

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 10, 2020

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NEWS RELEASE:

**Alameda County Water District Awarded Additional \$3.3 Million in Grant  
Funding to Help Restore Steelhead in Alameda Creek**

Fremont, Calif. – The Alameda County Water District was recently awarded over \$3.3 million in grant funding to help fund additional fish passage improvement projects that will play a critical role in restoring threatened steelhead trout to Alameda Creek. The California Department of Water Resources awarded the grant as part of the Integrated Resources Water Management Implementation Grant Program supported by the voter-approved Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1).

Grant funding will support the completion of a second fish ladder in Alameda Creek, which is currently under construction, as well as improvements to the facilities that support the District's groundwater recharge operations. Work on the fish ladder is a joint project with the Alameda County Flood Control District.

Once complete, steelhead trout – a federally-listed, threatened species – will have a direct route to pass the District's rubber dams and a large flood control structure to gain access to the Alameda Creek watershed for the first time in nearly 50 years.

“It is with great thanks that we accept this grant to advance our efforts of completing critically important projects with environmental and water supply benefits for the betterment of our community,” said ACWD Board President Judy Huang. “This award brings us to over \$21 million in grants to fund our fish passage projects – grants which help reduce overall costs to our customers,” Huang said. Huang added the fish passage projects are a long-planned joint effort and will provide regional environmental benefits, as well as protecting a critical water supply for ACWD.

Alameda Creek serves as a major water source for the local area, providing approximately 30 percent of the annual water supply for over 357,000 people and numerous businesses in Fremont, Newark and Union City.

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# News Release

## **Grant award for steelhead restoration**

### **Page 2**

As one of the founding members of the Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup, the District has collaborated with multiple stakeholders since 1999 on efforts to benefit Central Coast Steelhead. The Workgroup includes members from advocacy, water management, consulting, environmental, government and educational groups with interests in the Alameda Creek watershed and steelhead trout restoration.

The construction of the latest fish passage improvement project on Alameda Creek follows several fish-friendly projects the District has undertaken spans several years of construction and decades of coordinated planning.

Previous grant awards for the District's fish passage projects have come from other program partners including the California Natural Resources Agency Urban Rivers Grant Program, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

For more information on Alameda County Water District's fish passage projects, visit [www.acwd.org/Fishway](http://www.acwd.org/Fishway).

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