volunteers attribute their dedication to this important work to the love of making their communities’ environments better, enjoyment of watching what they plant grow, and the camaraderie of a fun group of people. Together they have planted thousands of oak trees, removed invasive species, and cleared our watershed.

acwForum

CONTACT US

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acwForum Signatory Members:

- Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (ACFC&WCD)
- Alameda County Water District
- Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCO)
- East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)
- Friends of the Arroyos
- Livermore Area Recreation and Park District
- City of Livermore
- City of Fremont
- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Zone 7 Water Agency

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

Funded by ACFC&WCD with support from Zone 7 Water Agency