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Alameda County Water District Starts Construction on Second Fish Ladder along Alameda Creek

Fremont, Calif. — The Alameda County Water District took another step forward this spring in keeping water supplies environmentally sustainable when construction started on the final of two fish ladders along Alameda Creek. The final fish ladder, fish screens and control building modifications cost \$36.7 million with \$11.1 secured in grants. The project will mark the completion of a larger-scale venture to restore threatened steelhead trout to the creek and secure water supplies throughout the region.

ACWD's total \$78 million investment in fish passage initiatives includes the installation of a number of fish screens and rediversion pipelines, control building modifications, two rubber dam replacements, and the construction of two fish ladders. The collection spans decades of planning and construction with multi-agency partnerships and coordination including extensive work with local, state and federal agencies.

"The finish line is in sight," said ACWD Board President James Gunther. "Collectively, these projects mark the greatest investment the District has made in Alameda Creek," he added. "But what's more vital, and can't be measured in dollars and cents, is the security our customers can have knowing the work done now will pay off – future generations will benefit," said Gunther.

With nearly 40 percent of ACWD's water supply being sourced from Alameda Creek, the projects improve long-term water supply reliability while enhancing fish passage through Lower Alameda Creek.

"People reminisce about steelhead in Alameda Creek," said Gunther. "These projects will help fish pass obstacles that for 50 years have made it nearly impossible for them to get to their spawning habitat." He added these efforts emphasize the natural migration of steelhead. "They're trying to find their way and it's a big win to help them along," Gunther continued.

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Construction is expected to be complete in December 2021.

Alameda Creek and Quarry Lakes trails are expected to remain open during construction however temporary closures may be necessary to protect public safety. Advanced signage will be posted.

To learn more current and past fish passage projects, visit www.acwd.org/fishway.

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For over 100 years, the Alameda County Water District has supplied water to the residents and businesses of southern Alameda County. ACWD supplies drinking water to the more than 357,000 people living in the cities of Fremont, Newark and Union City. For more information, please visit www.acwd.org.