

SALT RIVER WATERSHED NEWS

Restoring a historic waterway while preserving an agricultural heritage

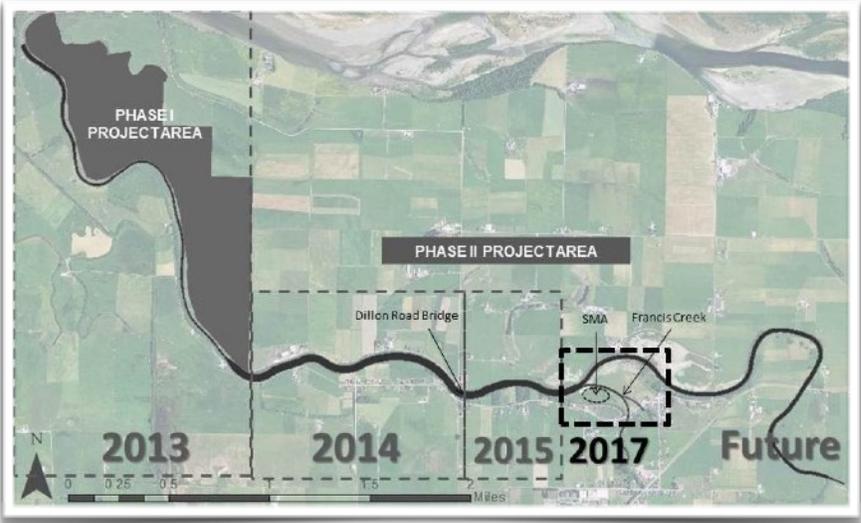
Who are we?

The Salt River Watershed Council (SRWC) board includes: Don Hindley (chairman), Denver Nelson (vice chairman), David Carr (treasurer), Carol Lee (secretary), Ann Barbata, Dennis DelBiaggio, Jay Parrish, Jay Russ, Joe Russ, Gene Sarvinski and John Vernon.

What is our purpose?

Once the restoration project is completed, it is the SRWC's responsibility to:

- achieve a balance between agricultural use and environmental concerns
- encourage stewardship for the preservation of the Salt River Watershed, its habitat and wildlife
- educate the community on the importance of this watershed
- collaborate with local watershed groups and government agencies
- obtain funding to monitor and maintain this vital resource.



Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project continues this Summer, 2017

The bid for this year's Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project (SRERP) Upper Phase 2A work was awarded to Figas Construction of Eureka as the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. The Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD) issued Figas the Notice to Proceed effective June 12, 2017 and instream excavation started on June 15, 2017.

By mid-August, 85,000 cubic yards of sediment were excavated and transported off-road to sediment reuse locations. This year's construction season calls for a total of 120,000 cubic yards to be excavated from 2,000 feet of Salt River and 2,500 feet of Francis Creek. In addition, a six acre sediment management area is being excavated. This year's construction season is scheduled to be complete by September 30.

The HCRCD requests that you do not attempt to enter the construction zone for your own safety and out of respect for the landowner.

For more detailed information on the 2017 construction footprint, go to page 3.





Williams Creek Planning

On May 23, 2017, the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD) and the Salt River Watershed Council (SRWC) hosted a Community Meeting on Restoration Planning in the Williams Creek Watershed. Sixteen Williams Creek landowners participated during the meeting. The HCRCD is embarking on a project called *Williams Creek Alternative Analysis* to identify potential restoration options, or alternatives, that address flooding impacts to residential properties and agricultural lands while enhancing fish and wildlife habitats.

HCRCD's next step is to work with landowners to gain access to private lands adjacent to Williams Creek to collect data and conduct field work necessary to develop restoration alternatives. Data collection will occur over the next year. The HCRCD will then work with landowners to develop restoration alternatives. The HCRCD anticipates that a preferred restoration alternative will be developed and selected by landowners and community members in 2018-2019.

Save the Date: Keep the Salt River Alive, 2017



If the photos above look familiar, then you attended the "Keep the Salt River Alive" event in October, 2015. If you missed that event, then this is your chance to see firsthand the incredible restoration of the Salt River, its habitat and wildlife. Join the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, Salt River Watershed Council, Supervisor Rex Bohn, Michael Bowen of the Coastal Conservancy and Congressman Jared Huffman as we celebrate the completion of the next phase of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project.

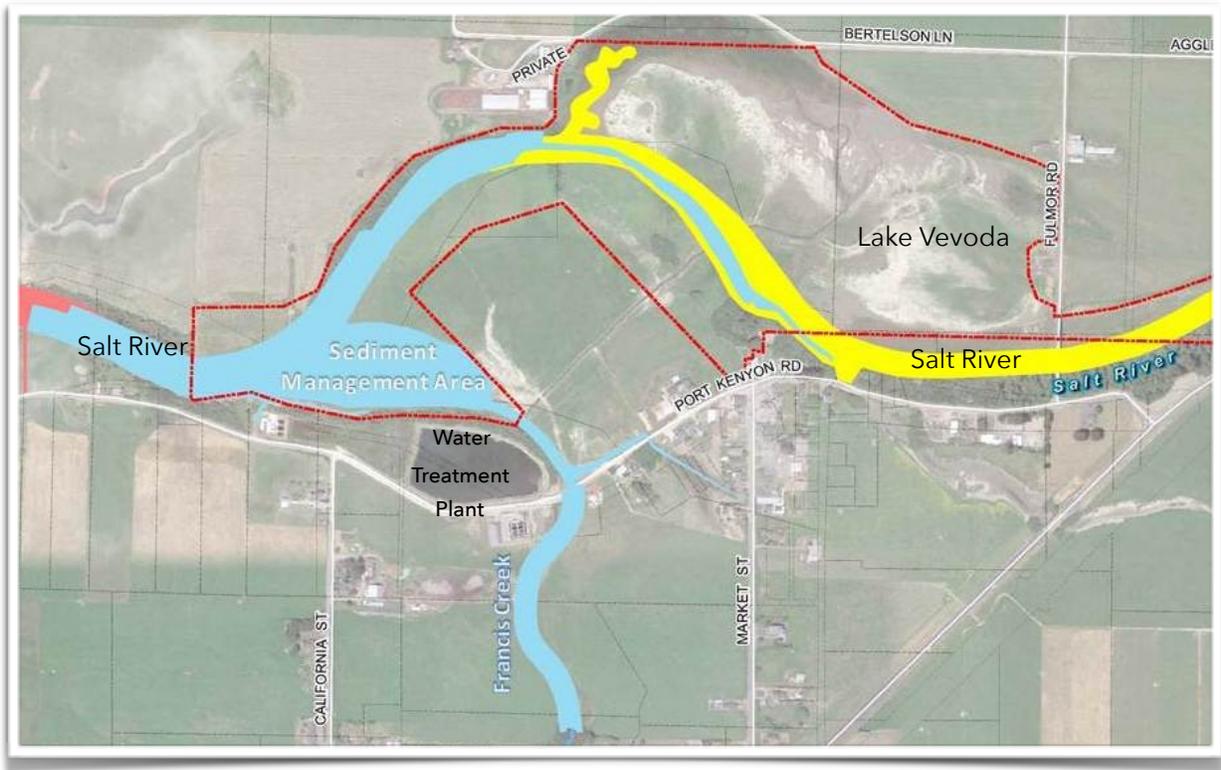
Date: Saturday, November 4
Time: 10 am to 2 pm
Location: Veteran's Hall, Ferndale

- Lunch will be provided by Humboldt Grassfed Beef, No Brand Burger Stand, Sweet Basil Catering and a generous donation from GHD Consulting.
- Bus tours of the project area will be provided.
- Admission to this event is free.

Salt River Native Tree Planting Extravaganza

On March 25, 2017, 66 volunteers including members of the Eel River Valley community, Watershed Stewards Program (WSP) and the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District grabbed shovels and wheelbarrows and planted 250 native trees along the Salt River. The mission of the WSP is to conserve, restore and enhance anadromous watershed for future generations by linking education with quality scientific practices.





The map above shows the SRERP 2017 construction footprint in blue. The red dotted line shows the NRCS floodplain easement across Andy Albin’s property. The large blue area above the Ferndale water treatment plant is where the SMA will be located. Francis Creek (located on Elias Sousa’s and Albin’s property) and the Salt River converge at the SMA location. This area has been a bottleneck for sediment coming down out of the Wildcat mountains for many years. In addition, east side drainage water runs down Market Street and contributes to the flooding of residents along Port Kenyon Road.

The Yellow area on the map is the future continuation of the Salt River as it moves toward the highway 211 bridge.

The SRWC would like to thank the following funding organizations that provided grant money for the 2017 construction season of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project. The cost will be \$4 million.

- Department of Water Resources (Proposition 84, Flood Corridor Program, and Urban Streams Restoration Grant Program)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Fisheries Restoration Grant Program and Watershed Restoration Grant Program, Proposition 1)
- California State Coastal Conservancy (Proposition 1)
- National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (Coastal Resiliency Grant Program)
- Wildlife Conservation Board (Proposition 1)
- Integrated Regional Water Management Program/North Coast Resource Partnership Program



The area being excavated above is the six acre Sediment Management Area (SMA) on the Albin property.

salt river watershed

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preserving an agricultural heritage*



How can you help?

There are a number of ways in which you can help the SRWC:

- Attend our monthly meetings which are held every other month (January, March, May, July, September and November) on the third Tuesday at 3:00 pm at the Ferndale Fire Department, Brown Street.
- Volunteer to join a committee (education and outreach).
- Stay informed about this project by "following" our website at www.saltriverwatershed.org and receive email updates.

Salt River Watershed Council
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