

# Watershed Lookout

Alameda Creek Watershed  
**Forum**



Alameda Creek , Niles Canyon  
© ACFC&WCD

**L**eaping into 2016 we have lots to look forward to! After a wet close to 2015, we hope the wet weather continues to replenish water supplies throughout the watershed. In this edition of the *Watershed Lookout* we present upcoming events relevant to the Alameda Creek Watershed, including acwForum activities. The Toolkit section presents the Pacific Institute’s California Urban Water Supplies Water Use interactive map. We summarize the Niles Canyon Stroll & Roll and the California Coastal Cleanup Day events in Highlights.

Check out the updated acwForum website, [www.acwforum.org](http://www.acwforum.org). Among other improvements, the website now contains scrolling picture slideshows from around the watershed!

**Inside this issue:**

Highlights	2
Watershed Toolkit	2
Spotlight	3
About Us	3

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 26**  
**acwForum Technical Symposium**  
[Register now!](#) The Alameda Creek Watershed Forum’s technical symposium, *Synchronizing watches: Working smarter—together—to bring grant dollars to Alameda Creek Watershed*, is next Tuesday. [Contact us for details!](#) Details at <http://www.acwforum.org/calendar>

**February 4**  
**USACE Regulatory Division Open House**  
 Army Corps of Engineers. Topics: Regulatory Programs, Mitigation, Endangered Species, Emergency Permitting, Cultural Resources, agricultural exemptions, and dredged material management. SF Bay Regional Water Board, 1515 Clay St, Room 1, Floor 2, Oakland. Presentations: 9:00–

12:00. Informal open house: 1:00–3:00.  
<http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>

**February 12-14**  
**Home and Garden Show**  
 Interested in learning environmentally friendly ways to maintain your garden and home? Learn wildlife friendly pest prevention, alternatives to common toxic cleaning supplies, the importance of pollinators, and more! Visit the Alameda County Fairgrounds conservation booths for more information!  
<http://www.capitalshowcase.com/alameda.html>

**February 20th & March 19th**  
**Upcoming Volunteer Restoration Days in Niles Canyon**

Come learn about creeks and natural communities while participating in volunteer restoration work with Alameda Creek Alliance!  
<http://www.alamedacreek.org/upcoming-events/events.php>

**Spring 2016 acwForum Annual Conference**  
 Our Annual Conference is scheduled for late spring 2016! Keep an eye out for a save the date! [Please contact us any topic, presenter or field tour ideas!](#)

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll

On October 11<sup>th</sup> thousands of people enjoyed a car-free day along Niles Canyon Road (Highway 84). An estimated 5,000–10,000 people participated in this event by walking, biking, volunteering, and perusing educational booths. Regardless of the activity, feedback from this community event was overwhelmingly positive.



© Doug Jorgensen  
A group of bicyclists and pedestrians stop to view Alameda Creek during the Stroll and Roll Event, Niles Canyon, 2015

Alameda County District 1 Supervisor Scott Haggerty and District 2 Supervisor Richard Valle, their staff, as well as other partners organized the event to outreach and solicit comments on a proposed multi-use trail through the canyon. The

event encouraged awareness and feedback on alternative routes for a paved, 10-foot wide path for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians that would extend from Fremont (Mission Boulevard at Highway 84) to Sunol. The trail is intended to link to other regional trails in the area. Partners in the project include the County of Alameda, East Bay Regional Park District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Alameda County Water District, and City of Fremont as key stakeholders.

While many event participants chose to walk or bike the car-less roadway, others saw an opportunity to volunteer. The Alameda Creek Alliance, Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, as well as



© Amy Evans  
Clean Creeks Team litter haul during the Niles Canyon Stroll & Roll, Niles Canyon, 2015

Hands-On Conservation facilitated the 'Clean Creeks Team' effort, picking up litter along the entire 6 mile-long road. Regardless of the activity, it is clear that all enjoyed this car-free day in Niles Canyon. We hope to see another community event like this one in the future as the trail is planned and developed.

[Click here for more information on the Niles Canyon Multi-Use Trail.](#)

### Coastal Cleanup Day 2015

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day (CCCD) is in the books! Every year on the third Saturday of September people all over California participate in the State's largest volunteer clean up effort. This year on September 19, 2015 over 68,000 volunteers associated with a registered CCCD event removed nearly 1,143,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from waterways to create healthier environments for people, ecosystems, fish, and wildlife alike.

See below to view our local results of the reported cleanup efforts within the Alameda Creek Watershed.

Thanks to everyone who participated and helped steward these cleanup efforts!



© Amy Evans  
Coastal Cleanup Day volunteers pledge to stop littering in a group photo, Union City, 2015

[Click here for the California Coastal Cleanup webpage with more information.](#)

Coastal Cleanup Day: Alameda Creek Watershed Totals - 2015				
Organizer	Location	Volunteers	Trash (lbs.)	Recyclables (lbs.)
City of Dublin	4 Dublin Sites	100	1378	41
East Bay Regional Park District	Del Valle Lake	200	Unavailable	Unavailable
Tri-Valley Creeks	7 Livermore Sites	223	668.3	185.5
Union City and ACRCO	ACFC&WCD channel near Alameda Creek	38	51.9	17.3
TOTALS		561	2,098.2	243.8

\*Indicated trash and recycling volumes were converted to pounds at 100lbs per 1cy (estimate used by City of Dublin staff based on averages from Stop-waste and Recyclemania). Dry gallons were first converted to cubic yards.

## WATERSHED TOOLKIT

### Interactive Water Conservation Status Map

Interested in seeing how your city or watershed area ranks in water use efficiency? A new web application created by the Pacific Institute shows how different California cities are responding to the

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

## CONTACT US

**Chair:**  
Elke Rank, Zone 7 Water Agency  
erank@zone7water.com

**Coordinator:**  
Ian Howell, ACRCO  
ian.howell@acrcd.org

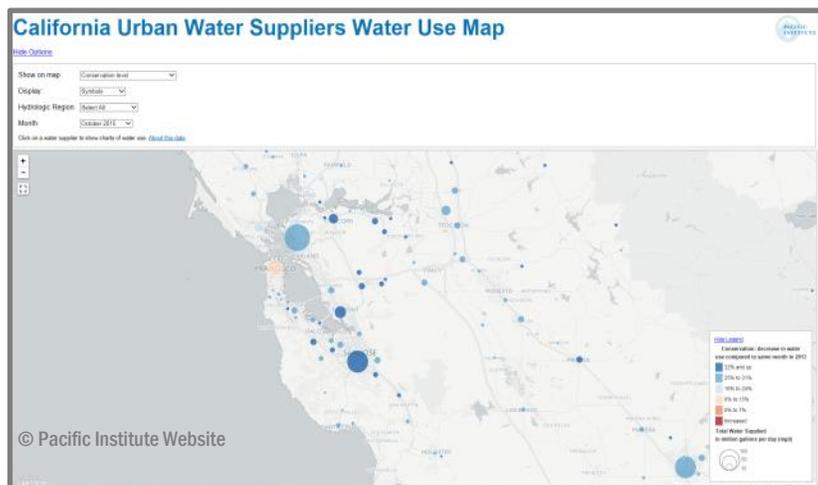
**Vice Chair:**  
Ralph Johnson, consultant

**Website & Outreach Assistant:**  
Haley Burgardt, ACRCO  
haley.burgardt@acrcd.org

### acwForum Signatory Members:

- Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (ACFC&WCD)
- Alameda County Water District
- Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD)
- 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 (SFBRWQCB)
- Zone 7 Water Agency

## Toolkit Continued...



A focused screenshot of greater San Francisco Bay Area using the interactive water use map, Pacific Institute Website, 2015

Click the map image above to access the interactive map. [To access other information and the interactive water use table, click here for the Pacific University's website.](#)

## SPOTLIGHT

### Know of someone who deserves recognition in the next Watershed Lookout?

Send us information about your recommended individual(s)! We know there are plenty of dedicated people working within the Alameda Creek Watershed who deserve acknowledgement.

Contact:  
Haley Burgardt, ACRCO  
[Haley.Burgardt@acrcd.org](mailto:Haley.Burgardt@acrcd.org)

drought and Jerry Brown's 25 percent reduction mandate. Since July 2014 the State Water Resources Control Board has required urban water utilities with more than 3,000 customers to report their water use each month. the interactive map shows total system-wide water use, as well as residential water use (i.e., estimated portion used by residents), which is measured in gallons per capita per day (gpcd). The map allows viewers to track their local water use through time and compare water use to nearby cities or across the state.

Within the Alameda Creek Watershed, it appears the cumulative water savings from July to November 2015 ranged from 26 percent along the Bay to an astounding 40+ percent in parts of the Tri-Valley when compared to 2013 levels!

We encourage you to take a peek at this interactive online map and tables!