

# Watershed Lookout

Welcoming summer, a western pond turtle basks in on the upper reaches of Alameda Creek.

Photo: Alameda County RCD



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

**Y**ou may feel like it's been a while since we've had a chance to see each other at an acwForum event—and you'd be right! While we know many of our members look forward to the annual acwForum State of the Watershed and Technical meetings, we are excited this year to be planning something a bit different. Members of the acwForum Steering Committee have been busy working on an county-wide initiative, which we hope will bring our members together with individuals and organizations from throughout Alameda County. The acwForum is excited to be supporting development of the upcoming **Alameda County Watershed Confluence** conference, and we hope to see all of you there on October 17th! You can learn more about the history of the conference, how to get involved, and what the conference has in store for attendees in the pages of this edition of the Watershed Lookout, or by visiting [www.watershedconfluence.com](http://www.watershedconfluence.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 19**

### Financing the Future of Resilient by Design

Resilient by Design and BCDC are hosting a workshop to provide more information about funding for local stake-holders to move projects forward and create on the ground impact. Register or learn more: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/financing-the-future-of-resilient-by-design-tickets-47147548587>

**September 15**

### 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/public/ccd/ccd.html>

**October 5-7**

### 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: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/alameda-county-fall-home-garden-show-tickets-36696396911>

**October 6**

### Science in the Park

Science in the Park is a free family event that makes STEM education accessible to children, families, and the public through hands-on activities, and will include a table focusing on Alameda Creek Stewardship. [www.scienceinthepark.org/](http://www.scienceinthepark.org/)

**October 17**

### The Alameda County Watershed Confluence

The Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is excited to host the first Alameda County Watershed Confluence conference, October 17th at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center. To purchase your ticket (\$20) visit [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com), or check out the event website: [www.watershedconfluence.com](http://www.watershedconfluence.com)

**October 27**

### Make a Difference Day

Make A Difference Day is a national community service event. You can make a difference by participating in a local event at Alameda Creek in Niles. Participants will care for native plants and assist with litter clean up. Contact Amy Evans for details or to sign up: [amy.evans@acrccd.org](mailto:amy.evans@acrccd.org).

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Passage, Partnerships and Progress: Alameda County Water District's Lower Alameda Creek Fish Passage Improvements

Over twenty years ago, federal agencies listed California Central Coast Steelhead as a threatened species. In response, a regional recovery effort was established, with the goal of protecting both the Alameda Creek watershed and its local steelhead population. The [Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup](#) (the Workgroup)—comprised of members from advocacy, water management, consulting, environmental, government and educational groups—has served as the hub in these efforts. Steelhead continue to attempt to migrate up the urbanized reaches in lower Alameda Creek from San Francisco Bay; however, flood control structures and water supply infrastructure within lower Alameda Creek prevent steelhead passage to the upper watershed. As a result, many organizations have been involved in implementing projects to address these fish passage barriers, enhance Alameda Creek flows, and ultimately allow steelhead to return to our watershed and spawn in the high-quality habitat of upper Alameda Creek and its tributaries.

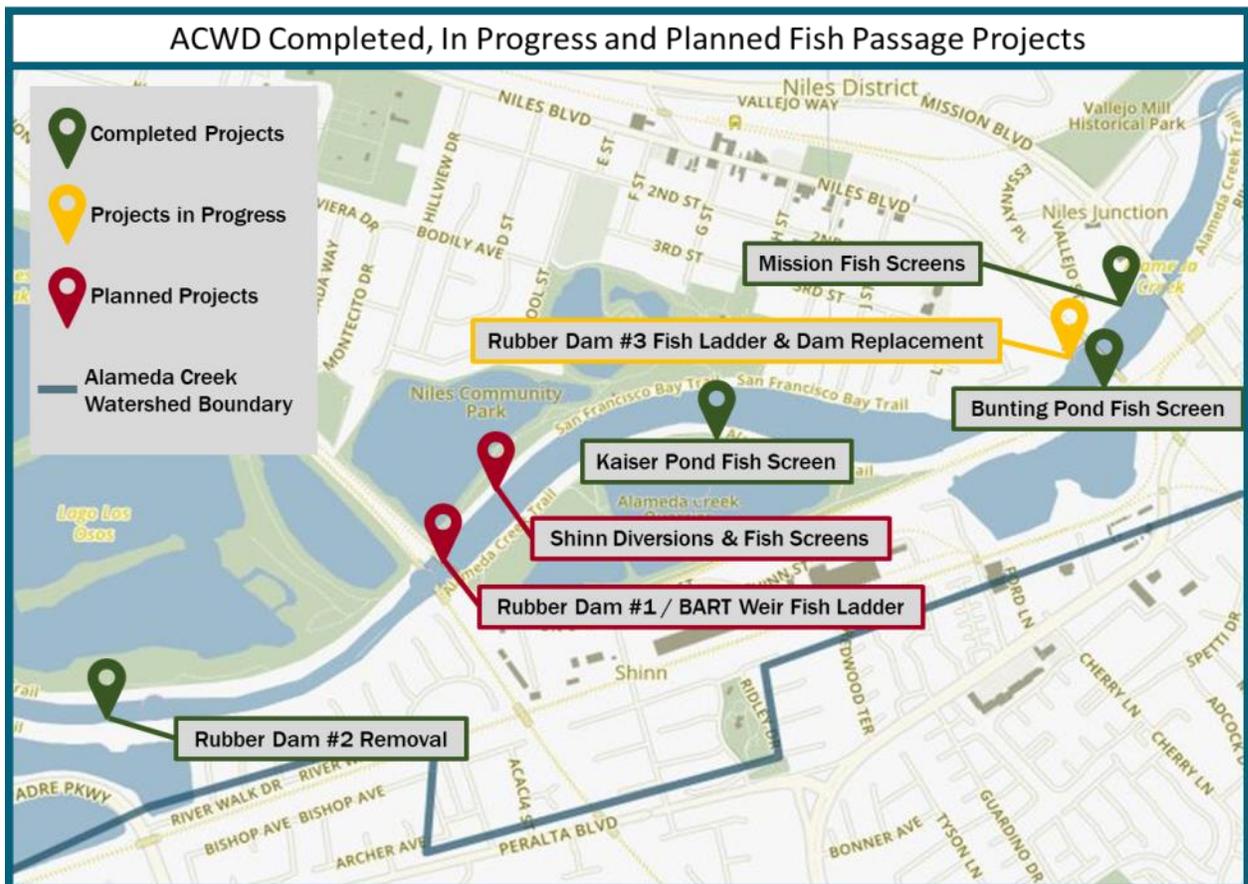
As noted in the email accompanying the spring issue of the Watershed Lookout, the Alameda County Water District (ACWD) was recently awarded \$6.2 million dollars in grants for Alameda Creek fish passage projects. The acwForum is excited to present a deeper look at the work spearheaded by ACWD, a founding member of the Workgroup, and its project

partners to improve steelhead migration through lower Alameda Creek in Fremont. As a local agency, ACWD has worked for more than a decade to improve steelhead migration in lower Alameda Creek, through its Lower Alameda Creek Fish Passage Improvement Projects. These voluntary upgrades to ACWD's water supply infrastructure and operations will allow ACWD to maintain the beneficial use of Alameda Creek as an important local water supply for over 356,000 residents and businesses in Fremont, Newark, and Union City, while also restoring Alameda Creek as a migratory corridor to benefit steelhead.

Taking a proactive and collaborative approach, ACWD worked with various agencies and stakeholders to obtain design consensus and permits. Agreements were reached through frequent communication and "all hands" meetings with the governing permitting agencies at the same table, which helped to develop design criteria, determine engineering elements, facilitate permitting, and reduce conflicting permit requirements.

As of summer 2018, ACWD had completed [six significant fish passage projects](#). These projects included upgrades to three major diversions with state-of-the-art fish screens to protect fish from being harmed or waylaid, as well as the removal of one inflatable rubber dam and the installation of a Larinier Fishway in the former dam's foundation.

Construction of a fish ladder, which will assist steelhead past ACWD's Rubber Dam #3, is currently in progress. Watershed Forum members walking along the Alameda Creek Trail in Fremont, near the Mission Boulevard bridge, can observe con-



## HIGHLIGHTS (continued from p. 2)

struction of this fish ladder until its anticipated completion at the end of 2018. At that point, trail walkers can expect to see a fish ladder on the north bank (river right) of the Alameda Creek Flood Control Channel.

In May 2019, ACWD plans to break ground on their final [major](#)

[fish passage improvement projects](#). One of these projects is a joint project with the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (ACF&WCD), to build another state-of-the-art fish ladder spanning two separate passage barriers: ACWD's Rubber Dam #1, and ACF&WCD's Drop Structure, sometimes called the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Weir. The

joint fish ladder will be over 600 feet long, provide 25 feet of elevation change and be designed to operate under upstream water conditions varying up to ten feet in elevation.

At the same time, ACWD will consolidate its

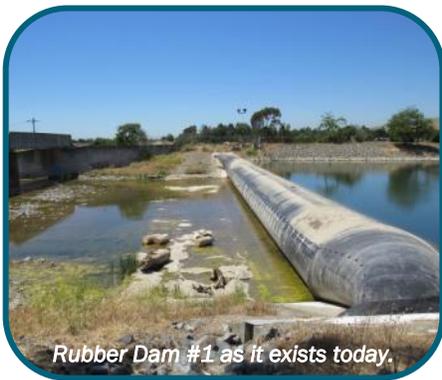
remaining unscreened diversions into a single location at Shinn Pond, and construct state-of-the-art fish screens to ensure migrating fish are not diverted into the adjacent Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area and groundwater recharge ponds. The fish ladder and fish screens will be constructed

over three construction seasons (May through October), and in-channel construction is expected to be completed in October of 2021. Upon completion, ACWD will make bypass flow releases through the ladder to enhance stream flows to support a healthy steelhead migration.

(Continued on pg. 4)



Crews prepare to pour cement at the Rubber Dam #3 Fish Ladder.



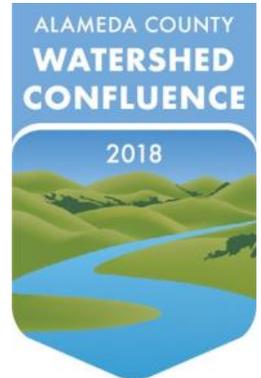
Rubber Dam #1 as it exists today.



Fish screens currently in place along Alameda Creek Flood Control Channel.

## The Alameda County Watershed Confluence: Sharing Ideas, Shaping the Future

Plans for a county-wide watershed conference have long been discussed by members active in watershed management and restoration in Alameda County. It wasn't until the 2015 Contra Costa County Watershed Symposium, however, that things finally started to solidify, thanks to active engagement from a variety of community members and agencies, and funding provided by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Since late 2016, Alameda County watershed stakeholders have been working together to develop the upcoming Alameda County Watershed Confluence.



The first ever Alameda County Watershed Confluence conference ("Confluence") will be held on October 17th, 2018 at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center on the shores of Lake Merritt. The Confluence is designed to provide a forum for local groups, community members and representatives from the public and private sectors interested in creek and watershed health to meet, network, share innovative ideas and inspire new partnerships in watershed management in Alameda County.

Through the theme, "Sharing Ideas, Shaping the Future", the conference will explore the history, management, science and collaborations that are shaping the future of Alameda County watersheds, and will highlight innovative, exemplary projects and programs. The event is being hosted by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and will feature presentations and speakers from a variety of agencies and organizations in Alameda County. Tickets are only \$20, and include lunch and entry to the evening networking event.

[Register now!](#)

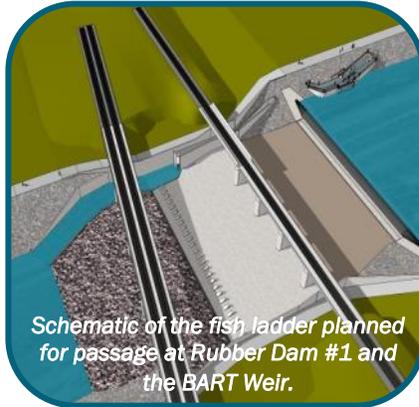
Would you like to be involved in the Alameda County Watershed Confluence? There are a number of ways to do so:

- **[Volunteer:](#)** The Confluence is seeking volunteers for participation on a variety of committees, as well as volunteers for day-of-event assistance.
- **[Sponsor:](#)** You can support the conference at a variety of levels. Don't miss this great opportunity to have your organization's name featured throughout the event.
- **[Present a Poster:](#)** Submit a proposal to share the important work you're doing in Alameda County. Attendees will have a variety of breaks throughout the day to view posters and ask presenters questions.
- **[Participate in the Community Group Recognition:](#)** Are you a Friend's Group, non-profit, or community-based organization working in Alameda County to benefit watershed health? We want to share information about your organization during our event!

## HIGHLIGHTS (continued from p. 3)

### Passage, Partnerships and Progress

Several project partners have supported the Lower Alameda Creek Fish Passage Improvement Projects. Grant funding to support the design and construction of the previously completed projects and to support the design of the fish ladders was provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, California Department of Water Resources, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. To date, ACWD has received an additional \$9.9M in combined grant funding for construction of the fish ladders from various partners, including the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the California Natural Resources Agency, California State Coastal Conservancy, and the California Wildlife Conservation Board. The state funding stems from the Proposition 1 Water Quality, Supply, and Infra-



Schematic of the fish ladder planned for passage at Rubber Dam #1 and the BART Weir.

structure Act, which California voters passed in 2014. In combination, the Lower Alameda Creek Fish Passage Improvement Projects will provide a migration route and enhance flows for steelhead and other fish — an exciting advancement that will benefit our watershed ecosystems!

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The acwForum encourages you to learn more about the good work ACWD is doing at the upcoming [Alameda County Watershed Confluence](#), where it will be a featured poster presenter!

Thank you to Sara Maatta at ACWD for contributing this article to the Watershed Lookout.

### 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 Lookout. Send information and photos to: [rachelle.hedges@acrwd.org](mailto:rachelle.hedges@acrwd.org)

## WATERSHED TOOLKIT

### Explore Watersheds: An Interactive, Online Map for Alameda County

The Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (ACFC&WCD) launched "Explore Watersheds", a dynamic map of watersheds in Western Alameda County, on their website in 2015. In 2017, in partnership with the SFPUC, the ACFC&WCD began work with Fugro USA Land, INC. to expand the map to include the eastern portion of the Alameda Creek Watershed. The ACFC&WCD is excited to announce that the expanded map has launched and is available at <https://www.acfloodcontrol.org/resources/explore-watersheds/>.



These multi-layer watershed maps are KMZ files that can be downloaded into Google Earth Pro, and show watershed boundaries, creeks, waterbodies, points of interest, a historical layer and major restoration projects. The Explore Watersheds website also features an interactive map with a great deal of information about each watershed.

Explore Watersheds is a wonderful (free!) resource for teachers, community groups, residents, and agencies in Alameda County.

You can view the Explore Watersheds tool in action at the upcoming [Alameda County Watershed Confluence](#)—where it will be featured throughout the day!

### Job Announcement: Part-Time Watershed Outreach Intern

Join the Alameda County Resource Conservation District team as a part-time Watershed Outreach Intern! Promote the Clean Water Program at public outreach events that focus on storm water, pollution prevention and watershed enhancement. Enjoy interacting with and educating the public about what they can do to prevent storm water pollution through interactive games and activities. [View job announcement.](#)

## SPOTLIGHT

### In Remembrance of Carl Morrison

You may have recently read of Carl Morrison's passing in the June issue of [Estuary News](#). As described in that article, Morrison's work positively impacted watersheds and agencies throughout the state of California—and the Alameda Creek Watershed was no exception. Over the years, Mr. Morrison's work included many efforts in the Alameda Creek Watershed.

Elke Rank, acwForum Chair and water resources planner at Zone 7 Water Agency (one of Mr. Morrison's first northern California clients), describes Carl as a "special guy—marine, lawyer, relationship expert (!)" and remembers one of his many efforts in the Alameda Creek Watershed in this month's Spotlight:

*Carl was architect and the horsepower behind the "Statements of Understanding" pertaining to the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) preparation of the Central California Coast Steelhead Recovery Program, which included the Alameda Creek watershed. This was rooted in his relationships with managers at Zone 7 Water Agency, Sonoma County Water Agency and NMFS - and it expanded to nearly 30 Bay Area water and flood agencies because of Carl's unique ability to build relationships and facilitate discussion on common interests. By signing, these agencies gained unprecedented opportunity for participation with NMFS staff as they prepared the Recovery Plan - like sharing local hydrologic and biological data that might have otherwise not been known to NMFS. The relationship he built with NMFS during this multi-year process served as the foundation for other efforts with NOAA/NMFS serving the greater Bay Area.*

*But, above all that, Carl was a genuine friend and a valued colleague to many. He is missed.*

The acwForum would like to thank Ms. Rank for contributing her words and memories about Carl Morrison to this issue of the

Watershed Lookout. We share her sentiments—Mr. Morrison will be missed, and the work he's done to benefit the Alameda Creek Watershed will long be remembered by those who live and work here.

**We know there are many dedicated people working within the Alameda Creek Watershed who deserve acknowledgment!** Send information about your recommended individual to [rachelle.hedges@acr.cd.org](mailto:rachelle.hedges@acr.cd.org)

## TOOLKIT (continued from p. 4)

### Become a Master Gardener in Alameda County

Help promote sustainable home landscapes within our watershed!

If you love learning and teaching about gardening, the Alameda County UC Master Gardener program offers the opportunity to use your knowledge and skills to serve the Alameda County community as a volunteer.

The Master Gardeners of Alameda County have announced volunteer orientation opportunities beginning this September. Volunteer orientation is the first step in the Volunteer Training Program, which starts in January 2019. Learn more about the Master Gardener training:

<http://acmg.ucanr.edu/>  
[So You Want To Be a Master Gardener-](#)

# 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](http://www.acwForum.org)

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