

2015

To: Current Alameda Creek Watershed Council Members

Subject: Alameda Creek Watershed Forum – Letter of Understanding



The Alameda Creek Watershed **Council**, of which your agency or organization is a signatory member, is changing its name to the Alameda Creek Watershed **Forum (acwForum)** in an effort to update and streamline its work supporting watershed stakeholders. The acwForum will serve in a similar capacity to the Council as a voluntary, non-regulatory partnership of stakeholders interested in protecting and enhancing water-related beneficial uses and resources within the Alameda Creek watershed. The change in name to the acwForum and the new website [www.acwForum.org](http://www.acwForum.org) reflect a renewed focus on information-sharing and collaboration among agencies and organizations that have an interest in working toward a well-managed and restored watershed.

The acwForum will continue to improve communication among watershed organizations, local agencies, residents, landowners, land managers, and land users in protecting and achieving a healthy and sustainable watershed. The acwForum offers an enhanced website with a calendar of watershed stewardship events, as well as a quarterly e-newsletter that serves to keep stakeholders informed. The website also features an overview and map of acwForum Member restoration projects in the watershed and illustrates the effectiveness of partnerships in improving watershed health. The Annual Conference will continue to be held, as well as another annual event, which could take the form of a field tour, technical symposium, roundtable, or other event.

The purpose of this letter is to advise Council members that the transition from Council to Forum is assumed to be acceptable, and the name change will be made to the Letter of Understanding (LOU) document that members have signed. The LOU lists the acwForum's mission, purpose, organizational structure, anticipated actions and activities; minor changes to the meeting format, and the Steering Committee have been noted and highlighted in the acwForum LOU, which can be accessed at [www.acwForum.org](http://www.acwForum.org).

Signatories to the original LOU are considered acwForum Members, and are willing to commit staff time for participation in acwForum events, contribute information to the website's watershed restoration projects list, calendar and e-newsletter, and if desired, serve on workgroups or the Steering Committee. Non-signatory watershed stakeholders, such as members of watershed organizations, landowners and local residents, are welcome to participate in acwForum events and visit the website to stay informed.

Also available on the acwForum website is a list of the Council's Goals for the Watershed, all of which still stand as part of the acwForum's efforts to engage member agencies to collaboratively address natural resources and wildlife, agriculture, flood control and storm water quality, water supply, recreation, and education.

Your participation will enhance dialogue and collaboration that is focused on issues within the geographic area encompassing the entire Alameda Creek Watershed and associated San Francisco Bay shoreline. We hope that you will visit the new acwForum website to review the LOU and goals, and to let the acwForum leadership or coordinator know if you have any questions or wish to discuss the acwForum or the updated Letter of Understanding.

Sincerely,  
acwForum leadership:

Chair: Elke Rank, Zone 7 Water Agency, [erank@zone7water.com](mailto:erank@zone7water.com)  
Vice Chair: Ralph Johnson, consultant

acwForum Coordinator: Ian Howell, Alameda County RCD, [ian.howell@acrkd.org](mailto:ian.howell@acrkd.org)