



Alhambra Watershed Council Agenda

Tuesday, October 3rd, 2023

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

6:30 Introductions and Partner Reports

- Friends of Alhambra Creek
- National Park Service
- Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD)
 - o **Updates:** The Native Wetland Garden at the Waterfront - still finalizing MOU with the city of Martinez. The CCRCD is [hiring](#). Last call to sign up for the October 26th [Contra Costa County Creek and Watershed Symposium](#).
- Mt. View Sanitary District
- Other member reports

7:00 Discussion Item: Power Washing in Downtown Martinez

- **Update:** Was previously handled. The city was notified about improper storm drain precautions and the issue was resolved.

7:10 Discussion Item: Contra Costa Creek and Watershed Symposium

- AWC and FoAC will be sharing a table. Who will table? What materials are needed?
 - o **Decisions:** Elaine will table and AWC / Friends will talk amongst themselves. Additionally, Emma will bring Alhambra maps (obtained from Mitch). Additionally, Igor will bring his laminated map. Diane is making a centerpiece. Elaine is bringing pamphlets for 'living with creeks'.
- Who will do the 2 minute Watershed roundtable pitch at the Symposium on behalf of AWC and FoAC? It takes place between 2:20-3 pm on October 26th.
 - o **Decision:** Igor will do the roundtable.

7:25 Discussion Item: Thriving Earth Exchange Community Science Program

- **Update:** The topic of private property encroachment was discussed.
 - o **Potential problem statements:**
 - Encroachments on creek banks can create destabilization downstream on other properties.
 - Need to increase the knowledge base of encroachments in the creek.
 - o **Decision:** We will lean towards the second problem statement and focus on the educational component.
 - o Potential limitations of the problem statements:
 - **People might feel like we are in enforcement re: problem statement 1.** BUT if someone is thinking about putting an encroachment on a creek - maybe they would be interested in finding this information. A

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neighbor can sue you for causing erosion issues due to their mismanagement; people might be interested in having access to this info.

- **Haven't seen this really succeed re: problem statement 1.**
- **Previous efforts withered because they fell short of "how do you do it" aka using what permits.**
- o **Possible Solutions:** Focusing on educational outcomes via problem statement
- 2. Educational Examples:
 - Will need descriptions that the home owners could process.
 - o If this happens then this (to show the cause and effect)
 - Maybe that's part of what we want to have those scientists do.
- Maybe we want to do everything on a smaller scale:
 - starting with encroachments. Wouldn't be as threatening or a community relations issue.
- o **Data Needs:**
 - Having an inventory of where there are encroachments.
 - Inventory of impacts from these encroachments.
 - Establish a data collection program with the help of TEX. Community members would carry out the data collection.
 - Limitation: private property means more reluctant participants.
 - o Perhaps some of this is carried out on public lands.
 - The grave site could have momentum - TEX - working in cooperation with the national park service
 - Other data need - if you're going to do improvements you need to do them within a reach
 - Defining the reaches we would need to do restoration
- o **Establishing Project Phases:**
 - Phase 1: Doing an inventory of encroachments.
 - Phase 2: Then use that information as part of the outreach and education
 - Phase 3: Evaluation.
 - Maybe do the evaluation first then shape an educational campaign afterward.
- o **Protocols / Design / Strategy:**
 - Science protocols will be different if we are trying to come up with an education campaign.
 - Part of the survey of the watershed might focus on major sources of the sediment; sediment and erosion are usually in the same places.
 - The city invests a significant amount of money on dredging. Focusing on source of sediment load over erosion sites might motivate the city to fund later grants based on TEX.

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8:00 Adjourn

The next meeting of the AWC will be on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

Future Meeting Topics:

- Alhambra Watershed Plan and CCRCD fire stewardship project alignment in November.

For questions regarding the AWC or to suggest agenda items, please email Emma Koeze at ekoeze@ccrcd.org.

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