

Alhambra Watershed Council (AWC) & FoACW Joint Meeting
September 5, 2023
6:30-8:00pm

Decision Meeting Minutes:

Introductions and Partner Reports

CCRCD: Wildfire Conservation Coordinator (Alejandro) to give a talk soon about his fire stewardship practices and potential projects / alignment with Alhambra Watershed Plan.

Mt. View Sanitary District: Wetland tours are back.

Discussion Item: Power Washing in Downtown Martinez

- Update: To be addressed at the next meeting.
- Decisions: N/A.

Discussion Item: Contra Costa Creek and Watershed Symposium

- Update: AWC and FoACW are sharing a table. The groups need to decide who will be tabling, what materials are needed, and how the logos should be represented on the table.
- Decisions:
 - TBD. The individuals tabling will be decided in the October meeting.
 - AWC will bring a laminated watershed map / Emma will print maps for AWC.
 - Two logos will be featured.

Discussion Item: Thriving Earth Exchange Community Science Program (Benefits and Role)

- Does AWC/FoACW want to apply to the TEX program?
 - Who will be the community lead?
 - What 1-3 projects/problems does the group wish to apply with?
 - What are the next steps?
- Decisions: AWC will not apply this year but will reevaluate next year.
 - A community lead will be decided this coming year.
 - Next steps are as follows: First, AWC will evaluate 4 different projects, one per meeting (through October, November, December, January). TEX will announce the grant application due dates in January / February. The following projects constitute the 3 highest rated projects by a previous member survey:
 1. **Private property encroachment/erosion.** Uneducated streambed.
 - We would need an inventory of the encroachments.
 - Based on the inventory we could develop a program to increase awareness of what an encroachment could do for watershed health. The role of the scientist could be to train the community to do the inventory.
 2. **Unnecessary accumulation of trash throughout the Watershed.** Trash dumping in Franklin Canyon, a human behavior pattern.
 3. **Native plants being destroyed. Ornamental plantings encroaching into the creek.**

Additionally, the ongoing Phenology Project in the watershed will be evaluated as a potential viable project.

4. Phenology project to analyze 10+ years of creek data.

Update re: John Muir gravesite. The Regional Quality Control Board sent a letter to the owners of the house a month or so ago saying to remove the rubble by approximately August 16. The owner recently passed, and his sister is currently acting as an administrator of the estate; trying to disperse the proceeds to her late brothers' children. She will disclose the letter from the regional board to the next house owners so they can address the rubble issue.

Decisions: N/A until there is a new owner.