



Alameda Creek Watershed Council 2009 Annual Report

WATERSHED COUNCIL

➤ Mission

The Alameda Creek Watershed Council'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 Council promotes collaboration and the sharing of information among all stakeholders.

➤ Stakeholders

The following organizations have signed the *Letter of Understanding* for the Alameda Creek Watershed Council:

- Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Alameda County Water District
- Alameda County Resource Conservation District
- East Bay Regional Park District
- Livermore Area Recreation and Park District
- City of Livermore
- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Zone 7 Water Agency
- Friends of the Arroyos

Other organizations and agencies including local non-profit and regional conservation groups are participating regularly, and are considering signing the Letter of Understanding.

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

➤ Meetings and Activities

The Council typically meets on the fourth Thursday every other month. Meetings and activities in 2009:

- **January 22, 2009** general meeting at Zone 7 Water Agency
- **March 26, 2009** general meeting at Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District /Clean Water Program offices
- **May 28, 2009** site visits to BART weir; Sunol Ag Park organic farm and streamside hedgerow; and Arroyo de la Laguna bioengineered streambank restoration project
- **July 23, 2009** general meeting at Zone 7 Water Agency- with pre-meeting site visit to Springtown Preserve tour led by Debbie Peterson, Las Positas College
- **October 22, 2009** 1st Annual Alameda Creek Watershed Council Conference

➤ Workgroup Reports

The Workgroups reported the following activities for 2009:

- **Planning Workgroup**
 - Facilitated bi-monthly meetings
 - Developed the Annual Conference
 - Prepared 2009 Annual Report
 - Watershed Project Database project
- **Stewardship Workgroup**
 - Photo contest: see co-winners shown at right
 - Adopt-A-Spot: Adopted two spots along Alameda Creek through ACFC&WCD; these locations are areas where watershed stakeholders, including Council members, and community members can participate in stewardship projects such as creek clean-ups or planting projects. Eight workdays were held in 2009 at the adopted spots and other areas in the watershed. Initiating an adopt-a-spot program in eastern Alameda County.
 - Watershed Signage: Proposing signage with creek names in the Alameda Creek Watershed at major trails and roads crossings. Aimed at educating the public about their environment, creating awareness of local creeks within the larger Alameda Creek watershed, and stimulating stewardship activities. Seeking funding.

Photo Contest Winners



Alameda Creek, Sunol Regional Park
By: Joe DiDonato



Alameda Creek, Coyote Hills Regional Park
By: Nick Calarco

■ Fisheries Workgroup

- The Fisheries Workgroup (a.k.a. Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup), led by Manny da Costa, has a MOU signed by 17 partners; projects are funded by 5 of the MOU partners. Technical assistance is provided by *CEMAR* and by *McBain & Trush*.
- Completed several on-the-ground tasks this year including digital aerial mapping, and habitat mapping assessments on Alameda Creek at differing flows.
- Quarterly meetings.

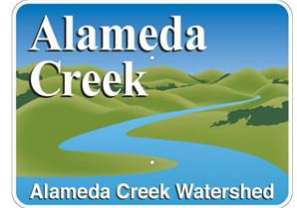
■ Sediment Workgroup

- The Sediment forum completed a sediment source reconnaissance for the Dry Creek watershed, one of the major tributaries to Alameda Creek.

■ Eden Landing Workgroup

- In November 2009, the Eden Landing Working Group met to provide feedback on designs for the kayak launch and viewing platforms at Eden Landing. The Group also discussed the schedule for restoring 630 acres of ponds to tidal habitat— a project that is slated to start construction in Spring 2010.

Creek Signage



➤ Annual Conference

The successful 1st Annual Conference was held on October 22, 2009 at the Zone 7 Water Agency in Livermore. Attendees included approximately 50 individuals from local, regional and state government; environmental groups; and consulting firms. This conference takes the place of the Sediment Forum held in recent years. Presenters were:

- Andy Gunther, Ph.D., *CEMAR* - Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup
- Robin Grossinger, *San Francisco Estuary Institute* – Alameda Creek historical ecology
- Janet M. Sowers, Ph.D. *William Lettis & Associates, Inc.* – Oakland Museum Creek & Watershed Maps
- Jeff Miller, *Alameda Creek Alliance* – Current advocacy work in the Alameda Creek watershed
- John Krause, *California Department of Fish & Game* – Eden Landing Ecological Reserve update
- Greg Connaughton, *Contra Costa County Public Works* – Flood control and sediment mgmt. incorporating fish passage
- Sarah Pearce, *San Francisco Estuary Institute* – Dry Creek (Alameda Creek tributary) sediment budget
- Mitch Swanson, *Swanson Hydrology* – Flood control and sediment management strategies that incorporate fish passage.
- Liang Xu, *Santa Clara Valley Water District* – Sediment mgmt. issues including low flow channels, off-channel storage

➤ Other ACWC Activities

- Members participated in the panel discussion on watershed stewardship at the Floodplain Management Conference in San Jose in September
- ACWC expressed support for and heard two updates on progress on the Alameda Creek Historical Ecology study, which is now underway (conducted by SFEI, funded by ACFC&WCD and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission)
- Alameda County Resource Conservation District submitted two funding proposals for ACWC stewardship projects and watershed signage
- Developed the ACWC webpage currently hosted by Alameda County Resource Conservation District

STRATEGIC PLANNING

➤ 2010 Goals

Key objectives include:

- Develop opportunities for site visits, training
- Enhance ACWC participation
- Fund & implement an expanded website
- Fund & implement watershed signage project

CONTACT THE WATERSHED COUNCIL

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: <http://www.acrcd.org/WatershedCouncil.aspx>

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Planning Workgroup: Elke Rank (Zone 7 Water Agency); Manny da Costa, Sharon Gosselin, and Ralph Johnson, Ret. (Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District); Amy Evans and Leslie Koenig (Alameda County Resource Conservation District); Pam Lung (City of Livermore)