

Watershed Lookout



Arroyo de la Laguna, near Sunol
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When our spring newsletter went out this time last year, the headline read “Water! Water! Water!” and heralded the arrival of a long-awaited El Niño winter. In hindsight, we should have waited to use that headline until this issue! 2016’s winter weather seems tame compared to the record-breaking rainfall throughout California in 2017. The rain has lifted nearly all of California out of drought – even prompting Governor Brown to [lift the drought state of emergency a few days ago](#) – but it has also creates many issues for land managers throughout the watershed! (Find out how you can learn what other local land managers are doing to deal with these issues in this issue’s “Watershed Toolkit” segment.) Also in this edition of *Lookout*, we highlight a great new project taking place in Union City, recap the 2016 acwForum “State of the Watershed” conference, and announce an exciting upcoming event for watershed stakeholders. Our Spotlight section recognizes Docent Dave, a fellow you may be lucky enough to cross paths with some day in one of the many parks in the Alameda Creek Watershed.

UPCOMING EVENTS | SPECIAL EARTH DAY EDITION

April 22

East Bay Regional Park District Activities

EBRPD recognizes what a special day Earth Day is, and celebrates with activities in many of their parks. From crafts to invasive plant removal, tree planting to litter pick up, there is something for everyone! Find an event: <http://www.ebparks.org/about/getinvolved/volunteer/events>

City of Fremont “Let’s Go Green Together” Earth Day Fair

A free event with fun for the entire family, the Earth Day Fair will feature eco-entertainment and games, environmental resources and a free Residential Waste Drop-Off. Learn more, or register for this great event here: <https://fremont.gov/earthday>

California State Parks Foundation Earth Day Restoration & Clean Up

Thousands of volunteers are needed throughout California to assist with projects such as habitat restoration, native garden conservation, fence building, trail maintenance and beach cleanup. To find out more: <http://www.calparks.org/help/earth-day/>

City of Pleasanton Earth Day Clean Up

Help the Alviso Adobe Staff remove trash and improve habitat in a nearby creek. Have fun “making a splash to support wildlife”. To learn more, or register, visit: <http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cs/adobe/programs.asp>

April 23

Alameda Creek Earth Day Clean Up and Habitat Enhancement

Join the Alameda Creek Alliance for a morning of habitat restoration along Alameda Creek. Pick up trash and remove and remove invasive species in Niles Canyon! For directions and registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/alameda-creek-earth-day-clean-up-habitat-enhancement-april-23-2017-tickets-32635582907?aff=erellivmlt>

For more information on Earth Day events near you, check out your city’s calendar of events or visit <http://www.bayareaearthday.org/bayareaearthdayevents/>

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Union City's Green Streets Project

Alameda Creek in Union City is now benefitting from improved water quality resulting from Union City's \$4M Green Streets Project. The project includes planted rain gardens, pervious pavement, and streetscape enhancements in the Decoto area of the city. The project area was targeted due to a long term need to alleviate localized flooding along residential streets, to enhance infiltration of runoff and increase pollutant capture, to provide cooling effects of shade trees, and to enhance "walkability".

Curb bulb outs and curb cuts allow runoff from streets, sidewalks and yards to flow into the planted rain gardens which



feature specialized soil/gravel layers with underground drainage and above-ground storm drain overflows, and which allow shallow ponding of water and enhanced infiltration. The rain gardens have explanatory signage and the program has included ongoing neighborhood engagement. \$3M of the project cost was covered by a Prop 84 Stormwater Grant, with Union City providing \$1M in matching

funds. The city is now planning an Earth Day presentation on the project for the community, and a maintenance manual is being developed as part of the grant project to guide the city's efforts in maintaining the green streets features.

Rain garden stewardship efforts

The Hands-On Conservation Program, with funding from ACFC&WCD, led a Martin Luther King Day of Service volunteer workday event on January 16th to give students from Logan High School, which is immediately adjacent to the project area, and neighborhood families an opportunity to learn about the rain gardens and to pick up litter from them along several of the city blocks in the project area (pictured above).



In addition, a group of 3rd grade students from Searles Elementary was given a presentation in January at the rain gardens across the street from their school. The students then completed a litter cleanup after the presentation as part of their involvement in EBRPD's "Friends of Fish" program.

The Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program's webpage lists green streets projects in the county. Learn more at: <http://cleanwaterprogram.org/greenstreets-examples.html>

2016 acwForum State of the Watershed

On October 15th nearly 50 people, representing over 20 agencies attended the State of the Watershed meeting at the Fremont Teen Center. The event included presentations on topics such as coordinated stewardship program efforts in the Livermore Valley, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission capital improvement projects, water quality and harmful algal blooms, planning studies being undertaken by Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7 Water Agency stream restoration work, agency coordination on fisheries recovery planning, and fish passage and groundwater management by Alameda County Water Conservation District. "Five Minute News" segments were featured, allowing different groups to share updates about the work they've been conducting in the watershed between presentations.

Thanks to the generous sponsors, excellent speakers and everyone who attended for making this a great event for all! To read more, or to view presentations from the meeting, please visit: <http://www.acwforum.org/calendar>

2018 Alameda County Watershed Symposium

The acwForum is excited to support the first ever Alameda County Watershed Symposium. This county-wide symposium will be held in spring 2018, and provides an opportunity for local groups, public and private sector representatives, and other watershed community members to network, share creek and watershed information, and present innovative management techniques from across the county. The acwForum welcomes its members to attend the county-wide symposium in lieu of scheduling a 2018 acwForum State of the Watershed meeting.

We are asking for your help to create an excellent Symposium experience. If you are interested in being involved, please fill out this [short survey](#). If you'd like to learn more, please [contact the Symposium Coordinator](#).

WATERSHED TOOLKIT

acwForum 2017 Technical Meeting

The past winter's storms have introduced a host of large-scale problems for land managers throughout the Bay Area. Landslides, extreme stream erosion, flooding, and high levels of sediment deposits are plaguing public and private lands throughout the watershed.

The acwForum 2017 Technical Meeting is slated for late spring and will focus on ways in which different agencies, land managers and consultants are addressing issues caused by the severe winter weather.

More information will be available at <http://www.acwforum.org/calendar> soon! Additionally, individuals on our newsletter mailing list will receive an email alert with the date, time and more details about the topics to be covered at the Technical Meeting in the coming weeks. Questions about the 2017 acwForum Technical Meeting can be submitted to Ian Howell: ian.howell@acrdd.org.

SPOTLIGHT

“Docent Dave” Pendleton

It all started with a backpacking trip to Yosemite’s Lake Eleanor in 1981...“I noticed there was trash left behind at a lot of the back-country campsites, so as I hiked out I was picking it up along the way,” Dave Pendleton recounted. When Dave bumped into a back-country ranger and mentioned the efforts he’d made to clean up the area on his hike out, he was quickly recruited as a backcountry restoration volunteer.



Ten years later, Dave found himself searching for volunteer work as meaningful as that first experience at Yosemite. Said Dave, “I had been looking for a volunteer opportunity for a while, but nothing seemed like the right fit.” That all changed while on a trip to Butano State Park in 1991, where Dave noticed a “Volunteers Wanted” sign, and realized it was *just* the opportunity he had been looking for.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Since that time, Dave has been a dedicated volunteer in the Bay Area for a variety of land management agencies, including his many years of service as a naturalist docent for California State Parks, and over twenty years of volunteer work with the Sempervirens Fund.

More recently, Dave has focused his efforts closer to home. Since retiring from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory three years

ago, he has been volunteering regularly as a docent for East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD). Through these two organizations “Docent Dave” (as he’s known around these parts) assists with a wide array of programs. One day he’s assisting with stream ecologies studies for local youth, and the next he’s off to help with a wildflower hike. Another day you may find him making leaf rubbings to help children identify local flora, only to spot him a few weeks later helping with an interpretive program about the history of indigenous people in the Bay Area.

As we chatted during the interview, it was clear that his breadth of knowledge about the flora, fauna, and natural history in the area is impressive. But you’d never hear that from him... Even after 36 years volunteering in natural resource conservation, Dave maintains that he’s “no expert, and [doesn’t] claim to be... As soon as you think you know everything, you lose the opportunity to learn.”

For Docent Dave, it’s all about learning. “There’s such a wealth of knowledge out there,” he said, referring to the rangers and naturalists with whom he regularly works, “I just enjoy sharing with the public what I’ve been lucky enough to learn after all these years.”

If you want to hear more from Docent Dave, the best way to catch him in action is to head out to one of the many EBRPD or LARPD parks located in and around the Alameda Creek Watershed for a naturalist program or ranger-led hike! For a schedule of programs, check out:

EBRPD: <http://www.ebparks.org/activities>

LARPD: http://www.larpd.org/open_space/parks.html

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 (SFBRWQCB)
- Zone 7 Water Agency

We know there are plenty of dedicated people working within the Alameda Creek Watershed who deserve acknowledgment! Send information about your recommended individual to rachelle.hedges@acrcd.org

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

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