



## Frequently Asked Questions About Joining the Alameda Creek Watershed Council

The following provides information that your agency or organization may want when deciding whether to join the Alameda Creek Watershed Council. For additional information, please read the "Letter of Understanding - Alameda Creek Watershed Council" and the cover letter that requests that you join the Alameda Creek Watershed Council.

### **What is the Alameda Creek Watershed Council?**

The Alameda Creek Watershed Council was created in late 2007. It is a voluntary, non-regulatory group of stakeholders who are interested in protecting and enhancing water-related beneficial uses and resources within the Alameda Creek watershed. The Council evolved from the Alameda Creek Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee that originated in 1998. For more information, visit the Council's webpage: [www.acrcd.org/watershed-council.aspx](http://www.acrcd.org/watershed-council.aspx)

### **Which stakeholders are currently represented on the Council?**

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

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

### **What are the benefits to my agency or organization in participating on the Council?**

Some of the benefits of becoming a member of the Council and participating in its activities include:

1. **Staying informed.** The Council is an excellent way to become familiar with projects and initiatives that affect Alameda Creek and the baylands associated with the mouth of Alameda Creek. Knowing which projects are being planned will help your agency or organization to express its concerns and participate in these projects.

2. **Getting to know other stakeholders.** Participation on the Council offers an opportunity to become acquainted with representatives from other organizations and agencies that are interested in Alameda Creek and its watershed.
3. **Advocating for grant resources.** Working as a group, the Council plans to advocate for the allocation of grant resources for use in the Alameda Creek watershed.
4. **Creating cost-effective partnerships on projects.** Participation on the Council offers opportunities for your agency or organization to form partnerships with other agencies and organizations to implement projects within the watershed.
5. **Endorsing grant applications.** The Council will work to secure funding, such as grants, to support the activities of the Council and/or its members.

### **What does the Council do?**

Some particularly interesting projects that the Council is currently helping to guide and implement include:

1. **The Alameda Creek historical ecology project.** This project is intended to engage the public in identifying a realistic and practical vision for restoring Alameda Creek, its tributaries, and associated fluvial and alluvial areas. This two-year project has been initiated with funding provided by San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.
2. **Creek and watershed signage.** Creation and installation of creek signs to better inform the public about the names of creeks and watersheds. The project will include outreach to organizations and groups to solicit funding for making and installing signs.
3. **“Adopt a Spot” areas.** Adoption of selected spots along Alameda Creek through the Alameda County Flood Control District’s “Adopt a Spot/Creek” program for non-native vegetation, trash, and litter removal using local community resources. The Alameda County Resource Conservation District in conjunction with the Council is helping to organize local schools and community groups to work on adopted spots. The Council has adopted the creek bank around the EBRPD’s Niles Staging area and the banks near Niles Community Park to the BART weir, and is planning to adopt additional spots in Union City, and eventually Livermore and Pleasanton.
4. **Education.** The Council will be identifying opportunities for educating the public and elected officials about Alameda Creek and watershed issues.
5. **Sediment Forum.** The sediment forum meets twice a year to encourage collaboration and coordination of watershed sediment studies, to share technical information, and to generate information needed to set sediment goals for the Alameda Creek watershed.

### **How much of a time commitment is required to participate in the Council?**

The Council is currently meeting about six times per year. In addition, there are opportunities, as people’s time and interest allows, to participate in work groups to support the Council’s activities. An estimate of the minimum amount of time needed to be an effective Council participant is about four hours to prepare for, attend, and follow up each meeting or about 24 hours per year. To assist with planning and implementing a Council project would require additional time.

### **What are the financial implications of participating on the Council?**

There are no dues or costs associated with signing the Letter of Understanding. Any possible future collaborative watershed projects that involve cost sharing would need to be approved by participating organizations and agencies in a separate agreement.

### **Can my organization or agency still participate in the Council meetings and events even if it does not sign the Letter of Understanding?**

Yes. Participation by all stakeholders is encouraged. Nonetheless, the Council will be more effective if agencies and organizations are able to sign the Letter of Understanding and commit staff or volunteer time to participate as Council members.

### **When does the Council meet?**

The Council has typically been meeting on the fourth Thursday of every other month for about two hours. On occasion an optional field trip has been held prior to a Council meeting or in place of one of the Council meetings.

### **Where does the Council meet?**

The Council has typically held every other meeting at either the Zone 7 Water Agency's office at 100 North Canyons Parkway in Livermore or the Alameda County Public Works Agency's office at 951 Turner Court in Hayward. If you wish to be notified of upcoming meetings, please contact Amy Evans or Fred Jarvis- contact information provided below.

### **Organizational Support**

The Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District provides funding to support the Council. Additional funding is being sought to ensure the sustainability of the Council.

### **2009 Contact information for the Council**

The Council's webpage: [www.acrcd.org/watershed-council.aspx](http://www.acrcd.org/watershed-council.aspx)

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(To be decided at 5/28/09 Council meeting)

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