

Alhambra Watershed Council Agenda

Tuesday, March 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, Bob Huttar, Evan Green, Doug Burgess, Trevor Rice, Noah Luecke, Martin Steinpress, Ryan Schultz, Amber Milano, Miranda Shuba, Walter Pease, Mitch Avalon, Trevor Rice, Suzy Hall-Whitney

6:30 Introductions and Partner Reports

Friends of Alhambra Creek

- Pruning class at JMNHS with Keith Park (historical pruner)
 - Might have another event
- Two events with MVSD - McNabney and Service Rd. cleanups

National Park Service

- Two March interns
- Doing bumblebee surveys
- Installing wildlife cameras on Mt. Wanda
- Looking for mountain lion scat on Mt. Wanda
- Birding walk on March 7th
- Completed internal environmental audit recently, doing every 3-4 years
- Have archaeological monitors on site from Sonoma State, found mortar and pestle artifact, have not yet figured out where it came from
- New passport stamp at Visitor Center
- 21st is National Rosie the Riveter Day
- BCDC is having a design review board meeting on March 9th about Martinez Marina redevelopment, taking public comments

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD)

- Hopefully finishing up Pinole Mitigation soon
- Shared upcoming events coming up on CCRCD events page

Mt. View Sanitary District

Other member reports

7:00 Discussion Items:

- Discuss future of the Alhambra Watershed Council
 - (Mitch)
 - Mitch has opportunity to lead another group that meets at same time as AWC
 - This would happen in May, Mitch seeing if other group can change day/time when they meet
 - Looking to open up issue for discussion, questions to thing about related to future of Council
 - Members getting older, having trouble recruiting new members compared to FOAC which focuses on projects
 - Harder to attract people to a group focused on planning
 - Enable projects to be done through policy and planning work
 - Have discussed before whether FOAC and AWC should merge? Too much overlap?
 - Should AWC exist?
 - Could disappear through attrition, not getting new members
 - Told story of his involvement with Friends of the SF Estuary
 - Covers almost half of CA
 - Started in 1991
 - Stopped meeting in person during Covid, never went back to that
 - Mitch checked in with old Board members, no one wanted to commit
 - Went through RFP process to recruit new Board members
 - SFEP helped with this effort, reached about 20,000
 - 19 applied, now have 9 new Board members
 - Hard to recruit new Board members in a small area
 - One option would be to recruit new members, at some point they might be willing to chair the Council
 - Does this organization still have value in a more politically and socially supportive environment?
 - Political leadership is now much more supportive of the natural environment and restoration
 - City supports the LACWMP, staff more supportive than 30 years ago when org started in 1997
 - Igor mentioned that we all owe Mitch a great debt of gratitude for his efforts for the Council, also pointed out that we do have new members that are bringing new energy
 - May be victims of our own success
 - How can we more efficiently organize ourselves to get more done?
 - New members may come up with new ideas
 - Bob discussed the issue of whether the AWC should be disbanded, or integrated into FOAC
 - Asked whether AWC has any legal standing whose benefit would be lost, Mich explained that it does not
 - Mitch thought that the "council" perhaps has some cache because it sounds more serious than "Friends"

- Jamie explained that the AWC has no money, where as FOAC does
- Trevor said the problem is often the same for other Boards, younger people do not feel comfortable stepping into that role, do not feel they have necessary expertise
 - AWC could be well positioned to fill that gap for younger people since less formal role, less procedural
 - Mitch mentioned that AWC could be good to put on a resume, stepping stone to being on actual Board
- Mitch reiterated that he is trying tonight to introduce problem, discuss some options, perhaps assign some tasks
 - People will think about it before next meeting, have more organized discussion next meeting
- Mitch laid out the options
 - He can convince other group to change their meeting time, Mitch remains as chair
 - Still recommends addressing this problem since attrition will be an ongoing problem
 - Council could meet without a chair
 - Do recruitment for new members
 - Talk to friends and people we knows
 - RCD would need to take that on
 - Could do trevor's ideas and outreach to junior colleges, other places younger people hang out, recruit from there
 - Jamie mentioned that we would need to document what the group does, does not think we have that well defined now
 - Need to document how Council is different from Alhambra Creek
 - Mitch: would need to put together whole packet—role, benefits we bring, expectations for new Board member, etc.
 - Igor: actually don't need to live in the watershed (e.g., Igor lives in the Grayson Creek Watershed), residence does not necessarily equal interest
 - Mitch: would potentially want to reach out to Alhambra WS and other neighboring watersheds? Would have to figure out the geographical outreach strategy
 - Trevor: might want to consider not defining the group too narrowly
 - Might want to give more freedom to younger recruits, will they pursue planning and policy in the same way?
 - Mitch's questions
 - Should we plan for the eventual closing of the AWC now rather than let it end through attrition?
 - Who will lead the Council if Mitch needs to leave?
 - Does the AWC still provide value as an organization?
 - Any other questions?
 - Bob: what does the AWC offer that FOAC doesn't?
 - Same faces, same mindset, big duplication,

has not seen a big difference, almost carbon copy

- Noah explained that he started attending meetings of both groups because of the difference in names—assumed FOAC would be focused on Creek, AWC on larger Watershed, agrees that their missions may have bled together
- Igor - major benefit Mitch has brought to Council is that he's a County insider, sees similarity with Noah, contact with County should not be underestimated
- Suzy - this is John Muir's home, sees a need for both org's
- Martin mentioned that an urgent cause might be helpful for recruiting new people
 - A challenge, a danger to the watershed
 - What do we see coming down the pike in the next few years that could inspire people?
 - Jamie: pointed out that group was started with galvanizing event of floods in 1997
- Amber expressed wanting to get more involved with the group, after recently becoming a martinez resident
- TEX Project updates (Suzy, Evan)
 - Interviewing potential volunteer scientist on Thursday
 - Seems to be well qualified
 - Received reference from someone he has worked with
 - Suzy summarized this during the meeting
 - Igor mentioned interactions with UC Davis and Greg Pasternack related to TEX
 - Highlighted that hot spots tend to be biggest sources of sediment
 - Martin also mentioned that landslides, slumps, and bank erosion are biggest sources of sediment
 - Mitch mentioned using lidar data, AI
 - Trevor mentioned potential new lidar data, will forward on when he hears more
- Arundo removal project update
- Local Community Benefits Fund—report on Feb 18th webinar, potential partnerships and projects
- Project List—brainstorming new ideas

8:00 Adjourn

Action items

- **Evan to send out info about Dr Pradeep Nair for TEX project**
- **Evan to send more details about TEX project to Martin**
- **Evan to check with RCD to get pulse on what they would do for outreach for new Board members for Council, report out at next meeting**

- **Everyone to think about questions and options for future of AWC**

The next meeting of the AWC will be on **Tuesday, April 7th, 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.