

Alhambra Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 6th, 2025

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

ZOOM MEETING LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85237702240?pwd=MEFIRIRMM2dYcIRqTHE5T2hnQIRMdZ09>

Meeting ID: 852 3770 2240

Passcode: 652371

Dial In Number: +1 669 444 9171

Attendees: Mitch Avalon, Igor Skaredoff, Elaine Jackson, Victoria Woolfolk, Tori Seher, Suzy Hall-Whitney, Doug Burgess, Jamie Menasco

6:30 Introductions and Partner Reports

- Victoria Woolfolk (CCRCD)
 - Victoria started at the RCD with Alhambra, popped in to say thank you and goodbye
 - Moving to Central Coast (Arroyo Grande)
 - Got job at San Simeon State Park! She'll be working with Elephant seals and zebras!

Friends of Alhambra Creek (Elaine)

- Had great appreciation day for NPS day before John Muir Birthday Earth Day
- At last meeting, Jane went through FOAC brochure and explained the history of the group, mind opening for new folks to FOAC
- Had great time at John Muir Birthday/Earth Day, perfect weather
- John Muir Site was on Bringing Back the Natives Garden tour
 - Suzy created game for this that visitors got really into!
- Decided against doing the Beaver Festival this year

National Park Service

- Nature journaling event this month - Ranger Ives to lead
- Site currently closed Sundays and Mondays, will change soon to being closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, not sure when this will happen
- Tori thanked everyone for NPS appreciation event
 - NPS were having meeting during appreciation event, suddenly starting hearing lots of honking, realized it was from event
- Cuts coming - Reduction in Force
- Consolidating IT and Public Communications offices
 - 2 people

- Will be moved from being NPS employees to being DOI employees
 - Still in their offices for now
 - Will know in next few weeks more about Reduction in Force
 - **Tori has accepted early retirement, this is her last meeting, May 30th is her last day**
 - Not sure when her position will be filled, under a hiring freeze
- Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD)
- o RCD update
 - Kiwanis grant
 - May 11th event – Molly to host
 - Starting Pinole Pilot May 12th
 - Fish Migration Day Update
 - Kiwanis
 - Igor - currently president of Kiwanis, will be handing over the check to the RCD
 - Evan to forward email

Mt. View Sanitary District
Other member reports

7:00 Discussion Items:

- Report on Thriving Earth Exchange (TEX) application process and supplementary meeting with Sarah Pearce, Carol Arnold, and Bert Mulchaey 4/17/25
 - o Connecting creek to marsh?
 - Is it feasible?
 - Only discussed basics at meeting with Sarah Pearce
 - o Possibility of establishing marshes in creek's lower reaches - Mitch believes this should be discussed further
 -
 - o Suzy explained that EPA grants are all frozen
- Reviewing AWC project list spreadsheet (including comments on the document from the group)
 - o Could add project of connecting creek to tidal marsh
 - o Sediment Removal and Vegetation Management Plan
 - o Igor: perhaps City could restart management plan for lower reaches of creek
 - Can we synergize with the City's recent push to plant trees?
 - o Mitch: the City should replace trees downtown that are no longer there
 - o Igor: former trees were unsuitable, were dropping things and causing injuries, City removed them, did not want to have the same problem
 - o Jamie: new plan is to plant on Ferry St
 - Shared newsletter describing 2025 Downtown Tree Project, "filling vacant spots"
 - o Evan asked Elaine about the best native trees
 - o Mitch suggested we identify project to connect Alhambra Creek to tidal

marsh

- "Alhambra Creek Tidal Marsh Connection"
 - Evan assigned to come up with good name
 - City and EBRPD
- Igor suggested that we are approaching this from the wrong end, that we should be working higher up in the watershed first
- Mitch thinks this project should still be fleshed out now, that there could be potential
- Igor thinks this could divert our energy from a sediment management plan for the whole watershed
- Mitch just wants to capture this idea on the list
- To add sediment source analysis project to list
- Group discussed tailoring AWS projects to SEP project lists
- Mitch: Could take sediment source analysis and tailor it to different SEP lists
- Mitch suggested that we take our sediment source analysis project (on list) into 4 elements, like are included in TEX application
 - Could have these individual projects (4 subelements) ready to go when funding comes in - talk about this at next meeting
- Next meeting - we'll continue talking about Project List - focus will be on expanding sediment source analysis program and break down into 4 subelements
- Project proposals for Regional Priority Plan (RPP) wildfire mitigation plan

8:00 Adjourn

Action items:

- **Evan to forward email confirming date for Kiwanis check to Igor**
- **Evan to check in with Sarah Pearce about nature based solutions resources**
- **"Alhambra Creek Tidal Marsh Connection"**
 - **Evan assigned to come up with good name and add to Project List**

The next meeting of the AWC will be on **Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025, at 6:30 pm.**

For questions regarding the AWC or to suggest agenda items, please email Evan Green at egreen@ccrpd.org

The Alhambra Watershed Council is a stakeholder group dedicated to protecting and enhancing the health of our watershed by educating ourselves and the public about the watershed, providing a forum for new ideas and projects, and acting as a community resource.