

WATERSHED LOOKOUT JANUARY 2022



Dear acwForum stakeholders, partners and friends,

Happy New Year! We like seeing the December precipitation! Fingers crossed there is more to come. Read below to learn about a tool used to monitor surface water and why it's important. Let's also take this time to remember the mission of the acwForum group as we move into 2022.

The Alameda Creek Watershed Forum's stakeholders (YOU) strive 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.

We hope to hear from each and every organization, agency, group and individual this year. We are also looking forward to the **May 5, 2022 State of the Alameda Creek Watershed. The call for presentations is below. Make sure to submit by the January 31 deadline.**

News items to send in, include:

- Project Updates
- Job Openings
- Future Planning
- Events
- Tools/How To's/Best Practices

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, January 8
9:00am - 12:00am
Living Arroyos Litter Clean-Up

Volunteer to remove trash from the Arroyo Mocho at the Stanley Reach in Livermore.

[Info & Register](#)

Thursday, January 13
5:00pm How to Manage Weeds Safely & Effectively

With the rains comes the weeds. Think before you reach for that weed killer! Learn what you can do *now* to ensure fewer weeds all year long. You will learn about organic, eco-friendly techniques for safe and effective weed management.

This webinar is proudly sponsored by the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program.

[Register](#)

Wednesday, January 12 & 19

Saturday, January 8, February 12 & March 12

9:00am - 12:00pm
LEAF GARDEN VOLUNTEER DAYS

Join LEAF as we tackle projects that would benefit from group participation like filling in a compost heap or replenishing mulch in our Food Gardens. We will meet at **LEAF C.R. Stone Garden** (behind Mission Valley Veterinary Clinic) at **55 Mowry Avenue near Mission Blvd in Fremont**. A LEAF [volunteer agreement](#) must be completed for your participation. Signed forms can be sent prior to your arrival via email to volunteers.fremontleaf@gmail.com or can be handed in when you arrive.



New Year, New Events
Tell us what you have planned
by emailing [Allison Rodacker](#)

April 16, 17, 30 & May 1
Bringing Back the Natives
Garden Tour

Development

This Career Development Workshop is applicable to anyone in any stage of their career. For more information and to register, click below.

[Register](#)

Join the four days of inspiration during 18th annual Birding Back the Native Garden Tour. It will be held over two weekends both virtually and in-person. The in-person tours will feature nearly [50 beautiful bird- and butterfly-friendly gardens](#) at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. In addition to the native plant gardens, about a dozen homes with green home features will be showcased.

[Register](#)
Save the Date!

ACRCD and the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be holding a Grassland Butterfly Symposium in spring 2022! The symposium will include a combination virtual lecture and optional field component. More to come soon!

ZONE 7 WATER GAUGE PROGRAM

Stream Gauge at Arroyo Las Positas above El Charro

In a previous story we discussed the local groundwater basins that are regulated for Zone 7 by the Groundwater Management Division. Within this division is a network of water gauges monitoring surface water across Zone 7's service area. Water gauges are expensive. For reference the USGS charges about \$26,000 per year to manage a single gauge after the \$20,000 installation cost; however, Zone 7 handles this in-house. So why is it beneficial? The gauges give Zone 7 the data to know when it is the right time to recharge the groundwater basins, or in non-drought years, knowing when to release (South Bay Aqueduct) water for additional recharge. Although still a work in progress, due to the rapid nature of flooding in this area, another benefit of the water gauges is flood warning. While the network provides only limited warning of high flows to Zone 7, agencies downstream can know what is coming their way based on real-time data. The statistics provided by the gauges also offer a long-term look at stream-flow data; however, the data is not currently all in one place, so that is a challenge for the time being. The data being collected include water level in feet, water temperature, stream flow in cubic feet per second and battery life for operations and maintenance purposes.

Zone 7 technicians help guide maintenance and operations including the type of gauges being use. Budget and quality are both considered when deciding on gauge type, so both "bubblers" and "pressure transducers/probes," are in use now. The latter of which is more cost efficient and gets results pretty close to the higher priced bubblers. Technology has advanced quite a bit over the past 20 years. Stream gauge data was initially collected in-person and decoded from paper charts. Later data collection advanced to collection via a laptop (still in-person in the field), then progressed to satellite transmission every 4 hours. USGS stream gauges now transmit data every hour. Zone 7 is using cellular data on HydroSphere by YSI which sends data every 15 minutes!

Operating and maintaining the gauges involves constant work. Both nature--for example, logs getting stuck--and humans (putting rocks in the flow way) inhibit operations and can cause gauges to report artificially deeper water. Battery life in the winter can be an issue if the solar panels are not being charged to capacity. The water channels also change with time, so it continues to be important to monitor each gauge site in person.

To view current conditions within Zone 7's network of stream gauges, click [HERE](#).

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The State of the Alameda Creek Watershed Conference



To apply, please download the [Presentation Proposal Submission Form](#) and submit by January 31, 2022.

TOOLBOX



The Draft Actions for the 2022 Estuary Blueprint are now available for public review and input. Watch the [Blueprint video overview](#) and offer your thoughts on the 25 Actions included in the Draft Blueprint. Submit comments through the [online form](#) or email them to blueprint@sfestuary.org. The deadline to submit comments is Friday, January 7, 2022.

Additionally, there will be a virtual public input session on Tuesday, January 11th, 2022 from 1-3pm PT. [Register for the Zoom meeting here](#).

Infrastructure Bill Salmon Funding

The 2021 federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act creates significant funding opportunities to address habitat protection and restoration, water quality and quantity issues, fish passage, and to improve the resiliency of watersheds in the face of climate change. The Wild Salmon Center has created this [summary](#) as a helpful overview of the breadth of funding opportunities.

Alameda Creek Watershed Forum

Click on the logo to view events and past newsletters.

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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.

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