

Alhambra Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 7th, 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: Elaine Jackson, Ryan Schultz, Jamie Menasco, Trevor Rice, Kristin Brandon, Igor Skaredoff, Bob Huttar, Ivette Rivero, Kristin Tam, Mitch Avalon, Doug Burgess, Noah Luecke, Amber Milano

6:30-7:00 Presentation from Kristin Brandon of CDFW

- CDFW is a state agency - wildlife, fisheries
- Mission is to manage CA's fish, wildlife, and plant resources for ecological and recreational value
- Kristin works within Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
 - Email: Kristin.brandon@wildlife.ca.gov
 - Mostly works on Lake and Streambed Alteration Program
 - Branch for this program is divided into different counties
 - Kristin is one of two Env Scientists that works on LSAA's in CC County
 - The other one is Torrey Soland
 - LSAA is applicable to any project that may significantly alter bed, bank, or channel of a stream
- LSAA
 - Permitting goes through EPIMS portal
 - Helpful to put in as much information as you can- helps the review process
 - Timelines
 - Once notification is submitted, CDFW has 30 days to review, staff may reach out to get more information or ask questions
 - Once notification is marked complete, have 60 days to make a determination
 - If it goes to no agreement needed or Operation of Law, nothing more happens, if not goes into negotiation
 - Fees
 - Based off of Fish and Game code
 - Dependent on project costs
 - Kristin encouraged folks to call the Bay Delta Fairfield office if we have any questions
 - Questions?

- Bob asked if the fees are for processing costs
 - Kristin: yes, fees are to help CDFW process documents, manage the projects
 - Bob mentioned how helpful CDFW staff were in helping him with his LSA notification, Kristin and Torrey even met Bob out at an Arundo removal site in the watershed
 - Mentioned that EPIMS is glitchy
 - Kristin seconded that EPIMS is not great and no one at CDFW likes it either
- Doug: do regulations apply to seasonal winter runoff creeks
 - Kristin: yes, reg's apply to any channels that hold water part of the year; can always reach out to ask, if no notification needed you'll get your money back
- Igor: Is there anything you can tell us about how to make smooth sailing more likely for the permitting process
 - Kristin: hard to say because it tends to be project-specific, not here to say you can't do something, but if there are major impacts more mitigation might be necessary
 - Tend to not like to see hardscape, rocks put into creeks
 - If you have an idea for something you want to do, can always run it by CDFW first and get their input
 - Do consultations quite frequently, helpful if they have some details about the project itself
- Jamie: Could we look at the status of Bob's Arundo notification?
 - Kristin: it would be better to look at the status on Bob's end, would be less complicated than what Kristin has access to
- Trevor: seems that what this group does would be in line with Cutting the Green Tape initiative—are there elements of process that might be different for the sort of work that this group does? Is there a way to apply for a reduction in fees?
 - Kristin: Cutting the green tape is fairly new, are seeing more projects getting approved through this program
 - Process starts the same, through notification
 - CDFW staff would consult internally if project might be eligible to CTGT
 - If eligible, would be more interacting with CTGT folks going forward
- Jutta: are you making the decision about whether a project goes through CTGT
 - Kristin: CDFW staff consult internally to determine this
- Jutta: is there a visual database to see other projects going on?
 - Kristin: CNDDDB may have that as one of the layers, would have to check and see if that's publicly accessible
 - Kristin will check and let Evan know
- Further discussion (after Kristin left)
 - Elaine: how does she know if something might be eligible for CTGT if she's not familiar with the program?

7:00-7:30 Introductions and Partner Reports

Friends of Alhambra Creek

- Helped at planting day for Boys and Girls Club in Martinez with RCD
- Cleanup at McNabney Marsh on April 12th
- John Muir Birthday Earth Day
- Cigarette butt holders project
- Working to ban cigarette project
- Drew Goetting from Restoration Design Group came to last meeting
 - Has been brought in by City of Martinez to work on project at Nancy Boyd Park
 - Looking for ideas for this and another project in the area (culvert under Alhambra Ave)
 - Mentioned that if we have a restoration project, RDG would be amenable to doing some design documents (for a grant)
- Noah brought up idea at meeting for oyster reefs project in the Strait
- Noah mentioned that a good way to delineate between the AWC and FOAC might be scope of projects (AWC broad scope, FOAC nitty gritty boots on the ground work)
- Igor mentioned that the native plants need maintenance at the Kiwanis Clubhouse, asked if Elaine would come train Kiwanians on how to trim their plants

National Park Service

- About to start up Alameda whipsnake monitoring again
- Prepping for JMBDED
- Seismic stability issues at Martinez adobe - currently going through process to address these issues - working on preliminary stabilization only due to limited funds
- Utility box in front of JMNHS is part of City's utility box art project - due at end of the month

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD)

- Lots of Upcoming Events, including Earth Day cleanups
- Hired new office manager Marisa Ortiz
 - Patty has retired to Idaho
- Fellows updates - had a couple of great events - Roots and Rocks, Miranda's event, etc.
- Finishing up Pinole Mitigation project, ended our work with SOS Richmond (for now)
 - Working on several other grant opportunities to continue habitat restoration work with unhoused folks
- Attended Community Benefits agreement webinar for Marathon - due April 30th, minimum \$50K ask, could potentially be for Martinez

Mt. View Sanitary District

Other member reports

7:30-8:00 Discussion Items:

- Future of the Alhambra Watershed Council
 - Mitch went through the five options going forward, from the word document he provided beforehand
 - Evan brought up the idea of moving the day of the AWC meeting
 - Mitch indicated that he would like to step down as chair anyway
 - Need process to make decisions if these need to be made before next meeting
 - Presentation from California Climate Action Corps (CCAC) Fellow Amber Milano regarding outreach to recruit new AWC members
- Arundo removal project updates
 - Next step will be to get permissions from landowners
 - Starting at top of watershed and working our way down to mouth
 - Jamie: got good news from MRC, went through more formal grant process, and approved the funds
 - MRC is getting back to their volunteer program
 - Dominic looking to get dates for volunteers to work on Arundo removal project
- TEX Project updates
 - Now have our entire team of Volunteer Scientists
 - Dr Nair in India
 - Pamela in Austria
 - Mishel - geomorphologist with WRA, based in Emeryville
- Local Community Benefits Fund grant opportunity
 - Jamie: City has agreed to take on LACWMP for this grant opportunity
 - Grant will be for \$1.5 million

8:00 Adjourn

Action items

- **Kristin Brandon to check and see if there is a database of current CDFW projects to share, will contact Evan to distribute to group**
- **Evan to connect Noah and Chris Lim on the subject of constructed oyster reefs**
- **Evan to send agenda draft to entire group 1.5 weeks before next meeting**
- **Add Amber's presentation as next agenda item for May meeting**

The next meeting of the AWC will be on **Tuesday, May 5th, 2026, at 6:30 pm.**

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