

Alhambra Watershed Council Minutes

Tuesday, July 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: Igor Skaredoff, Elaine Jackson, Ryan Schultz, Ray Duran, Bob Huttar, Ray Duran, Doug Burgess, Trevor Rice, Amber Milano, Miranda Shuba, Suzy Hall-Whitney, Evan Green, Jamie Menasco

6:30-7:00 Presentation from Ray Duran of BayQuest about his organization

- Presentation
 - Ray very impressed by the AWC and the work they do
 - Ray raised his family in Martinez and lived there for many years
 - Maritime operation that supports conservation and research
 - Shared slideshow presentation as introduction to BayQuest
 - Reaching out to watershed groups to see how they can make connection to Bay wildlife
 - Two programs have come from this outreach
 - Watershed Warriors-partnership with Friends of Sausal Creek
 - High School curriculum that includes SF Bay EcoTour
 - Rising Tides, Healing Waters (Friends of Pt Molate Beach Park)
 - Baseline monitoring/sampling
 - 20 young people from Richmond
 - Eelgrass monitoring
- Discussion of potential partnership with AWC
 - Bob: work being done for protection of whales that wander into Bay?
 - Bob is a regular sailor, concerned about whales that enter Bay
 - Ray: last ten years have seen an increase of whales entering Bay, especially gray whales
 - Source food distribution, climate change means whales are not making it to Alaska, stop off in Bay instead and don't find food
 - Some shipping companies are voluntarily slowing down
 - Ferry operators are watching for whales and calling in to Coast Guard
 - Acoustic technology can help
 - Infrared camera system on Angel Island
 - Congressional leaders are getting involved

- BayQuest is working on using acoustics tech to be able to see whales, this is what SeaSounds is working towards
- Amber: what does partnership with Friends of Sausal Creek look like?
- Ray: have a 30 year educational program, multi level, with plant restoration throughout the watershed
 - Their naturalists go out with the students, great education team
 - Turn over education piece to Sausal Creek people
- Jamie: is BayQuest new?
- Ray: started in 2024, so pretty new, now a 501 c 3, fully incorporated
- Trevor: have you seen different things in your data with the recent advent of electric ferries in terms of whale strikes and acoustic changes?
- Ray: haven't seen full electrification of ferries yet but do not yet have data
- Trevor: have you done any data specifically related to sediment or bacteria loads, water quality related, that might connect to Alhambra Creek specifically?
- Ray: water sampling will be important part of program in Richmond, more focused on salinity with Sausal Creek program
- Trevor: Delta National Heritage Area, includes Martinez, could be a potential partner that Trevor can connect BayQuest with
- Elaine: any potential partnership related to TEX project, any tie in with microplastics and sediment sampling?
- Ray: The methodology is a little different between the two
- Elaine mentioned Suzy's cigarette butt receptacle project

7:00-7:30 Introductions and Partner Reports (skipped these)

Friends of Alhambra Creek

National Park Service

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD)

Mt. View Sanitary District

Other member reports

7:00-8:00 Discussion Items:

- Beaver Festival outreach report (Amber)
 - Had about 12 sign ups
 - A lot were really interested in data collection workdays
 - Mentioned field trips and a lot of people were interested - could be great for AWC
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- Arundo removal project update (Bob)
 - This morning Bob and Jamie met with a homeowner, pretty far upstream
 - Got very favorable response
 - Bob sent message out today to CDFW, waiting for agreement to come through at any moment
 - RCD has received \$32,000 in WMA funding
 - Jamie would like to set a date for the workday, coordinate with the EcoStewards
 - Need to schedule volunteer day with MRC, they prefer weekends
 - August 11th or 12th with EcoStewards

- TEX Project update
 - Planning field trip
 - Reached out to Carol Arnold - she made some great suggestions about spots to view waterways in the area
 - Evan thinks it's time to get serious about planning a community scientist recruitment and project introduction meeting
- Any agenda items for next meeting?
 - Evan discussed issue of future of AWC and learning from Marsh Creek groups
 - Amber and Miranda offered what they know about MCWC and FOMC
 - Adopt a creek
 - Bigger science based projects that cover entire watershed
 - Field trips, including bike field trip to take data on signage along trail, another field trip to fish hatchery
 - FOMC do cleanups, maintaining gardens, hands on the ground
 - Groups decided to invite Ivette Rivero to talk about the Marsh Creek groups and how they're organized at August's meeting
 -

8:00 Adjourn

Action items

- **Loop in Trevor on TEX field trip email thread**
- **Connect Ray and Noah Luecke about oyster reefs**
- **Invite Ivette to speak at Aug meeting about Marsh Creek groups**
- **Agenda item for Aug - future of AWC**
- **Send out CCRCD updates with follow up email**
 - **Ask Trevor if he wants me to forward his updates**

The next meeting of the AWC will be on **Tuesday, August 4th, 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.