

Alhambra Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Jun 3rd, 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: Trevor Rice, Mitch Avalon, Doug Burgess, Igor Skaredoff, Elaine Jackson, Jamie Menasco

6:30 Introductions and Partner Reports

Trevor Rice

- Introduced himself, works as park planner for NPS, taking over for Tori Seher who just retired

Friends of Alhambra Creek

- Said goodbye to Tori at last meeting
- Disappointed with TEX, but if we have shovel-ready project for sediment source analysis when MRC has to pay fine for SEP projects, could be really helpful
- Moorhen Marsh event went well, hoping to do another in the fall

National Park Service

- Tori left on the 31st
- Hannah Blank taking over some duties (Biological Science Technician), term was extended
- Keith Park managing natural sciences (resources) workload going well
- Alameda whipsnake trapping going well
- Sudden oak death monitoring and butterfly count happening soon
- California Conservation Corps doing work through Legacy Restoration Fund
- Not going to host Youth Conservation Corps crew (due to staff capacity issues)
- Working on updating Fire Management Plan, undergoing final review by fire management officer
- Working on fuel management work at Strenzel Valley
- Birthday/Earth Day was a success
 - Offer feedback to NPS on the event as a group
- Events
 - Stargazing night had 45 people, create your own constellation

- Summer Saturday events on Muir house grounds or Visitor Center - 1-2 p.m. on Saturdays
 - Next event about owls on June 7th
 - NPS currently has hiring freeze
- Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD)
- TEX - didnt get it
 - Fish Migration Day - big success!
 - Pinole Pilot
 - Trying to figure out workforce development portion
 - Beaver Summit update
 - Heidi Perryman spoke very highly of Mitch
 - Group interested in connecting with Mitch
 - Victoria left, Evan taking over managing mitigation project at Martinez Marina
 - Igor attended meeting (El Cerrito) with RCD Associate Director who has neighborhood focused approach to watershed conservation and restoration
- Mt. View Sanitary District
- Other member reports

7:00 Discussion Items:

- Addressing sedimentation in Alhambra Creek—next steps?
 - Mitch thought we need to be clear in how we define shovel-ready
 - If we want to do a study, need to have project planned enough that we could send out RFQ or RFP
 - Will need approval from private property owners, not necessarily permitting
 - Some time looking at maps, also field verification
 - RFQ or RFP ready would be our equivalent to shovel-ready for this sediment source analysis
 - Mitch and Igor discussed AVCC project as a similar project example
 - Project focused on reducing creek erosion and incision
 - 9 different approaches for property owners
 - Igor asked how we go from planning project to getting funds
 - Mitch: next step is to prepare RFP or RFQ to send out to contractors (geotech firms) and get 2 or 3 to bid on it
 - Not easy for us to do this, would hire another firm to do it
 - Trevor and Evan asked about involving the City of Martinez in the process
 - Mitch: first need to build up knowledge about what we are trying to accomplish,
 - What would the City would want to know - one possibility could be how much sediment is fluvial, how much is tidal
 - Need to do scoping discussion first
 - Igor learned from City of Martinez engineer that City needs to do work on lower part of creek (instead of paying fine)
 - Does not sound like they have much capacity
 - Trevor: first step is to scope what you even want the sediment source

study to cover

- Way to reach out through RCD?
- What is the geographical focus?
- Trevor has some contacts to reach out to rustle up examples of existing studies or RFPs or RFQs
- Mitch
 - Identify outcomes/objectives/goals
 - Identify potential partners
 - What would we do with the information?
 - **Refer to Mitch listing steps at 7:39**
 - Steps involved
- Doug related that we are most familiar with sediment downtown - do we actually have a sediment problem?
 - Earlier study determined that the watershed is actually pretty stable, not eroding
- Evan: is doing the proposed TEX project, more or less, the next step, to answer that question?
- Mitch: Marina is a magnet for sediment, gets a lot of sediment
 - Engineering firm worked on lower stretch of creek, may know answer to that question
- Igor gave examples of seeing large depositions of sediment in the creek, sceptical about tidal source
- Trevor - we should reach out to agencies, including Water Board and City of Martinez, for existing data (sediment load, etc.)
 - County, etc.
- Mitch - FCD did prelim sediment source analysis with Army Corps of Engineers for lower walnut creek project, sediment was evenly split between 3 tributaries, were going to do additional refinement of that study
- Trevor - has ongoing water quality data for Franklin Creek that could possibly be shared with AWC
- Evan could call City to see if they know about source of sediment in creek - from creek or tidal
 - Trevor McGuire in Public Works
 - Joe Enke - director of Public Works
- Evan to check in files to see what information we already have
- Trevor shared related NPS resource
 - <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2306106>
- Updating AWC project list spreadsheet with sediment source analysis projects

8:00 Adjourn

Action Items:

- **Evan assigned to come up with good name for "Alhambra Creek Tidal Marsh Connection" project**
- **Evan to figure out how to get sediment source analysis on SEP list for when MRC has to pay fine**

- Evan to reach out to Sarah Pearce about sediment source analysis
 - How did they determine that there was a problem?
- Trevor to reach out to contacts about sediment source analysis examples of existing studies or RFPs or RFQs
- Evan to reach out to Water Board for sedimentation info in Alhambra Creek
- Evan to reach out to Sarah Duckler of CCCFCD about neighboring analysis in Walnut Creek watershed, could also ask about RFP or RFQ
- Evan to reach out to Trevor McGuire in City of Martinez Public Works
 - To ask if they know the source of the sediment in the Creek - tidal or fluvial
 - Joe Enke - Director of Public Works
- Doug to provide Evan with resources he's found on sediment in Alhambra Creek, Evan to share those resources, Pinole sediment source analysis and other related materials from RCD Drive with group

The next meeting of the AWC will be on **Tuesday, July 1st, 2025**, at 6:30 pm.

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