

Alhambra Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 1st, 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: Ricardo Black, Trevor Rice, Elaine Jackson, Evan Green, Jamie Menasco

6:30-7:00 Introductions and Partner Reports

- Ricardo Black - Manager of Public Stewardship
 - Public programs usually on Saturdays
 - Out today taking out ice plant with Trail Dogs at Pacheco Marsh
 - Planning
 - Doing public hike on September 5th at Pacheco Marsh
 - Working on Phragmites at Pacheco for 5 years, mechanically removing and chemically treating
 - Working with contractor
 - Fernandez Ranch - started buckeye grove
 - Planting 70 valley oaks over next few months with Eagle Scout
 - September 19th - Coastal Cleanup at Pacheco Marsh
 - Not too much trash, but will remove ice plant
 - Sept 26th - pulling purple star thistle at Franklin Ridge
 - Going out once a month and targeting that weed
 - Saturday event start times at Pacheco Marsh are always 8:00 a.m.
 - Family Harvest Farm
 - 4 acre regenerative farm in Pittsburg
 - Every 3rd friday of the month, Sept 18th this month
 - Volunteers can take home produce
 - Find events at JMLT.org

Friends of Alhambra Creek

- Eleanor Clark at last meeting, from California Urban Streams Partnership
- Elaine wasn't sure CUSP had much of a crew to work with
- Eleanor's idea is to bring in Scouts to do the soil bioengineering work
- Updates on cigarette butts project

National Park Service

- Onsite visit with PGand E at gravesite
 - Trimming 15 trees in NPS jurisdiction
 - NPS authorized them to do that - Sept 8th
- PGandE also requested drone inspections
- Got 8 letters of support for transportation project with City of Martinez, incl CCRCD and AWC
- City of M hosting full moon hike, proposed for Mt Wanda on Sat Sept 26th, have to get them permit
- Got funding for more interns next year
- Lots of great herbicide work going on
- Milkweed and monarch surveys happening
- Reinstating fall season Alameda whipsnake surveys
- Autumn garden talk may be happening, take a look at Calendar
- Trevor monitors City agendas
 - tmrw city council is hearing workshop presentation on Park system master plan
 - Trees and landscaping plants proposed for Phase 2 landscaping and planting project - may want to comment

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD)

- Many upcoming cleanup events for CA Coastal Cleanup Day 2026

Mt. View Sanitary District

Other member reports

7:00-8:00 Discussion Items:

- Future of the Alhambra Watershed Council
 - Recruiting agency partners - how did it go?
 - Trevor: Friends more hands on, Council historically more planning focused
 - Who at these organizations would be most valuable?
 - People who run volunteer days, or folks in planning departments?
 - Ricardo Black - East Bay Stewardship Network - Lydia Lapporte
 - 15 collaborating organizations
 - Would be worth reaching out to Lydia
 - Arundo Removal Project Update
 - Jamie: had great day, finished up at first property
 - Some stalks were resprouting, plan to come back in a month
 - Mostly that patch looks great, finished that second patch at the same property today
 - Next property has owner in 70s who walks with cane but has been working cutting canes
 - Got property owner in Alhambra Valley to host donated dumpster from Republic Services
 - Community member has allowed us to use their trailer

- Will be working september 10th if anyone wants to volunteer
 - Will have community event saturday October 10th with MRC
 - Will work on patch at Senior Center
 - May offer free lunch
 - May want to check and be sure we are using enough herbicide - is it resprouting because we didn't apply enough herbicide or at too low of concentration
 - Got permission from CDFW to work on patches away from creek after October 15th
 - Trevor asked about possibility of "camp style" work to get more labor efficiency
 - Ricardo mentioned Vo-Cal (Volunteers for Outdoor California) - they have done work for JMLT
 - Mostly do trail work, require a keg of beer, provide their own tools
 - Work with really large groups (60)
 - Potential projects
 - Updating Watershed User's Manual
 - Reviewing and updating AWC Goals 2017 document
 - https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/5f3e9a57758f245d6738603c/6067dd1e3dcff6bf0e161314_awc_goals_2017_updated_4-15-17.pdf
 - Ideas for restructuring
 - Consideration of new ideas from Marsh Creek groups or elsewhere (field trips, etc.)
- Thriving Earth Exchange (TEX) Project
 - Defining project goals-any input?
 - Trevor
 - Thought that the attraction of this was that it had a tangible component - get to more actionable items
 - Can we use initial analysis, esp after site visit, to zoom in and maybe the scope doesnt have to be watershed wide, could be focused on specific areas (upper watershed vs mid vs lower)
 - If geographic scope is too big, could focus on smaller area, to identify those sites that are likely to have the biggest leverage for entirety of watershed
 - Could focus on trust building, relationship building on specific area or neighborhood
 - Identify spaces that are the biggest problem, backed up with data, and come up with potential proposed solutions
 - Find similar focus point to the flood that galvanized the Council in the first place
 - Super el nino could highlight sites and issues that we should focus on
 - Can our analysis help identify potential hotspots for the

coming Super El Nino?

- Can our science team help narrow down the hotspots?
- We could then reach out with door hangers this winter - we could then xyz - make recommendations, refer them to SMPL. etc.
- Jamie: first step could be to take pictures of specific spots, at specific intervals
 - Planning for volunteer recruitment, training, and data collection
- Jamie mentioned updating Project List - should we get back to this?

Action items

- ☐ **Evan to share link to Heidi Perryman's beaver Ad Hoc Committee presentation in follow up email**
- ☐ **Ricardo to reach out to Lydia Lapporte to see who we might want to join Council from EBSN**
- ☐ **Evan to send out User's Manual and AWC Goals 2017 document out to group with follow up email - worth updating these documents?**
- ☐ **Evan to send out AI summary notes with follow up email**
- ☐ **Evan to continue to invite in folks from EBRPD to attend future Council meetings**
- ☐ **Ricardo to share information about JMLT's Phragmites control effort**

8:00 Adjourn

The next meeting of the AWC will be on **Tuesday, October 6th, 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.