

News Release



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Partnerships Prove Success as \$2 Million Support is Pledged for Alameda Creek Environmental Enhancements and Protection of Region's Water Supply

Fremont, Calif. – A cooperative effort by the Alameda County Water District, DeSilva Gates Construction, Alameda Creek Alliance, and the Center for Biological Diversity is bringing \$2 million in funding for migratory fish passage projects in lower Alameda Creek, demonstrating that long-term public, private and non-governmental organization partnerships can achieve multi-layered goals such as environmental enhancements and protecting water supplies.

ACWD's fish passage projects include the construction of fish ladders, fish screens and other fish-friendly improvements in lower Alameda Creek to support safe and unobstructed migration of federally-listed Central Coast steelhead trout. Following decades of planning, ACWD is currently in the second of a three-year construction schedule to round out its final phase of fish passage projects in Alameda Creek.

DeSilva Gates Construction, operator of the DeSilva Gates Aggregates Quarry in Sunol, recently made the first of two \$1 million payments to help fund these important projects.

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Partnerships for Alameda Creek, Region's Water Supply

"Alameda Creek fisheries restoration is near to my heart," said ACWD Board President Judy Huang. "It is not common to see this type of cooperation between organizations who have different interests," added Huang. "Working together, we found a path forward that leads to success, and many thanks to DeSilva Gates Construction, for their generosity."

Since 2008, a Conservation Plan for the Sunol gravel quarry (SMP 30 Site) has been in place through the partnership to protect and conserve special-status species and enhance biological resources in Sunol Valley and the Alameda Creek watershed.

Jeff Miller of the Alameda Creek Alliance and the Center for Biological Diversity stated, "This funding helps ACWD complete the long-awaited and most critical fish passage projects in Alameda Creek, a key watershed for restoration of steelhead trout in the Bay Area. The water district's new fish ladders are going to allow migratory fish to access a significant portion of the watershed."

The financial support from DeSilva Gates Construction will aid in the completion of ACWD's projects that will improve access to migratory routes creating a more fish-friendly waterway and access for steelhead and salmon to spawning and rearing habitat throughout the Alameda Creek watershed.

"Working in concert with the environmental community and a public agency has been very rewarding, and it is an honor to contribute to this important regional effort," said DeSilva Gates Vice President Jim Summers. "The agreement that was forged between Alameda Creek Alliance, The Center for Biological Diversity and DeSilva Gates and the \$2 million contribution from DeSilva Gates will have a significant positive impact on the restoration of this important watershed."

Alameda Creek is a local water supply and accounts for roughly 40 percent of ACWD water serving 357,000 people in Fremont, Newark and Union City. These projects will allow ACWD to continue operations of its rubber dams and other facilities along the creek to recharge the Niles Cone Groundwater Basin sustainably.

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