

Alhambra Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Feb 3rd, 2026

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

ZOOM MEETING LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89895053128?pwd=mpwG9ss3uMGoA9zE0y0pTiNehRaJty.1&jst=2>

Meeting ID: 898 9505 3128

Passcode: 579171

Dial In Number: +1 309 205 3325

Attendees: Igor Skaredoff, Ryan Schultz, Jamie Menasco, Elaine Jackson, Kristin Brandon (CDFW), Bob Huttar, Evan Green, Doug Burgess, Trevor Rice

6:30 Introductions and Partner Reports

Friends of Alhambra Creek

- Last meeting Tues Jan 13th
- Got speakers for Kiwanis - Arundo talk from Bob, Igor talked about upbringing in Shanghai
- FOAC going to be at John Muir Birthday Earth Day/Beaver Festival
- Got update on TEX, Arundo control projects

National Park Service

- Sent update email
- Big notice from Hannah is posting backyard bird count info for Feb 13th event (more info in email updates)
- Getting two new interns
- Jamie: 1:00-3:00, Fri Feb 13th, fruit tree pruning class in orchard at JMNHS with Keith Park
- Both events open to FOAC members

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD)

- Thanks to Council members who came out to Pinole Mitigation site on Jan 17th (Elaine, Jamie)! - coming along nicely
- Fish Passage talk in Pinole from Bert Mulchaey - Feb 24th
 - "The Long Journey Home, The Perseverance of Steelhead and Their Advocates in the Pinole Creek Watershed" on Tuesday Night February 24 at 6:30pm in the Pinole Library Community Room.
- Fellows update? Rodeo garden?
 - Worked on B and G Club garden for pollinator workday on Monday 2/2
 - Used sod cutter, installed irrigation

- Contra Costa Fish Migration Day planning update - got permission from Bowling Alley
- Still looking into trying to do a grant to implement LACWMP plan for Amtrak site - waiting to hear from City staff - time to reach out to Brianne Zorn?

Mt. View Sanitary District

CDFW (Kristin Brandon)

- Received 1602 notification for Arundo project on Jan 6th
- Looking to schedule Arundo project site visit (Bob and Evan, anyone else?)

Other member reports

7:00 Discussion Items:

- TEX Project updates
 - Reviewing finalized Project Description/request for Volunteer Scientist
 - Reaching out to networks to identify experts who might be interested
- Arundo removal project update (Bob)
 - Going to be long project
 - Generally small patches
 - Working with contractor to knock them out as opportunities arise
 - Bob spoke to Civicorps today
 - Civicorps' client often call off work at last minute, Arundo work could help fill in their work schedule
 - Jamie: funding from MRC - working on grant application, Bob has provided budgeting ideas
 - Bob: Civicorps would like to get their staff trained to get QAC's (Qualified Applicator Certificates), FOAC would like to help with this effort
 - Igor asked what Civicorps does
 - Bob: vegetation management, removing problem trees
 - Ryan: they helped remove garbage at Rodeo Laurel Court Garden
 - The Council engaged in a long discussion of
- Local Community Benefits Fund - reviewing funding guidelines and brainstorming potential projects
 - Evan shared links and went through the Call for Projects for Benicia and Grant Guidelines
 - Discussed living levee
 - Potential partnerships - CCRCD, Civicorps
 - Thursday meeting about this opportunity with Brianne Zorn - Jamie to forward info to Evan, will include Ellen Concepcion from New Leaf Collaborative
- Planning for future requests for projects
 - Bob mentioned LACWMP, implementing it through these recent funding opportunities
 - Evan mentioned that is what the WCB grant plan is about
 - Trevor - one idea for partnership is focus on transportation planning with City, traffic plans, etc.
 - Creek follows major transportation routes
 - Has seen great integration of bike paths, etc. with green stormwater infrastructure

- How could Council and Friends partner with City on something they are already focused on (active transportation, pedestrian safety)?
 - Multi benefits - reducing vehicle miles, GSI, etc all combined
- Jamie: John Muir walking trail - trail connection to Briones
 - City has survey about improvement to parks, including Alhambra Hills Open Space
 - Can fill out survey, vocalize that you want trail connection to Briones
 - Igor: trail connection between City lands, NPS lands, EPRPD lands would require interdepartmental cooperation that the Council is well versed in
- Jamie: any ideas for future agenda items? Project List would be good

8:00 Adjourn

Action items

- **Evan to send out info about big backyard bird count and fruit tree pruning event to everyone in follow up email, as well as Feb 24th talk in Pinole (with link, link to ccrd events page)**
- Kristin Brandon, Bob, Evan to schedule Arundo project site visit
- Evan to forward info from interested scientist for TEX to group in follow up
- Everyone to contact Evan if they want to be included in volunteer scientist interviews
- Evan to send out link to TEX project page in follow up email
- Evan to send out info about LCBF, including registration link for Feb 18th webinar
- Jamie to forward info for Thursday meeting about LCBF to Evan
- Evan to send out Project List to Council for project idea brainstorming (new project ideas, as opposed to just commenting on old ones)

The next meeting of the AWC will be on **Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026, 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.