

**Clean Water Program  
COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP GRANTS  
PROJECT APPLICATION FORM**

Please complete the following proposal form. **Type the information** below or cut and paste the information into the form. Use additional pages as needed. Be brief, but provide enough information about your group and your proposal so that we have a clear picture of what you plan to accomplish and how you plan to do so. If you are having difficulties completing this form, please contact Amy Evans at amy.evans@acrcd.org or (925) 371-0154 x 112. **Incomplete proposals will not be considered.**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Lower Alameda Creek Stewardship Project

**PROJECT DIRECTOR** Ralph Boniel

**PROJECT GROUP/SCHOOL** Alameda Creek Alliance

**ADDRESS** P.O. Box 2626

**CITY** Niles (Fremont), CA **ZIP** 94536

**PHONE (Day)** (716) 523-3420 **(Eve)** same

**EMAIL ADDRESS** ralph@alamedacreek.org

**NAME OF FISCAL SPONSOR (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_

**FISCAL SPONSOR CONTACT** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. DESCRIBE YOUR GROUP (if applicable):**

- a. What is its purpose and why was it formed?

**The Alameda Creek Alliance ('ACA') is a non-profit community watershed group dedicated to protecting and restoring the native wildlife of the Alameda Creek watershed. It was formed in 1997 with the goal to restore native steelhead trout runs in the watershed.**

- b. How is it organized (formally/informally)? Please describe:

**The Alameda Creek Alliance is a registered 501(3) non-profit organization. It is governed by a 6-member Board of Directors, and has three part-time staffers- an Executive Director, a Volunteer & Restoration Coordinator, and an Event Coordinator.**

- c. How many active members? 2000

d. How long has the group been in existence?

**Since 1997, or 17 years**

e. Past and current projects (environmental or other):

**The Alameda Creek Alliance has organized over 70 local conservation and fishing groups and thousands of watershed residents in support of our restoration goals for the Alameda Creek watershed. The ACA has involved hundreds of volunteers in fish rescues, creek cleanups, creek monitoring, and in assisting biologists in gathering scientific data essential to steelhead restoration. Our advocacy resulted in the formation of the Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup in 1999, a stakeholder group that includes 15 local, state, and federal agencies working cooperatively to coordinate fisheries restoration.**

**The Alameda Creek Alliance documented wild, adult steelhead attempting to migrate upstream in lower Alameda Creek most winters from 1997-2012. The ACA began a fish rescue program for steelhead stranded below dams and barriers in the lower creek. After plans were initiated to make all fish barriers passable to steelhead, this evolved into a program to radio-tag and monitor adult steelhead to learn about fish migration.**

**The Alameda Creek Alliance secured from the San Francisco PUC improved stream flows in Alameda Creek below two major dams that will benefit steelhead trout, chinook salmon and Pacific lamprey, as well as stream and riparian habitat for foothill yellow-legged frogs, western pond turtles and songbirds. Cold water flow releases from Calaveras Reservoir into Alameda Creek will improve summer water quality and rearing conditions for trout and changed operations of the 32-foot diversion dam in upper Alameda Creek will allow more unimpaired natural flow to continue downstream in winter and spring. In addition, the ACA is working with 16 agencies conducting studies and modeling to determine the range, timing, duration, frequency, and location of the water flows needed to restore the steelhead fishery in Alameda Creek.**

**The Alameda Creek Alliance and Ohlone Audubon Society initiated in 2009 and continues to co-sponsor an annual Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count, a volunteer-based bird survey effort to assess long-term trends in winter bird populations and promote bird conservation in the Alameda Creek watershed. The annual count attracts 90 volunteers; the average count finds 150 bird species in a 15- mile radius circle in Pleasanton, Sunol and Livermore.**

**The Alameda Creek Alliance currently has two adopt-a-creek spots in the watershed on Palomares Rd. along Stonybrook Creek, and on Niles Canyon Rd. along Alameda Creek. We regularly organize or volunteer members in clean-ups at these known trash hotspots. We have also organized work-groups to remove invasive cape ivy from riparian trees at our Alameda Creek site, including work events with Irvington High School students seeking volunteer hours and opportunities.**

**2. DESCRIBE YOUR SCHOOL (if applicable):**

a. Where is your school located?

- b. Describe your student body?
- c. How many students will be participating in this project?
- d. Past and current projects (environmental or other):

**3. LOCATION OF PROJECT:**

Name of creek or watershed Alameda Creek

Nearest city Fremont, CA

Attach a map indicating exact location (**applicants must include a map**).

**4. TYPE OF PROJECT (all that apply):**

Litter-Reduction  Education  Publication \_\_\_\_\_  
 Re-vegetation \_\_\_\_\_ Art \_\_\_\_\_ Survey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enhancement  Restoration  Monitoring \_\_\_\_\_  
 Public Outreach  Website \_\_\_\_\_ Advertising/Media \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**5. PROJECT DATES:**

Start Date July 2014

Completion Date July 2015

**6. DESCRIBE YOUR PROJECT:**

- a. Describe the problem or issue your project will address:

**Our project involves riparian habitat improvement, watershed outreach and education, and community building. The specific watershed issues are trash and invasive species, which we address with our volunteer workdays. During our work events we also disseminate an outreach message related to the work that is being done. This includes discussions of what riparian areas are and why it's important to keep them healthy, what a watershed is with details of our watershed, the types of trash we might find and their effects in our creek and bay, the impact of invasive plants on native flora.**

- b. Describe your target audience including any underserved audiences:

**Our target audience are the primarily students and residents in the cities of Fremont, Union City, and Hayward. We'd like to specifically target the neighbors**

**directly adjacent to our Alameda Creek adopt-a-spot to get them more involved in stewardship efforts. This past year we connected with students from Irvington High School in Fremont and we would like to expand out outreach efforts to that population, and better coordinate our work events with their service hours needs. We would also like to outreach to students of the other four high schools in Fremont- American, Washington, Mission San Jose, and John F. Kennedy.**

c. Estimate the number of people that your project will reach: **1000**

d. Write a brief project description (what you will do, where and how):

**We're seeking funds to continue our current stewardship activities and to better outreach about our efforts to the local community, with the goal of greater community involvement in watershed stewardship.**

**Our project continues our stewardship efforts at our two adopted sites in Alameda County- one along Stonybrook Creek on Palomares Rd, and the other along Alameda Creek on Old Canyon Rd. We've had trash pick-up events at both sites, and at the Alameda Creek site we've been removing invasive cape ivy and English ivy from native riparian trees.**

Note that in 2016, the application also requires a workplan, based on the project description. See 6.d. of the application form.

e. What will be the product(s) or result(s) of your project (e.g., mural, publications, art projects, creek guides, interpretive signs, demonstration garden)?

**A general product of our project is enhanced fish and wildlife habitat along Sinbad Creek. We also want to be able to give every person who comes and volunteers with us something with a message about creek and watershed health.**

**We'd like to produce a postcard that would have information about our efforts at our adopted site, and where one can get more information about upcoming events. The other side would have information about creek and watershed health and awareness, and simple actions one can take for improved watershed health. This is to be something we can give to volunteers, post on community boards, leave at school, libraries, and other public places, and give out to neighbors and other members of the public.**

**We also will produce a similar, but scaled down, an informational bookmark that we can give out at schools, libraries, workdays, and outreach events.**

**We will make a sidewalk display sign for our creek stewardship events for when they are in progress. This sign is to direct latecomers to where they can find us, to let the general public know that a stewardship activity is going on, and as a place where we can leave some of our information postcards for members of the public who might be interested as they're walking by.**

**We will also print and copy general outreach materials, including informational handouts, flyers about upcoming events, waiver forms, etc. There are many good**

**outreach materials that available online, including resources from the county, that we would like to print and distribute at our outreach events.**

- f. What are the short-term and long-term benefits of this project to stormwater pollution prevention, the watershed, water quality, fish and wildlife habitats, and your community?

**This project has immediate benefits in that we're removing trash and invasive plants from our creek habitat. This directly benefits water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and the general health of the riparian zone. It also has longer-term benefits in that the people who come and volunteer walk away having learned something about their environment, and it's a message they often carry on to others. They appreciate the time spent in a natural environment, and the entire effort builds community.**

- g. Describe your outreach strategy to make your project known to the community/public (e.g., school functions, sharing with parent groups, fairs, newspaper, radio, television, web, presentations).

**One of our outreach strategies is to target Fremont schools more directly this year. We'd like to establish contacts with one or more teachers involved in student volunteering, and use them as a point of contact. We'd like to get informational postcards to the high schools and libraries to lead potential volunteers to our events while increasing everyone's watershed awareness.**

**The Alameda Creek Alliance will continue to table at fair, festivals, and other local outreach event as opportunities arise.**

- h. Do you need legal permission (easement rights from a landowner) to be on the project site? How do you plan to secure it? If applicable, please provide documentation with your application.

**We have an Adopt-a-Spot agreement with Alameda County, the landowner where our project site is located.**

- i. Will you need permits for this project (e.g., Dept. of Fish and Game, Army Corp of Engineers, Regional Board, or City/County permits)? If so, list the permits needed and provide documentation with your application.

**No permits required.**

- j. How will the project be maintained in the long term? Do you have plans to continue this project after the grant period?

**This is part of an ongoing effort that we fully expect to continue after this grant period.**

- k. How will your group benefit from this project?

**Our membership wants to be involved in stewardship activities, and we get very positive feedback from volunteers who have worked at these sites. We as an organization want to build a community around our messages of steelhead restoration and watershed health and this helps us to do that.**

- l. Describe how your project/plan will be implemented.

**We will plan eight work events in the coming year, and will advertise those in advance. We will initiate contact to the area high school early in the school year so that we can arrange some of our work events around students needs, and get outreach to the schools well in advance. The informational postcards and bookmarks will be produced over the summer and printed in the early fall, once initial contact has been made with the schools and schedules get set. The workdays themselves are continuations of ones we have had in the past, and will involve our members, students, other local groups, and members of the public.**

**7. DESCRIBE THE PEOPLE WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT:**

- a. How many staff, volunteers and/or students will be actively involved?

**Two staff, 100 or more volunteers.**

- b. What skills or specialized equipment can your staff or volunteers provide (e.g., engineer, artist, biologist, heavy equipment operator)?

**Biologist, ecologist**

- c. Do you plan to work with other organizations/schools (e.g., scouts, church group, environmental organization)? If so, list them:

**Yes- The high schools of Fremont Unified- Irvington, Mission San Jose, John F. Kennedy, Washington, and American. We have also partnered in the past with the Alameda County Resource Conservation District, and the Gizzly Peak Fly Fishers, and expect to continue those collaborations in the future.**

- d. Do you need to recruit other volunteers to help you complete this project? If so, please explain your recruitment plans:

Not necessarily a need, though outreach and volunteer-building is part of our project.

8. **WHAT TYPE OF OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE WILL YOU NEED (e.g., expertise or equipment)?** None.

9. **EVALUATION (during and after):**

a. Who will be responsible to see that the project is being properly carried out? (Please provide name & phone number if different from project director.)

**Ralph Boniello**

b. How will you evaluate the success of the project (e.g., pre & post survey, number of attendees)? The evaluation should assess knowledge or behavior change related to stormwater pollution prevention. Provide specific examples.

**Our success is based on the number of volunteer hours we get on our workdays, and the number of students that volunteer with us from local high schools. We also have a goal of 8 or more volunteer workdays this year.**

10. **PROJECT BUDGET:** In the worksheet below show the breakdown of estimated projects costs for:

- Labor and materials, supplies, services, rental costs to be paid for with grant funds
- Match: volunteer (unpaid) labor and donated materials, supplies, services, rental costs
- Note: Match, such as donated materials and volunteer labor are not required. However, if they demonstrate your collaboration with other groups and organizations and enhance the project, you may want to list them.
- Note: Grant monies cannot be used to purchase food and large ticket items (e.g., video camera, printer, or computer).

	<b>Grant Funds</b>	<b>Grant Funds)</b>	<b>Optional Match</b>	<b>Optional Match</b>
Item/Services	Materials, services, etc. purchased with grant funds	Paid labor and staff time (estimated hours and total cost)	Materials, services donated	Volunteer labor-estimated hours donated
<b>Staff time organizing 8 work events</b>			<b>60 hrs (\$1800)</b>	
<b>Refreshments</b>			<b>\$100</b>	
<b>Bags- trash (60), lawn &amp; garden (300)</b>	<b>\$300</b>			
<b>Trash-grabbers (10)</b>	<b>\$220</b>			
<b>Printing – 250 bookmarks, 500</b>	<b>\$280</b>			

<b>outreach postcards</b>				
<b>Printing &amp; Copying- general B&amp;W (2000) and color (250)</b>	<b>\$400</b>			
<b>Materials for sign- making</b>	<b>\$50</b>			
<b>Brochure holders</b>	<b>\$50</b>			
<b>Volunteer labor at work events</b>				<b>320 hrs (\$7040)</b>
<b>Gloves (1-yr supply)</b>	<b>\$150</b>			
Subtotals	\$1450		\$1900	\$7040
<b>TOTAL GRANT FUNDS</b>	<b>\$1450</b>			

**11. How did you hear about the Community Stewardship Grant Program?**

\_\_\_ From your City/County

\_\_X\_\_ Clean Water Program

\_\_\_ Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD)

\_\_\_ Newspaper      \_\_\_ Mailing List      \_\_\_ Program's Website

\_\_\_ Electronic distribution list      other? \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please email a copy of your proposal, and the required project location map as an attachment to your email, preferably as a PDF (please no files larger than 1MB) to:**

**Amy Evans**  
[amy.evans@acrcd.org](mailto:amy.evans@acrcd.org)

**Proposals must be received before 5:00 p.m. on April 10, 2014. Faxes will not be accepted. Applicants will be notified as to whether or not they were selected for funding by May 23, 2014, and grant contracts will be awarded in July 2014.**

**Amy Evans**  
**Community Stewardship Grant Program**  
**c/o Alameda County Resource Conservation District**  
**3585 Greenville Rd. Suite 2, Livermore, CA 94550**

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