

# You Are Not Underwater

...But you could be. You are standing in the middle of the Alhambra Creek Watershed's floodplain.

This unique location has very active natural plumbing—a steep-sided valley that drains into a massive tidal estuary. Twice a day more than 420 billion gallons of saltwater from the Pacific Ocean surge through the Golden Gate, sometimes pushing upstream as far as Green Street. Can you smell the salt odor?

When heavy rains combine with maximum tides, flooding can occur.

The Alhambra Creek Improvement Project completed in 2000 significantly increased flood protection along the creek. It is a source of great natural beauty and civic pride.



yellowthroat



snowy egret



beaver



Flooding on Main Street, 1950

Courtesy of Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District



Main Street Flooding, 1997

Courtesy of Char West of Char's Flower Shop