

DRAFT
Alameda Creek Watershed Council
Meeting Summary of January 22, 2009

The Alameda Creek Watershed Council (Council) met on January 22, 2009 from 1:00-3:30 pm at the Zone 7 Water Agency's Offices at 100 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore. Attendees: Sharon Gosselin, Alameda County Public Works Agency; Rich Cimino, Alameda Creek Alliance/Ohlone Audubon Society; Elke Rank and Mary Lim, Zone 7 Water Agency; Pamela Lung (via telephone), City of Livermore; Dale Hopkins and Leslie Perry, Regional Water Quality Control Board; Leslie Koenig, Alameda County Resource Conservation District; Sharon Peterson, Livermore Area Recreation and Park District; Laura Reinhard, Save the Bay; Stephanie Nevins, Alameda County Water District; Jim Browne and Manny da Costa, 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. The Council agreed to form a planning workgroup to provide guidance to the RCD about what the Council would like to achieve this year. Sharon Gosselin and Jim Browne volunteered to participate on the work group, and others are encouraged to join.
2. The Council is interested in helping to bring the various work groups, such as the Alameda Creek Fisheries Workgroup and Sediment Forum, under an organizational structure headed by the Council so that it become easier for all stakeholders to be informed on watershed activities.

II. Follow Up Items from Meeting

1. *Leslie Koenig* will let Amy Evans know that the signage workgroup would like to have a telephone conference call to decide how to publicize and initiate the installation of signs.
2. *Fred Jarvis* will invite Ralph Johnson to the March Watershed Council meeting to discuss his ideas for consolidating the workgroups under the Alameda Creek Watershed Council. The Council was okay with moving the meeting date in March if needed to allow Ralph to attend.

III. Other Items Discussed

1. **Recent Meetings and Conferences.** Manny da Costa reported that the Alameda Creek Watershed Sediment Forum in December was well attended. Presentations from the Forum are available on the SFEI website. The Sediment Forum will be changed to a workgroup. Pam suggested that it would be useful if the morning session focused on bigger picture issues and reserve the afternoon session for technical details. This will allow some participants to just attend the morning session.

Rich Cimino reported that there was a scoping meeting held last week with the San Francisco Planning Department and federal wildlife agencies on the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's proposed Alameda Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan. The 501c organizations are requesting more comment time than the one week allowed.

2. **Update on the East County Conservation Strategy.** Mary Lim distributed handouts with information about the project. The purpose of the strategy is to develop a blueprint for conserving species in the eastern portion of Alameda County. Once the strategy is completed, US Fish & Wildlife Service will likely develop a programmatic biological opinion in order to streamline permitting for both project proponents and permitting agencies. The strategy will focus on identified wildlife and plant species. Steelhead is included as a focal species but no specific conservation strategies will be identified. The conservation strategy will refer to the existing efforts, such as the Alameda Creek Fisheries Workgroup and SFPUC's Habitat Conservation Plan, to assist project proponents when addressing steelhead. The Phase I data gathering portion of the project was completed last October, and work is now proceeding to

identify gaps in conservation and corridor disconnectivity in order to develop biological goals and objectives for conservation. In the next few weeks the conservation strategy will have its own website, and comments may be directed to Mary.

3. **Hearing on Proposed Additional Water Quality Impairment Listings for Alameda Creek.** Dale Hopkins provided an update on the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Water Board) public hearing on January 14. At the hearing it was determined that the proposed trash listing for Alameda Creek is actually based on information from old Alameda Creek. On this basis, the Water Board staff will not list Alameda Creek for trash. In addition, Arroyo Mocho is being proposed for listing because its temperature does not support cold water habitat, and Arroyo Las Positas is proposed for listing because of algae blooms and eutrophication. The Water Board will address comments received and adopt the list of additional water quality impairments at its February meeting. Waterbodies remain on the impaired list until the impairment has been resolved. It was pointed out that the listing process can be useful to municipalities in terms of obtaining grant funds.
4. **Update on Watershed Forum Request for Proposals (RFP).** Dale handed out a copy of the RFP that solicits proposals for assistance with the organizational development of the Alameda County Watershed Forum. She requested that attendees let qualified consultants know about the RFP.
5. **Cities Keep It Clean!** Laura Reinhard distributed a summary of Save the Bay's new knowledge sharing campaign. The City of San Jose is a partner with Save the Bay in Cities Keep It Clean! Save the Bay is interested in helping to provide cities with examples of model ordinances and case studies to assist with residential pollution prevention. The campaign will also assist city staff adopt ordinances. The Cities Keep It Clean! includes efforts to implement one to two activities per year from a list of program actions. The program actions include activities to protect the bay from trash, mercury, pharmaceuticals, and other pollutants. Save the Bay will initiate outreach to cities and conservation groups this spring.
6. **Watershed Signage.** Leslie reported that Amy Evans submitted a supplemental environmental project proposal description for the signage project to the Regional Water Board so that the proposal is ready if funds become available in the future. Rich added that the Audubon is willing to proceed with the project. It is unclear who would actually install the signs. City of Pleasanton staff has the facilities to produce its own signs. It was suggested that one sign be installed as a kick off event at the Niles Staging area as part of Earth Day.
7. **Adopt a Spot.** Leslie Koenig gave an update on the RCD's Hands-On Conservation program efforts with the City of Fremont. One of the problems with the Niles Staging area is poison oak. Pam recommended that the adopted spots be more official and formalized.
8. **Funding RCD to Staff Alameda Creek Watershed Council.** The ACFC&WCD has provided funding through June to the RCD to help support the adopted creek spots, investigate the development of a detailed watershed map, develop a database of projects, hold a watershed tour, develop outreach brochure, and develop and maintain a webpage. Rich suggested that watershed access is also an important issue to work on. Manny would like the various projects to be located on a GIS. Jim Browne would like to integrate climate change issues into the watershed.

IV. Next Meeting.

The Council agreed to meet next on March 26 at 1:00 pm at Turner Court in Hayward. Interest was expressed in hearing from Ralph Johnson on improving coordination of the various work group tasks and from hearing new information about the historical ecology project. An update on the historical ecology project will occur once there is new information to report on.