Alhambra Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 4th, 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: Ivette Rivero, Ryan Schultz, Trevor Rice, Bob Huttar, Igor Skaredoff, Elaine Jackson, Evan Green, Amber Milano

6:30-7:00 Presentation and discussion with Ivette Rivero, CCRCD Watershed Conservation Coordinator for the Marsh Creek Watershed

- Ivette presenting because of AWC's interest in potentially restructuring or reorganizing group
- Ivette coordinates MCWC and FoMCW
- Gave presentation covering history of FoMCW, FoMCW Projects, history of MCWC, high level structure for the MCWC
- FoMCW started in 2004
    - Registered at 501 © 3 nonprofit in 2009 - opened door to accepting donations, other activities
        - Led by (current) County Supervisor Diane Burgis 2016-2016\
    - Updated bylaws in 2026
    - Board of 4 members currently
    - Projects
        - Generally more community facing, hands on than MCWC
        - Maintain Brentwood Creekside Park Native Plant Demonstration Garden
            - Monthly workdays, 2nd Sunday of the month
            - Got Xerces kit for 600 native plants!
            - Meetings held over Zoom, so helpful to have a regular in-person event
            - Planning to expand to east side of creek
        - Community creek cleanups
            - CA Coastal Cleanup Day
            - Earth Day
            - MLK Day
            - Partner with Cities of Oakley and Brentwood, OYAC, EBRPD, etc.
        - Educational activities
            - Oakley Science Day

        - Antioch and Oakley Kids Fishing Derby
        - FoMCW Speaker series-invited speakers to in person events and brought in the community
        - Currently planning a Salmon Run 5k community event at Big Break Regional Shoreline
- MCWC
    - Started 2022
    - Develop watershed plan
    - Mission, Visioning, and Guiding Principle
    - Watershed Action Plan
    - High Level Structure
        - Oversight committee (County Sponsors)
            - Board of Supervisors
            - EBRPD Wards 6 and 7
        - Council Board
        - Partners, Agencies,
        - ASsociate (non voting directors)
            - City staff, FCD, American Rivers
    - Meeting structure
        - Alternate between in-person, Zoom, and field trips
    - Field trips
        - Bike tour
        - Mokelumne fish hatchery
    - Guest speakers
    - Projects
        - Adopt-a-Creek
            - Hosting creek cleanups
            - Reporting-illegal dumping, poaching
            - Wildlife observations
            - Creating reporting sheets for folks to do their reporting
        - Signage inventory project
            - Created survey using Survey 123
            - Recorded data on location, sign type, condition, responsible agency, recommended action
            - 98 data points
            - Looking for gaps in signage, where to add regulatory, educational signage
        - Mercury leak communication
        - Increase water testing and coordinate
        - Annual state of the creek document
        - Increase spawning and breeding habitat for anadromous fish
        - Creating interpretive map
    - FoMCW vs. MCWC
        - Hands on vs. collaborative planning with partner agencies
        - Lower watershed vs entire watershed
        - More community facing vs. agencies, land managers, tribal members
        - Volunteer events vs. action plan, signage, and adopt a creek projects
        - Monthly zoom meeting vs alternating format

- Questions
    - Bob: how do agency members participate with MCWC?
    - Ivette: they come to meetings, general idea is to share updates
    - Evan: How does your Oversight Committee operate?
    - Ivette: have a say in choosing Board members - they approve Board nominations, also approve progress reports before posting on website
        - Normally communicate with them through
    - Igor: some things really stand out about how these org's are organized
        - How did this interactive structure and function come to be? Did you design it from the ground up, or did it evolve spontaneously?
    - Ivette: current president David Sondergeld had a major role in this, and relied on his expertise, also inspired by WCWC and subwatershed groups (got achievement report idea from here), also willing to take on new ideas, have updated bylaws
    - Igor: also impressed by fact that they have an action plan
    - Ivette: worked closely with John Steere at CWP, who pitched projects to group, also have a project feedback form on website where the public can suggest projects (review this regularly)
    - Igor: impressed by the community focus and connection, AWC would do well to focus on that

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7:00-7:30 Introductions and Partner Reports

Friends of Alhambra Creek

- Marathon comm benefits fund - want good project ideas for future - possible ideas to add to our project list
- Two people applied to county community panel (?) for sea level rise planning

National Park Service

- Weed warriors friday the 7th
- Starthistle pulling
- Wildlife cameras going in on Mt Wanda
- John Muir Association hosting chamber of commerce monthly mixer on thurs aug 20th
- Owl pellet dissecting program

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD)

- Stream Camp- report from Fellows
    - Visited Mt View Sanitary District
    - Green infrastructure specialist
    - 3-6 girls every day, great group
    - Had a lot of fun
    - CCRCD speakers - Lisa, Zoe, Nat, Jules
    - Cardboard automata project - hand cranked moving structure
- Tentative cleanup September 19th on Grayson Creek in Pleasant Hill (near Pacheco casino/7-11 site that was a point of concern in Spring 2025)

- Discovered red eared slider along Pinole Creek, interesting situation figuring out what to do with it
- Slow season, no upcoming events

Mt. View Sanitary District

Other member reports

7:30-8:00 Discussion Items:

- Future of the Alhambra Watershed Council
  - Tabled this topic until future meeting
  - Igor suggested the Council give things some time to see how the group evolves naturally, and potentially formalize that changed structure
  - Elaine agreed that the AWC doesn't seem an Exectutive Committee, etc.
  - Elaine thought it could be helpful to have someone from the FCD, or a CDFW person
  - Evan: would it be helpful to have City of Martinez rep on AWC?
  - Bob: what about EPRPD? Anyone know anyone with connection to this area?
    - Bob could look into it
  - Elaine: could look into who took Colin Coffey place (ward representing Martinez, and gauge their interest)
  - Evan: what about JMLT?
  - Could be better to involve
- Arundo Removal Project Update (Bob)
  - Project is basically shovel ready
  - Plan to do work next week with CCRCD EcoStewards
  - Bob needs to do nesting bird survey, rare plant survey
  - Going to coordinate with Elaine to invite core FoAC volunteers for next tuesday's work
- Thriving Earth Exchange (TEX) Project update
  - Report on 7/31 watershed tour site visit
    - Evan summarized the site visit, thanked Trevor for the tour of Strentzel Valley
    - Trevor offered his services for site access for the project in the future
      - Also suggested reaching out to other land managers (EBMUD, EBRPD) for access

8:00 Adjourn

<u>Action items</u>

- ☐ Evan to share Trevor's email updates from NPS
- ☐ Elaine to ask Ricardo Black about his interest in getting involved with the Council
- ☐ Evan to find and reach out to relevant person at EBRPD, assigned to local Martinez park(s), to gauge their interest in attending Council meetings
- ☐ Ivette to share draft emails for inviting in agency representatives to the Council

The next meeting of the AWC will be on Tuesday, September 1st, 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.