

## **Alameda Creek Watershed Council Meeting Summary of July 23, 2009**

The Alameda Creek Watershed Council (Council) met on July 23, 2009 from 1:00-3:30 pm at the Zone 7 Water Agency's offices at 100 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore. Attendees: Rich Cimino, Ohlone Audubon Society; Jeff Miller, Alameda Creek Alliance; Jim Summers, Oliver de Silva, Inc.; Sheila Barry, U.C. Cooperative Extension; Rich Fletcher, Fletcher Conservation; Mike Vukman, Urban Creeks Council; Elke Rank and Carol Mahoney, Zone 7 Water Agency; Pamela Lung, City of Livermore; Dale Hopkins and Leslie Perry Regional Water Quality Control Board; Amy Evans Alameda County Resource Conservation District; Katie Bergmann, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Sharon Peterson, Livermore Area Recreation and Park District; Michelle LaBeau, LaBeau Associates; and Ralph Johnson and Paul Modrell, Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (ACFC&WCD); and Fred Jarvis, ACFC&WCD consultant.

*Note: name in italics/parenthesis indicates who is following up on this item*

### **I. Summary of Actions Taken**

1. Agreed that the Council's Planning Committee could decide to submit proposals for grant funding on behalf of the Council for projects that the Council is interested in pursuing.
2. *Everyone* who has a project should write up the information on the new "Alameda Creek Watershed Projects Reporting Chart" and submit this information to Leslie Koenig for inclusion on the website.

### **II. Follow Up Items from Meeting**

*Everyone* should forward ideas to Michelle LeBeau about the needs of the Alameda County Watershed Forum and ways to build the forum's capacity.

### **III. Other Items Discussed**

1. **Briefing on Apperson Quarry Conservation Agreement.** Jeff Miller and Jim Summers reviewed the background information about this agreement and what this historic agreement contains. Some of the information presented included the following:
  - The quarry along Alameda Creek in Sunol, called SMP-30 site, will be expanded by 50 acres and the material quarried will be deepened from 140 ft. below the surface to 230 ft. The expansion of this quarry site will avoid the need to install crushing and asphalt equipment at the Apperson Quarry. A conveyor system will be used to move quarried material to the SMP-30 site and avoid the need to construct a 5-mile long road and for 1,000 truck trips per day.
  - It took about 18 to 24 months to forge an agreement on how the two quarries would work together to lessen the impact of the Apperson Quarry. By operating the two quarries together, opening of the Apperson Quarry has been delayed as long as possible until 2030.
  - In December 2008 two conservation agreements were signed by Oliver de Silva, Alameda Creek Alliance, and the Center for Biological Diversity. The Center for Biological Diversity rarely enters into agreements, and it believes the agreements reached provide a lot of benefits.
  - Some of the enhancements from the Apperson Quarry include: replacing the 600 acres of habitat lost with similar habitats; providing full mitigation for temporary habitat losses; conducting a comprehensive Tule Elk mitigation and monitoring plan in Sunol Valley; conducting focused special status species studies; and potentially implementing seasonal constraints on mining to minimize noise impacts.
  - The Sunol Valley Conservation Agreement's measures include: contributing several million dollars for fish passage along Alameda Creek at the BART weir, inflatable dams, and PG&E dam in Sunol Valley; installing a slurry wall below the SMP 30 active quarry; and revegetating the Alameda Creek banks near the quarry when done to lower water temperatures.

2. **Public Education and Assistance Pilot Program through the Stream Management Program for Landowners (SMPL).** Mike Vukman and Carol Mahoney explained the work that the Urban Creeks Council (UCC) will provide for the Zone 7 Water Agency under a new contract that started in July and runs through June 2010. Landowners who buy property adjacent to Arroyo de Laguna from Castlewood Drive in Pleasanton to Highway 84 in Sunol have no information on how to maintain the creek in an ecological manner. The work includes assessing current and historical creek conditions; engaging local landowners with three workshops, visiting properties, interviewing 20 landowners, and providing specific biotechnical information; and reporting on their findings. The intent is to test UCC with a \$25,000 contract for the creek segment with the most challenging erosion problems. The funding does not include the implementation of erosion control solutions.
3. **Feedback on Future Role of Alameda County Watershed Forum.** Michelle LeBeu described the work she is doing for the forum on strategic planning and fund raising to build the forum's capacity. One issue is to identify what the forum could do better to meet the needs of the watershed community in Alameda County. She is evaluating ideas on how to improve the forum's structure. She is currently obtaining feedback about how the forum could grow, how it could do field trips, how to raise funds, and how to tie different initiatives together. A potential role of the forum could be to seek funds and direct the use of funds received.
4. **Planning First Annual Workshop/Meeting of the Alameda Creek Watershed Council.** Kat Ridolfi from the San Francisco Estuary Institute staff and Amy Evans are planning the first annual workshop/meeting of the council in October. One of the purposes of the workshop is to get all of the work groups, such as the fisheries and sediment, together at one time. Another purpose will be to introduce the council and encourage additional membership on the council and its work groups by introducing the website and projects list. The morning sessions will include more generalized presentations on the historical ecology study; Elke Rank will discuss the fisheries work group; and Ralph will describe sediment problems in Alameda Creek. The afternoon session will include information about making lower Alameda Creek a fish friendly passage creek. A speaker familiar with the work done at the San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz County would be useful.
5. **Update on Council Projects.** Amy provided the following update:
  - a. The signage project and the adopt a spot project were included in a larger creek conservation and strategy proposal for federal grant funding using San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Funds. The proposal was sent to the San Francisco Estuary Partnership as part of a proposal they will be preparing for the use of these funds. Rich added that the Audubon Society would like to obtain a couple of creek signs, and Amy said that this would occur if the proposal was funded.
  - b. Activities at the Council's adopted spots will be integrated with the September 19 Coastal Clean Up day and planned activities by the Cities of Livermore and Fremont. In addition, the October 24 Make-A-Difference-Day will also be a clean up day at these spots.
  - c. Watershed Photo Contest: rules for the contest have been completed, and the photos can hopefully be displayed at the annual workshop/meeting.
6. Flood Plain Management Conference in San Jose on **September 9**: Pam has invited five Council participants to talk on a panel offered under the Communication Strategies for Public Involvement session.
7. **Other.** Rich informed everyone that the Audubon Society will have a statewide burrowing owl conference in eastern Alameda County in February. There is a lot of interest in burrowing owl conservation plans.

#### IV. Next Meeting

The Council agreed to either have either a Council or Council planning work group meeting on September 24.