

*Draft for Review 8/11/10*  
**Alameda Creek Watershed Council**  
**Meeting Summary of June 24, 2010**

The Alameda Creek Watershed Council (Council) met on June 24, 2010 from 1:00-3:00 pm at Zone 7 Water Agency's offices at 100 North Canyons Parkway in Livermore. Attendees: Rich Cimino, Ohlone Audubon Society; Dick Quigley, public; Jim Chayka, Urban Creeks Council; Carol Mahoney and Elke Rank, Zone 7 Water Agency; Dale Hopkins, Regional Water Quality Control Board; Paula White, independent contractor for the Regional Water Quality Control Board; Lester McKee, San Francisco Estuary Institute; Pamela Lung, City of Livermore; Amy Evans, Alameda County Resource Conservation District; Katie Bergmann and Terry Huff, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Stephanie Nevins, Alameda Creek Water District; Sharon Peterson, Livermore Area Recreation & Park District; Ralph Johnson, Sharon Gosselin, and Emmanuel 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. Agreed that the summary of the April field trip would be amended as track changes and provided again for the consideration of the Alameda Creek Watershed Council.
2. Agreed to proceed with the development of creek care guidance materials for owners of property near creeks in the Alameda Creek watershed. This material will integrate information about various activities, including water importation and recycling, which affect creeks. The guidance materials could also include information about restoration opportunities that may be supported by grant funds. Sources of ideas for this guidance include the existing San Lorenzo Creek Care Booklet, and the Santa Cruz and Sonoma County creek guides. Suggestions for additional information included Watershed Education Foundation's educational materials, Urban Creeks Council's materials, and other existing watershed educational materials.

**II. Follow Up Items from Meeting**

1. The work group planning the annual conference will meet with San Francisco Estuary Institute staff in July to continue planning the October 28 conference.

**III. Other Items Discussed**

1. **San Francisco Bay Improvement Act.** Carol Mahoney reported that Jackie Speir introduced federal legislation that would provide \$100 million a year over a 10-year period to restore San Francisco Bay. The funding would help to implement the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan similar to what has been done in Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes. Funding would be for wetland restoration, stream restoration, and erosion control. If the legislation was approved, some of the funds would be available through grants that would require matching funds. One suggestion was that programs develop plans so if the legislation is passed, they would be ready to apply for grants funds.
2. **Arroyo de la Laguna: Verona Reach Conceptual Design.** Carol Mahoney and Jim Chayka discussed a cutting edge private/public partnership to address the significant creek erosion occurring along an approximately one-mile section of Arroyo de Laguna. The property along the creek is primarily privately owned. This section of creek needs to be able to convey flood flows. Zone 7 Water Agency grant funds will be used for addressing options with homeowner involvement for solving this problem. A benefit assessment district or similar funding mechanism will need to be created to maintain any improvements constructed on private land. This area is also important because of the interest in building a trail that would extend to the water temple.
3. **Reducing Trash Loading to Municipal Separate Storm Sewers.** Sharon Gosselin provided an overview of the trash reduction requirements contained in the Regional Water Quality

Control Board's adopted municipal regional stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. This permit requires that public agencies achieve a 40% reduction in trash loading by 2014, 70% reduction by 2017, and 100% by 2017. One of the methods that will be used to reduce trash loading is to install trash control devices in storm sewer systems.

Paula White reviewed the results of her master's thesis to evaluate the affect of Styrofoam bans on creeks. Based on her analysis the city of Oakland's Styrofoam ban appears to have had no measurable impact on Styrofoam in creeks. It was pointed out that trails promote the clean up of creeks by allowing access for clean up by environmental stewards. Creeks are trashy in locations wheretrails are unavailable. It was recommended that the Alameda Creek Watershed Council needs to embrace the construction of new trails next to creeks.

It was pointed out that the biggest source of trash is single-use plastic wrappers.

4. **Assess Interest in Updating the San Lorenzo Creek Care Booklet and Refocusing It For Wider Use in Alameda Creek Watershed.** Amy Evans suggested that it would be worthwhile tailoring this existing guide for wider use in the Alameda Creek watershed. Funding for doing this project is being put together now. It was suggested that the guide could be valuable for creekside property owners by placing it online and making it interactive. The information could be provided to people purchasing homes by working with realtors. The guide needs to be fairly specific for different parts of the watershed because residents in Livermore, for example, relate to the creek and not bay. It will also be important that any creek guide mention changes that have been caused to creeks by the importation of potable water. Another suggestion is that a guide could be part of one of Zone 7 Water Agency's mailers. Other concepts that could be integrated into the guide are recycled water and the Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan projects.
5. **Update on Council Projects and Work Groups.**
  - a. The Alameda Creek Watershed Council's annual conference will be held on October 28 at the Castro Valley Library. Suggestions for topics and speakers should be forwarded to Elke Rank, Ralph Johnson, or Amy Evans. One suggestion was to present information on the history of changes in the amount of creek flow.
  - b. The Fisheries Work Group heard a great presentation at its last meeting about historical flows in lower Alameda Creek. One hundred seventy two miles of historical tidal sloughs have been reduced to an existing five miles of sloughs.
  - c. The Alameda Creek Watershed Council working with the Resource Conservation District will continue to participate in clean ups of its adopted creek spots on Coastal Clean-up Day, September 25, 2010.
  - d. Updated information about the cost of watershed signs was obtained, and it would be easy to initiate a pilot project with staff from Union City for areas along Old Alameda Creek. The installation of the signs would be combined with creek clean ups.
  - e. Amy Evans requested suggestions for publicizing this year's ACWC photo contest. One suggestion was to contact high school photography classes.
6. **Announcements**
  - a. The Alameda Creek Alliance will hold a member appreciation dinner on October 22 in Sunol.
  - b. The Alameda County Watershed Forum had a site visit in and around Lake Merritt on June 8<sup>th</sup> to view facilities constructed using Measure DD funds.
  - c. The 2009 Comprehensive Water Package consisting of four water bills and a proposed water bond measure were approved by the special session of the legislature and signed by the governor in November 2009. Information about these bills and the proposed bond measure that may be on the November 2010 ballot is available on the DWR and Aqua websites.