



SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
[SFCJPA.ORG](http://SFCJPA.ORG)

**Notice of Regular Meeting of the  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
City of Menlo Park Council Chambers  
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California  
October 22, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

- 1) ROLL CALL
- 2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 3) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – September 24, 2015 Board meeting
- 4) PUBLIC COMMENT – *Individuals may speak on any topic for up to three minutes; during any other Agenda item, individuals may speak for up to three minutes on the subject of that item.*
- 5) REGULAR BUSINESS – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
  - a) Reducing flood risk along the creek this winter
  - b) Presentation on when, where and how to place sandbags
  - c) S.F. Bay-Highway 101 project construction planning
- 6) BOARD MEMBER MATTERS - *Non-agendized comments, requests, or announcements by Board members; no action may be taken.*
- 7) ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE NOTE: This Board meeting Agenda can be viewed online by 4:00 p.m. on October 19, 2015 at [sfcjpa.org](http://sfcjpa.org) -- click on the “Meetings” tab near the top. Supporting documents related to the Agenda items listed above will be available at the same online location by 5:00 p.m. on October 20, 2015.

**NEXT MEETING:** Board meeting, November 19, 2015 at 4:00 p.m., East Palo Alto City Council Chambers.

**San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority**  
**October 22, 2015 Regular Board Meeting**  
**Agenda Item 3**  
**September 24, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Director Pine called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. at the City of Palo Alto City Council Chambers, Palo Alto, CA.

DRAFT

**1) ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Director Pine, San Mateo County Flood Control District  
Director Burt, City of Palo Alto  
Director Kremen, Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)

Alternates Present: Catherine Carlton, City of Menlo Park

Members Absent: Director Keith, City of Menlo Park  
Director Abrica, City of East Palo Alto

JPA Staff Present: Len Materman, Executive Director  
Kevin Murray, Staff  
Miyko Harris-Parker, Staff

Legal Present: Greg Stepanicich

Others Present: Trish Mulvey, Palo Alto resident; Dennis Parker, East Palo Alto resident;  
Jerry Hearn, Portola Valley resident; Jim Wiley, Menlo Park resident;  
Matthew Jones, Palo Alto resident; Karen Sundback; David Bower, Palo Alto;  
Joe Teresi, City of Palo Alto; Kamal Fallaha, City of East Palo Alto; Saied  
Hosseini, SCVWD; Melanie Richardson, SCVWD; Azalea Mitch, City of  
Menlo Park; Eileen McLaughlin, Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge  
(CCCR); Philippe S. Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

**2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Director Carlton made a motion to approve the agenda. Director Burt seconded. Agenda approved 3-0. Director Kremen not present at time of approval. Director Abrica and Director Keith not present.

**3) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – July 23, 2015**

Director Burt made a motion to approve the July 23, 2015 meeting minutes. Director Pine seconded. July 23, 2015 meeting minutes approved 2-0-1. Director Carlton abstained. Director Kremen not present at time of approval. Director Abrica and Director Keith not present.

**4) PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**5) REGULAR BUSINESS**

Reducing Flood risk along the Creek prior to winter storms

Mr. Materman provided a description of the actions taken and being considered by SFCJPA member agencies to reduce flood risk prior to the arrival of winter storms by removing debris in the channel and strategically raising creek banks in areas that previously flooded or may flood.

New Flood Early Warning System website

Mr. Materman gave a presentation on the new website, [sfcjpa.org/floodwarning](http://sfcjpa.org/floodwarning), being launched by mid-October. He described its features of showing flood watch and flood warning areas on an interactive map, text and e-mail alert notifications, a page where residents can report a problem they witness on the creek, and links to other agencies.

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Director Burt asked who would receive alert notifications and if there has been any discussion in coordinating the different alert systems within the cities. Mr. Materman explained that anyone who chooses to sign up on the website will receive the text or e-mail notifications. Ken Dueker, Director of Emergency Services for the City of Palo Alto, commented that the people who enroll in the SFCJPA alert would be interested specifically in San Francisquito Creek.

Director Carlton inquired if, in the event of flooding, the public could automatically receive an alert like those sent by the Amber Alert system, without signing up. Mr. Dueker explained the difference between the SFCJPA early warning alert vs the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) like the Amber Alert which is operated by either the Federal government or individual counties. Mr. Dueker noted that the SFCJPA alert system is not an emergency alert system like IPAWS and the counties would have to be contacted in order to have automatic alerts go out.

Dennis Parker, East Palo Alto resident, shared with the Board information on how alerts come through to the residents of East Palo Alto. Mr. Parker expressed the hope of East Palo Alto residents that the SFCJPA will provide them with enough time to react before the flood occurs.

Jim Wiley, Menlo Park resident, thanked the Board and staff for providing sandbag locations. Mr. Wiley asked if the early warning system will be able to determine the specifics on the amount of flooding that will occur. Mr. Materman explained that we do not have the capacity to determine the depth or amount of flooding.

Director Kremen arrived at 4:38 pm.

Multi-Agency Coordination of emergency response

Mr. Materman gave a brief summary of emergency response coordination since the 2012 flood, and introduced and thanked Mr. Dueker. Mr. Dueker provided more detail on this topic, and noted that all of the agencies' emergency communications are now linked.

Director Burt asked if there is a projected date of when the emergency response mutual aid agreement will be signed. Mr. Dueker responded saying that all jurisdictions should have the agreement signed by December 2015.

Trish Mulvey, Palo Alto resident, thanked Mr. Dueker for his work on this. Mrs. Mulvey asked that the Red Cross and the Community Emergency Response Team(s) be added to the contact list for the MAC and she asked for an update on the availability of creek based CERT training that brought together CERTs from all three cities. Mrs. Mulvey requested that the Board ask staff to agendize a discussion on stream maintenance at a future meeting and she commented on the need to have a SF Creek MAC for vegetation management and maintenance.

Brian Schmidt shared with the Board a suggestion that the SFCJPA run a simulation of events that could occur during and after a flood event.

Accept Fiscal Years 2012-13 and 2013-14 Audited Financial Statements, audited by Grant & Smith, LLP

Mr. Materman asked the Board to accept the audits for Fiscal Years 2012-13 and 2013-14 audited by Grant & Smith, LLP.

Miranda Beasley, Grant & Smith, LLP, noted the Management Letters for both audits were clean and there were no difficulties encountered during the audits.

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Director Burt made a motion to accept the Fiscal Years 2012-13 and 2013-14 audited Financial Statements. Director Kremen seconded. Fiscal Years 2012-13 and 2013-14 audited Financial Statements accepted 4-0. Directors Abrica and Keith not present.

S.F. Bay-Highway 101 project construction planning

Mr. Materman provided an update on the S.F. Bay-Highway 101 project construction planning, noting that the National Marine Fisheries Service informed SFCJPA staff and Corps staff that with the additional information received in early September, they have begun the clock that allows them 135 days to write the Biological Opinion for the project, which is part of the Corps permit.

Eileen McLaughlin, CCCR, mentioned to the Board that US Fish & Wildlife Service permit writer Joseph Terry is now in a new position with that agency, but that Mr. Terry will remain the permit writer on the SFCJPA project to complete the Biological Opinion.

**6) BOARD MEMBER MATTERS**

Director Kremen provided a brief update on the property acquisitions in Santa Clara County noting that all of the property issues within Santa Clara County are complete. Director Pine asked for an update on the San Mateo County property acquisitions. Mr. Murray explained that one is complete, the second is awaiting a signature from the East Palo Alto City Manager, and that staff is meeting with the new owners of the third property to complete that acquisition.

**7) ADJOURNMENT**

Director Pine adjourned the meeting at 5:45 pm.

Minutes Prepared by Clerk of the Board: Miyko Harris-Parker.

**San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority**  
**October 22, 2015 Board Meeting**  
**Agenda Item 5**  
**Executive Director's Report**

With the help of Kevin Murray and Miyko Harris-Parker, I am pleased to submit the following:

**a. Reducing flood risk along the creek this winter**

The SFCJPA is 30 months into the regulatory permitting process to construct the S.F. Bay-Highway 101 project, which has delayed the construction of that project and the planning and design of upstream projects. Yet, the likelihood of a strong El Niño this winter demands that we act now to reduce the flood risk faced by properties along the creek. Thus, over the past three months, the SFCJPA has facilitated or led the following regional actions:

- SFCJPA member agencies removing several tons of material in the channel that could contribute to flooding and pose a threat to life and property;
- SFCJPA cities raising creek banks in areas that previously flooded or are at risk of flooding;
- A new interactive Flood Early Warning System website ([sfcjpa.org/floodwarning](http://sfcjpa.org/floodwarning)) to help emergency response personnel and the public make more informed and timely decisions during storm events;
- SFCJPA member agencies and other agencies improving communication and coordination among emergency response personnel from both counties; and
- Greater public outreach, including the enclosed project and winter preparedness brochures in English and Spanish sent to thousands of properties, presentations to city councils by me and city staff, and at least one community meeting being planned for November.

Since July, we have discussed these items at each Board meeting, and I plan to continue to keep this on the agenda through the winter.

**b. Presentation on when, where and how to place sandbags**

Possibly no other topic related to winter preparedness than sandbags has led to more questions from the general public. Residents and business owners want to know where and when sandbags will be available, will they be provided filled, when should they be placed relative to availability and the onset of rains, where and how they should be placed to be most effective, and how effective they are.

At this Board meeting, we intend to answer these questions. City staff will discuss the availability of sandbags at the stations shown on the enclosed map, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Sandbag Program Manager, Mark Wander, will discuss the correct timing and placement of sandbags. The enclosed project and winter preparedness brochures mentioned above include information on sandbags on page 4 (in English) and page 6 (in Spanish). Additionally, a California Department of Water Resources video ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fa8ApB\\_TFc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fa8ApB_TFc)) discusses proper techniques to fill and place sandbags.

**c. S.F. Bay-Highway 101 Project construction planning**

At SFCJPA Board meetings for the past few years we have discussed our efforts to prepare for construction in order to improve public safety and increase marsh habitat between S.F. Bay and Highway 101. Below is a summary of construction planning activities since the last Board meeting.

Corps of Engineers permit: Following more than two years of discussions and information sharing, in late August the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) provided to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) a list of outstanding materials that the SFCJPA needed to deliver in order for NMFS and USFWS to initiate formal consultation and start their 135-day clocks to deliver a final Biological Opinion for the Corps' permit, which is the only required federal permit.

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After one more round of additional questions and requests for clarifications from both agencies, NMFS informed the Corps in writing that it began consultation as of September 24, and USFWS communicated that its consultation officially began on October 5. While both agencies indicated they may not need the full 135 days, these notifications give them until February to complete their work. Over the past few weeks, we've had additional requests for information and discussions with both consulting agencies and further discussions may be necessary to complete consultation.

Regional Water Board permit: At the September 24, 2015 SFCJPA Board meeting, we discussed financial costs to accommodate a Regional Water Board (RWB) permit requirement that we excavate and remove both the previously abandoned 1931 PG&E gas pipeline, as well as the portion of the 1959 gas pipeline that is currently in use but is to-be-abandoned as a result of our Project. This is one of four issues of concern with their April 7, 2015 permit, known as a Water Quality Certification ("Certification"). The SFCJPA Board requested that I agendaize this permit so that the Board can provide direction on the issue. The following is a description of the background and status of our four issues of concern.

1. PG&E gas pipelines

The Regional Water Board has required the SFCJPA to remove both gas pipelines or prove that the pipelines would obstruct flood flows in the future. In response, we have informed the RWB that removing the pipelines brings unnecessary costs with no apparent benefit, as no gas pipeline has been exposed since it was placed underground there 84 years ago. In early September, SFCJPA staff received cost estimates for pipeline removal from our Design Engineering consultant. The estimated construction cost to remove the portion of both gas pipelines beneath the new levees/floodwall – the portion of pipeline that would be beneficial to remove – totals \$322,230. The cost to remove both pipelines beneath the new levees/floodwall *and* the area under the creek channel as requested by the RWB, is \$459,030. The cost to accommodate the RWB condition in the Certification equals the difference between these estimates, or \$136,800. This amount is less than the cost to conduct studies demonstrating that the pipelines could not obstruct flows, which would take several months to complete and would be unlikely to satisfy the RWB's burden that we prove that something will not occur in the future. Although there is no evidence to support the need for the Regional Water Board's requirement and it does not enhance water quality, in order to save taxpayer money and avoid further delays to a critical life-safety project, SFCJPA staff recommend that the Project remove all the PG&E gas pipelines beneath the levees, floodwall, and creek channel.

2. Executive Officer review and approval of SFCJPA submittals

Of the 35 conditions placed within the Certification, 19 require a subsequent approval of a SFCJPA report by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer without establishing standards or timelines for such approval. While we did not contest the requirement for the future approval of our work products, we were concerned that these approvals were not governed by safeguards against unreasonable discretion that could result in undue and costly Project delays. We requested clarification that approval of items submitted in the future shall not be unreasonably withheld by the RWB, and shall not include new conditions except in regards to Project changes. We also requested that any disapproval be in writing, stating the reasons for disapproval and what corrections are required, and that unless the RWB Executive Officer disapproves of a SFCJPA submittal within 14 days, the item will be deemed to be approved. In response to these requests, on June 3, 2015 Regional Water Board Executive Officer Bruce Wolfe sent me a letter stating that a 60-day lead time would be sufficient for the approval process, and that the State's Administrative Procedures Act requires the Regional Water Board to respond in writing within 30 days of submission. I informed Mr. Wolfe in writing that these timelines for all future submittals are acceptable. While the issue of timeliness seems to have been addressed, there does not appear to be a mechanism to protect the SFCJPA against unreasonable discretion by the RWB.

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3. Impacts and mitigation values

The SFCJPA and SCVWD staff have been working with the Regional Water Board staff to correct a calculation error in these values and to fine-tune calculations of impacts and mitigations to incorporate modifications to the made during discussions with all regulatory agencies. These values can be adjusted within the Certification, though the final numbers will be established after construction, when the impacts can be measured and memorialized in the Project's Final Mitigation and Monitoring Plan submitted to the Regional Water Board.

4. Reporting requirements

The Certification includes a requirement that the SFCJPA submit a report regarding operations and maintenance (O&M) every five years with no end date, but also deemed that any changes to O&M beyond five years requires a new Certification with its own set of requirements. The SFCJPA requested that if no changes to O&M are called for, the requirement for reporting end five years after the Project is built. If changes to these activities are called for, then a future permit granted in response should govern future reporting requirements. In a June 24, 2015 letter, Mr. Wolfe stated "we are agreeable to the JPA's proposal that the 5-year reports be required for the operational life of the Project, or until a new certification governing Project O&M is issued, whichever is earlier." Regional Water Board staff have also verbally stated that they agree to reduce the types and level of reporting to be done. SFCJPA staff support these outcomes, which we will seek to confirm in writing.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife permit: On October 20, we delivered additional information requested by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to support their methodology for calculating impacts to special status species and mitigation requirements for those impacts. CDFW previously committed to providing us their draft permit (known as a Streambed Alteration Agreement) by mid-November, and to issue the final permit by the end of this calendar year. Because of the ongoing requests by the federal agencies over the past month, it took us 19 days longer than anticipated to deliver the additional information to CDFW, and thus the final CDFW permit may not be provided until mid-January, which still puts it ahead of when we expect to receive the federal permit.

Bay Conservation and Development Commission permit: Our negotiations with the RWB, NMFS, USFWS and CDFW have led to the addition of certain features to optimize benefits to protected species. Therefore, our previously submitted application to the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) for a permit had to be revised to reflect these changes. SFCJPA and SCVWD staff have revised the BCDC application, and it will be submitted by October 26. We have requested a meeting with BCDC staff after the revised permit is received and reviewed.

Easement acquisition: On the Palo Alto side of the creek, the SCVWD has secured the necessary easements to begin construction. On the East Palo Alto side of the creek, the SFCJPA has led the effort to secure the necessary easements to construct the Project. Two of the three easements needed from private property owners in East Palo Alto have now been secured, and the third, with Public Storage, is being finalized with the help of San Mateo County staff. We anticipate finalizing the easement agreement with Public Storage by December.

Submitted by:



Len Materman  
Executive Director



SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK  
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### Contact Us

(650) 324-1972  
jpa@sfcjpa.org  
www.sfcjpa.org

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## SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK

JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

### Dear Neighbor:

With predictions of strong El Niño storms this winter season, your local public agencies are working together to prepare San Francisquito Creek for high flows. In this mailer, you'll find important information about our preparedness efforts and actions you can take as a resident along the creek and in the flood zone.

#### Immediate creek improvements

During a creek-walk this fall, we identified short-term improvements to prepare the creek for high flows. Fallen trees and debris will be removed to allow the creek to hold more water during a storm. Eroded creek banks are being filled in and reinforced. We are working to identify locations along the top of the creek bank to add sandbags. The existing shotcrete floodwalls (sandbags covered with concrete) downstream (east) of Highway 101 will be extended and flap gates will be installed at flood-prone storm drains to keep the water from overflowing into the streets.

We've also made improvements to our flood prediction and flow tracking technology. The creek level gauges and webcams have been checked and are functioning properly. Additional rainfall and stream flow gauges and an early warning system were installed along the creek west of Highway 280. This technology will provide us with advanced warning of potential flooding and allow both Santa Clara and San Mateo counties to coordinate their planning and flood response activities. A new early warning website will be operational by the end of October at [www.sfcjpa.org/floodwarning](http://www.sfcjpa.org/floodwarning).

#### Long-term flood protection project underway

In addition to the short-term creek improvements, we are in the midst of a multifaceted flood protection project. The San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection, Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation project is underway to provide 100-year creek flood protection\* to more than 5,700 homes and businesses in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

The project is part of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority's (SFCJPA) comprehensive plan to provide 100-year flood protection from both creek and tidal flooding. The ultimate objective is to remove homes and businesses from the 100-year Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood zone and eliminate the requirement to purchase flood insurance.

The project is divided into two segments, from the San Francisco Bay to Highway 101 and upstream of Highway 101. Your neighborhood will benefit from the work planned in the **Bay to Highway 101** segment. For more information, see the inside of this mailer or visit [www.sfcjpa.org](http://www.sfcjpa.org).

\*A 100-year flood has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year or the likelihood of occurring once every 100 years.

### Estimado vecino:

Con predicciones de fuertes tormentas de El Niño en esta temporada de invierno, sus organismos públicos locales están trabajando juntos para preparar el arroyo para caudales altos. En este anuncio publicitario, encontrará información importante acerca de nuestros esfuerzos de preparación y las acciones que puede tomar como residente a lo largo del Arroyo San Francisquito y en la zona de inundación.

#### Mejoras inmediatas al arroyo

Después de un paseo por el arroyo este otoño, identificamos mejoras inmediatas para preparar al arroyo para caudales altos. Los árboles caídos y escombros han sido identificados y serán removidos para permitir que el arroyo pueda contener más agua durante una tormenta. Las orillas erosionadas del arroyo están siendo rellenadas y reforzadas. Estamos trabajando para identificar lugares a lo largo de la orilla del arroyo para añadir sacos de arena. Los muros de contención de hormigón proyectado existentes (sacos de arena llenos de concreto), cerca de la Autopista 101 se extenderán y se instalará una trampilla en drenaje pluvial propenso a inundaciones para evitar que el agua se desborde a la calle.

También hemos hecho mejoras a nuestra tecnología de seguimiento y predicción de inundaciones. Los indicadores del nivel del agua del arroyo y la cámara web han sido inspeccionados, y todos ellos funcionan adecuadamente. Se instalaron medidores de lluvia adicionales y un sistema de alerta temprana a lo largo del arroyo, al oeste de la Autopista 280. Esta tecnología nos proporcionará una advertencia previa del peligro de inundaciones y permitirá que los condados de Santa Clara y San Mateo coordinar sus actividades de planificación y respuesta a las inundaciones. Un nuevo sitio web de alerta estará en funcionamiento a finales de octubre al [www.sfcjpa.org/floodwarning](http://www.sfcjpa.org/floodwarning).

#### Proyecto de protección contra inundaciones a largo plazo en curso

Además de las mejoras inmediatas al arroyo, nos encontramos en medio de un proyecto de protección contra inundaciones polifacético. Una vez completo, el Proyecto de Protección contra Inundaciones, Restauración de Ecosistemas y Recreación del Arroyo San Francisquito brindará protección contra inundaciones a más de 5,700 casas y negocios en Palo Alto, Menlo Park e East Palo Alto. El proyecto polifacético se divide en dos segmentos, de la Bahía de San Francisco a la Autopista 101 (Bahía a 101) y aguas arriba de la Autopista 101. Su vecindario se beneficiará de las obras previstas en el segmento de **la Bahía a la Autopista 101**. Para obtener más información, consulte el interior de este anuncio publicitario o visite [www.sfcjpa.org](http://www.sfcjpa.org).

\*Una inundación a 100 años tiene una probabilidad del uno por ciento de ocurrir en cualquier año dado o la probabilidad de que ocurra una vez cada 100 años.

## SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK

JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

### Important:

- Ways you can stay safe before, during and after a flood
- Sandbag locations and flood insurance information
- Update on your neighborhood flood protection project

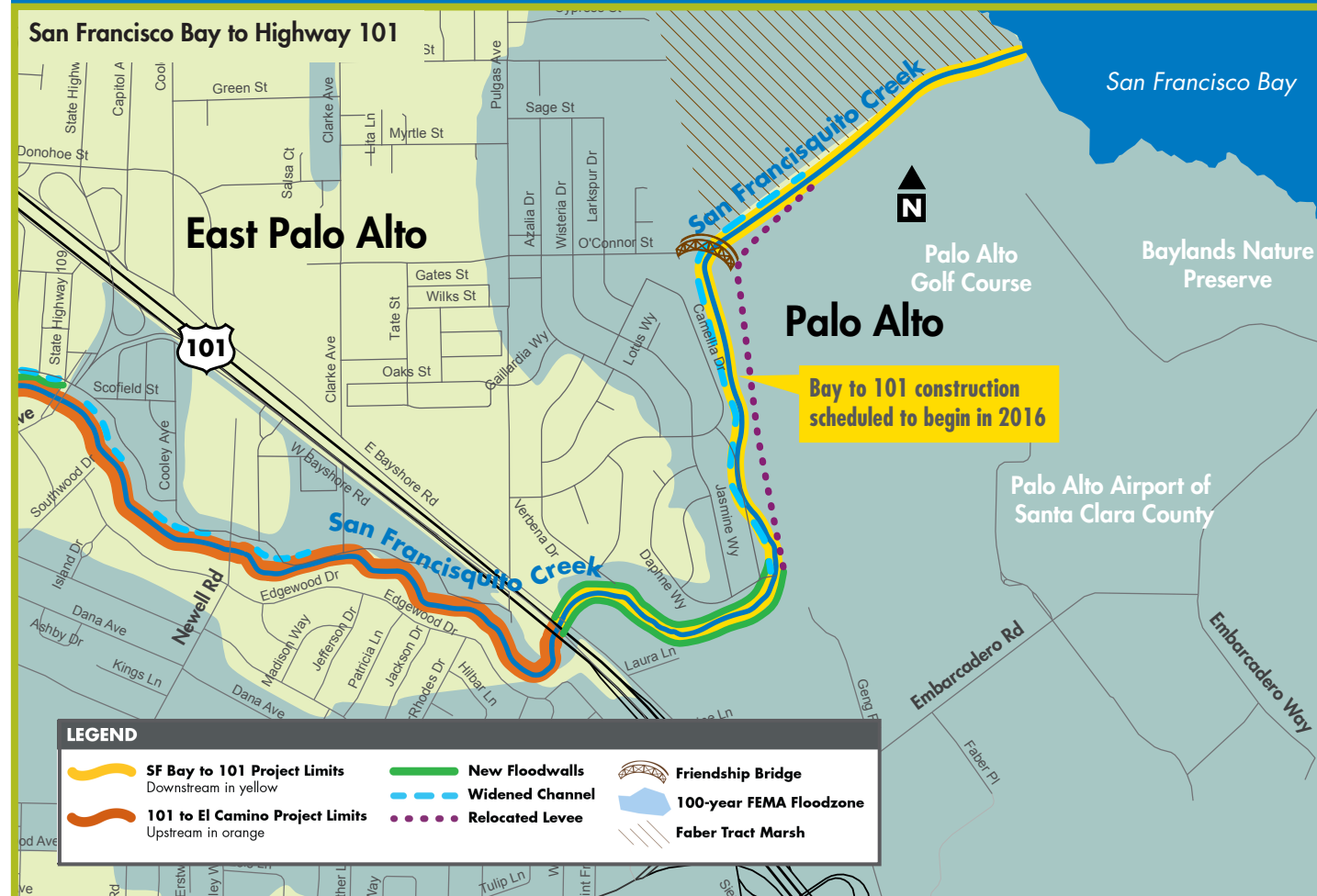
### Importante:

- Maneras de preparar antes, durante y después de una inundación
- Ubicaciones de sacos de arena y información sobre el seguro contra inundaciones
- Últimas noticias sobre el proyecto de protección contra inundaciones



Historical flood photos





## Project background

The watershed and floodplain of San Francisquito Creek encompasses approximately 50 square miles from the Santa Cruz Mountains to San Francisco Bay, with the creek serving as the border between the Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

San Francisquito Creek has flooded on multiple occasions, most recently in December 2012. The largest recorded flood occurred on February 3, 1998, when more than 1,700 homes and businesses were impacted, resulting in \$28 million in damages.

It was after the historic flood of 1998 that the cities of Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto, the San Mateo County Flood Control District and the Santa Clara Valley Water District joined together to create the **San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA)**. In addition to addressing issues of flooding, the SFCJPA projects also provide ecosystem restoration and enhance recreational opportunities.

## Antecedentes del proyecto

Históricamente, ha habido múltiples sucesos de inundaciones a lo largo del Arroyo San Francisquito, el más reciente en diciembre de 2012, pero la inundación que originó el llamado a la acción ocurrió en febrero de 1998. Esta fue la inundación más grande en los archivos históricos y más de 1,700 viviendas y negocios vecinos resultaron dañados.

Fue después de esta inundación histórica que las ciudades de Palo Alto, Menlo Park e East Palo Alto, el Distrito de Control de Inundaciones del Condado de San Mateo y el Distrito de Aguas del Valle de Santa Clara se unieron para crear la **Autoridad de Poderes Compartidos del Arroyo San Francisquito (SFCJPA)**. Además de resolver problemas de inundación, la autoridad también se enfoca en problemas ambientales a lo largo del arroyo.

## San Francisco Bay to Highway 101

The SFCJPA is coordinating the first phase of this project to protect East Palo Alto and Palo Alto from flooding along San Francisquito Creek between the San Francisco Bay and U.S. Highway 101. These communities are at high risk of severe flooding, both from flows coming down the creek and from the Bay tides within the creek channel.

This segment of the project is the necessary first step in an overall plan to provide protection to properties located within the flood-prone areas of San Francisquito Creek. Other flood protection efforts, such as bridge replacements upstream (west) of Highway 101, cannot be undertaken until the creek's capacity has been increased downstream.

The project elements include:

- Excavating sediment built up in the channel over decades
- New floodwalls
- Channel widening by relocating a levee into the Palo Alto Golf Course

### Project milestones

- **Environmental review completed**  
The environmental impacts for the project elements were analyzed and compiled into an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The EIR was certified by the SFCJPA Board of Directors in October 2012.
- **Permits**  
Permit applications were submitted to state and federal regulatory agencies in March 2013. Two and a half years into the permit process, the SFCJPA has received a permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and still awaits three permits from other regulatory agencies.
- **Funding agreement established**  
An agreement to fund this project among six different agencies was completed in June 2014.
- **Construction coming soon**  
Construction is scheduled to begin in 2016, dependent upon the issuance of regulatory permits.

To learn more, visit [www.sfcjpa.org](http://www.sfcjpa.org) or attend a monthly SFCJPA board meeting.

## Bahía de San Francisco a la Autopista 101

El primer proyecto capital de la Autoridad SFCJPA a ser construido protegerá contra inundaciones a las comunidades de East Palo Alto y Palo Alto a lo largo del Arroyo San Francisquito, entre la Bahía de San Francisco y la Autopista 101. Estas comunidades están en alto riesgo de inundaciones graves, tanto de las corrientes que bajan por el arroyo como de las mareas de la Bahía que entran al canal del arroyo.

Este proyecto es el primer, y necesario, paso en un plan general que brinda protección a las propiedades ubicadas dentro de las áreas susceptibles a inundaciones del Arroyo San Francisquito. Otros esfuerzos de protección contra las inundaciones, tal como el reemplazo de puentes corriente arriba (al oeste) de Highway 101, no pueden llevarse a cabo hasta que la capacidad del arroyo se haya incrementado corriente abajo.

Los elementos del proyecto incluyen:

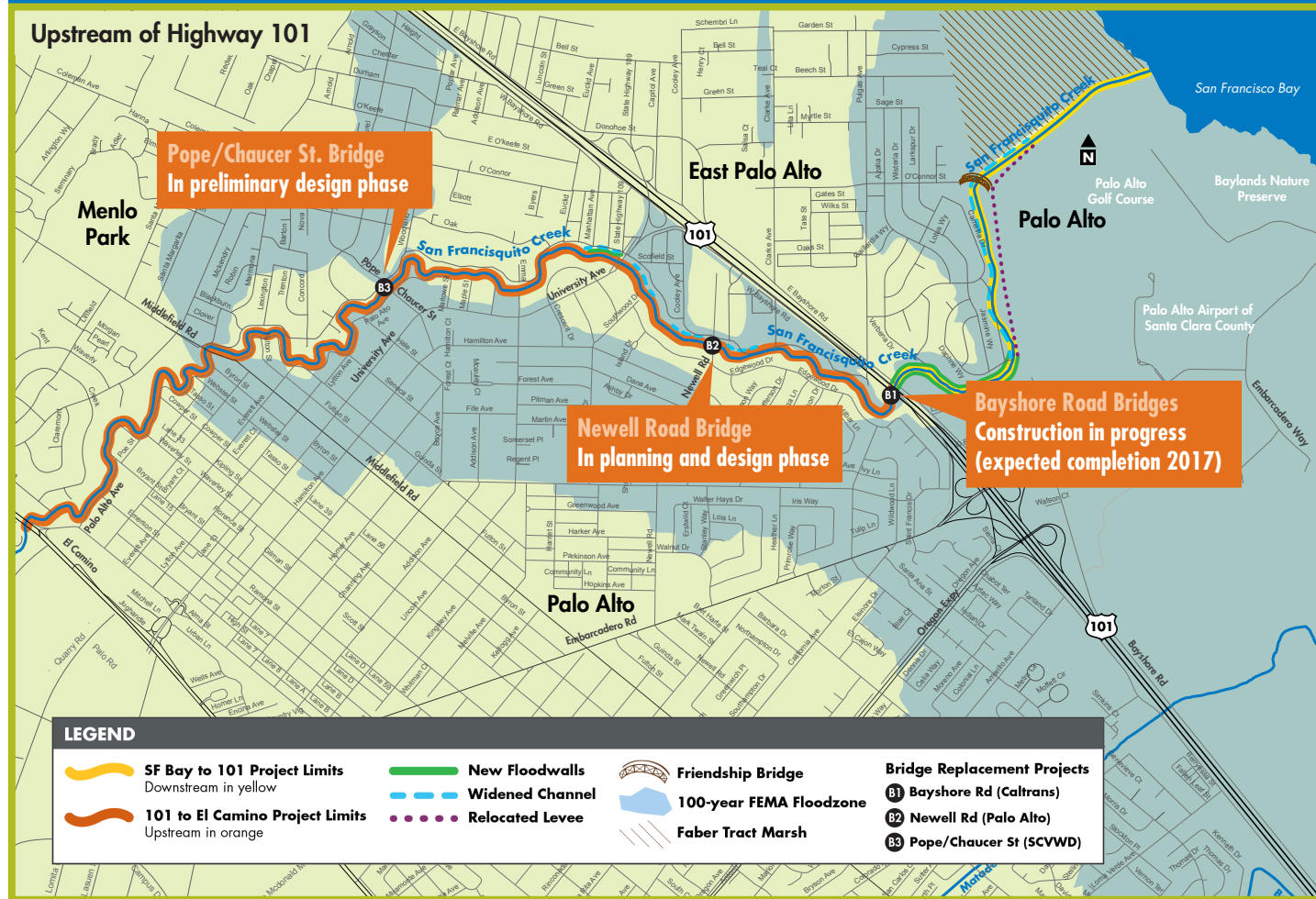
- Excavación de sedimento acumulado en el canal durante décadas
- Nuevos muros de contención
- Ampliación del canal mediante la reubicación de un dique en el Campo de Golf de Palo Alto

### Metas logradas del proyecto

- **Revisión completada**  
El Informe de Impacto Ambiental (Environmental Impact Report o EIR) para este proyecto fue certificado en octubre de 2012.
- **Permisos**  
Las solicitudes de permisos se presentaron a los organismos reglamentarios en marzo de 2013. A dos años y medio de haber iniciado el trámite de los permisos, la Autoridad SFCJPA ha recibido un permiso de la Junta del Control de la Calidad de Agua, pero sigue en espera de tres otros permisos por parte de los organismos reglamentarios.
- **Acuerdo de financiación establecido**  
En junio de 2014 se concretó un acuerdo para financiar este proyecto entre seis organismos distintos.
- **La construcción en breve**  
La construcción está programada para comenzar en 2016, dependiendo de la expedición de permisos reglamentarios.

Si desea más información, visite [www.sfcjpa.org](http://www.sfcjpa.org) o asistir a una reunión mensual de la junta SFJPA.

Para obtener información en español, por favor comuníquese con José Villarreal al 408-630-2879.



## Project background

The watershed and floodplain of San Francisquito Creek encompasses approximately 50 square miles from the Santa Cruz Mountains to San Francisco Bay, with the creek serving as the border between the Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

San Francisquito Creek has flooded on multiple occasions, most recently in December 2012. The largest recorded flood occurred on February 3, 1998, when more than 1,700 homes and businesses were impacted, resulting in \$28 million in damages.

It was after the historic flood of 1998 that the cities of Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto, the San Mateo County Flood Control District and the Santa Clara Valley Water District joined together to create the **San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA)**. In addition to addressing issues of flooding, the SFCJPA projects also provide ecosystem restoration and enhance recreational opportunities.

## About the project

The multifaceted San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection, Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation project will provide 100-year creek flood protection\* to more than 5,700 homes and businesses in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

The project is divided into two segments, from the San Francisco Bay to Highway 101 and upstream of Highway 101. Your neighborhood will benefit from the work planned in the **upstream of Highway 101** segment.

To learn more and to provide comments, attend a monthly SFCJPA board meeting or visit [www.sfcjpa.org](http://www.sfcjpa.org).

\*A 100-year flood has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year or the likelihood of occurring once every 100 years.

## Upstream of Highway 101

The SFCJPA and other partner agencies have been analyzing improvements to provide 100-year creek flood protection for Palo Alto and Menlo Park from flooding along the San Francisquito Creek between Highway 101 and El Camino Real. These communities are at high risk of severe flooding from flows coming down the creek. Existing bridges along the creek have a history of constricting the flows and development along the creek banks has caused erosion.

This segment of the project is the second phase of the overall plan to provide protection to properties located within the flood-prone areas of San Francisquito Creek. The upstream flood protection efforts cannot be undertaken until the creek's capacity has been increased downstream, in the Bay to Highway 101 segment. Construction on the Bay to Highway 101 segment is scheduled to begin in 2016, dependent upon the issuance of regulatory permits and the finalization of real estate transactions.

The creek capacity improvements being analyzed include:

- Bridge replacements
- Channel widening and naturalization
- Construction of an upstream floodwater detention basin, underground bypass culvert and/or floodwalls

Each project alternative will include a varying combination of the improvements (detention basin(s), bypass culvert(s), and/or floodwalls), in addition to the necessary elements needed to improve current creek flooding conditions (bridge replacements and channel widening or bottle-neck removal).

### Project milestones

- The environmental impacts for the project alternatives are being analyzed and compiled into an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that is required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Planning and design for bridge replacements and channel widening are simultaneously moving forward with the EIR. The Draft EIR release and public review period is scheduled for 2016.
- In June 2015, Caltrans began construction to improve the Bayshore Road bridges at Highway 101, which are a major constriction to creek flow. The improvements are expected to be completed by fall 2017.

- The City of Palo Alto is in the planning and design phase for the Newell Road bridge replacement project. In September 2015, a scoping meeting was held and public comments were collected.
- The Santa Clara Valley Water District is currently in the preliminary design phase for channel widening and the Pope/Chaucer Street bridge replacement project.

## Funding Sources

### Santa Clara Valley Water District

Through its November 2000 Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan, the water district secured \$10.6 million for the planning and design of the 100-year creek flood protection project, stretching from the Bay to Searsville Dam.

In November 2012, Santa Clara County voters also approved the water district's Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program which included \$35.5 million for the construction phase of Bay to Highway 101, as well as funding for construction remedying channel constrictions and modifying bridges at Newell Road and Pope/Chaucer Street.

### San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

The SFCJPA received an \$8 million grant from the California Department of Water Resources for costs related to the design and construction of the Bay to Highway 101 portion of the project.

### Caltrans

Caltrans is funding the construction of the Highway 101 Bridge replacement, as well as 88 percent of the Newell Road bridge replacement project.

### San Mateo County jurisdictions

For the Bay to Highway 101 segment, East Palo Alto and San Mateo County are each providing \$0.8 million. For projects upstream of Highway 101, East Palo Alto has committed \$0.2 million, Menlo Park has committed \$0.5 million and San Mateo County has committed \$0.7 million.

# Winter Preparedness

## Do you need flood insurance?

**Did you know that your basic homeowners insurance does not cover losses from flooding?**

The federal government offers disaster assistance in the form of reconstruction loans only in a declaration of a federal emergency. Unlike disaster loans, you won't need to repay money from flood insurance.

Federal law requires flood insurance if you have a federally regulated mortgage and your building is in an area shown on maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as subject to flooding during a one percent flood event. All communities in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties participate in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, which means that you can purchase flood insurance to protect your property from the hazards of flooding. Lenders are legally responsible for determining if flood insurance is required for a loan, but your city will provide assistance in reading and interpreting the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map and provide information about FEMA elevation certificates.

There is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance takes effect. Contents coverage is separate, so renters and businesses can insure their belongings. Contents coverage is also available to homeowners separately from the required structural coverage. Securing both policies will cover your building and your belongings in case of a flood. Most insurance agents sell both.

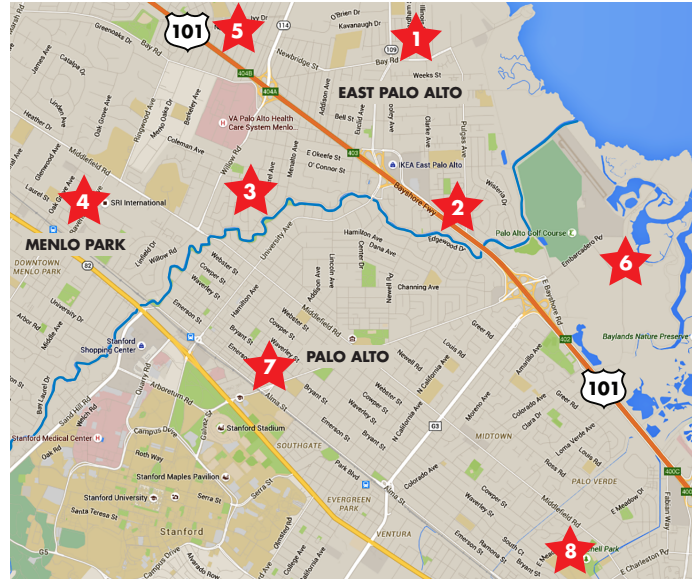
## Working to lower your rates

In addition to flood protection projects that are designed to remove properties from the flood zone, education and other flood-risk reduction efforts help to lower your insurance premiums through FEMA's Community Rating System. This is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes communities for implementing practices that exceed the federal minimum requirements. In exchange for a community's proactive efforts to reduce flood risk, policyholders can receive reduced flood insurance premiums. Contact your city to learn more about how your flood insurance rates are being reduced.

## Did you know...

While the chances seem slim for a flood in the one percent floodplain (the area designated by FEMA that has a one percent chance of flooding in any given year), the real odds of a one percent flood are greater than one in four during the length of a 30-year mortgage.

## Filled and unfilled sandbag stations



1. **East Palo Alto:** City maintenance yard, 150 Tara Rd.
2. **East Palo Alto:** at the intersection of Clarke Ave. and E. Bayshore Rd., next to Home Depot
3. **Menlo Park:** on the median at the intersection of Laurel Ave. and Pope St.
4. **Menlo Park:** Parking lot at Alma St. and Burgess Dr.
5. **Menlo Park:** Fire station No. 77, 1467 Chilco St.
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\*Palo Alto Sandbag Webcam:  
<http://www.valleywater.org/services/PaloAltoSandbagWebcam.aspx>

## Tips on how to fill a sandbag and build a sandbag barrier



- A Work with another person and fill the bag to just **one-third full**.
- B Fold over the open end of the bag in a triangle.
- C Place a line of bags with the folded side up and facing the direction of water flow. Stomp each bag into place. Like you would bricks, stagger the next layer of bags over the folded tops. Stomp each layer of bags. To give the structure stability, the base should be 1.5 times wider than the height. (Example, 6 ft. wide by 4 ft. high)
- D In locations where water could rise with no current, lay sheeting plastic on the ground and up to the walls, and form a half pyramid of sandbags. Cover doors and vents with plywood.

# Are You Flood Safe?

Flooding can happen during intense rainfalls, but typically occurs after several days of heavy rain that saturates the ground. In the current severe drought, the ground is extremely dry. Particularly in the first few days of heavy rain, before water can be absorbed, it can be deflected from dry ground and run off into streams and creeks. Stream levels can rise quickly and cause flooding.

When creeks overbank or flood, the floodwater typically flows swiftly through neighborhoods and away from streams. Dangerously fast-moving floodwaters can flow thousands of feet away from the flooded creek within minutes.

## Important numbers

For any emergency call **9-1-1**.

To report street flooding or blocked storm drains:

**Menlo Park**  
650.330.6300

**Palo Alto**  
650.496.6974  
[www.cityofpaloalto.org/storms](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/storms)

**East Palo Alto**  
650.321.1112

To find out about flood insurance, call 1.888.724.6978 or visit **floodsmart.gov** to find a local agent.



## Flooding can happen. What to do...

### Before

- Designate a family meeting spot and prepare a family disaster plan and emergency kit for your home and car with supplies. Store important documents and valuables in a safe deposit box.
- Seal cracks in your home's foundation, home exterior walls and small openings around pipes.
- Gather building materials like plywood, plastic sheeting and sandbags.
- Construct barriers to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- Keep rain gutters and drainage channels free of debris. Tarp or seed unvegetated slopes on your property.
- Know your neighborhood streams and drainage channel locations and learn the best route to high ground.
- Learn how to turn off house utilities.
- Keep your car's gas tank full.

### During

- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If a flood is imminent, avoid low-lying areas and seek shelter in the highest area possible.
- Tune your radio to 740 AM, 90.1 FM and 106.9 FM for emergency information.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water. Evacuation is easier and safer before floodwaters become too deep.
- Moving water is dangerous. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where it is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you and to aid in balance.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground. A foot of water will cause many vehicles to float. Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pick-ups.

### After

- Listen for news reports on whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- Never walk, swim, drive or play in floodwater. Oil, gasoline or raw sewage may have contaminated the water. Underground or downed power lines may also have electrically charged the water.
- Stay away from downed power lines and report them to your power company.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Clean and disinfect everything wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.
- Any repairs or improvements greater than 50 percent of a structure's value need to meet National Flood Insurance Program requirements.



# Preparándose para el invierno

## ¿Requiere un seguro contra inundaciones?

Su seguro básico de propietario de vivienda no cubre las pérdidas ocasionadas por las inundaciones.

El gobierno federal ofrece asistencia en caso de desastre natural en forma de préstamos para la reconstrucción sólo si se ha declarado una emergencia federal. A diferencia de los préstamos para desastres, usted no tiene que devolver el dinero pagado del seguro contra inundaciones.

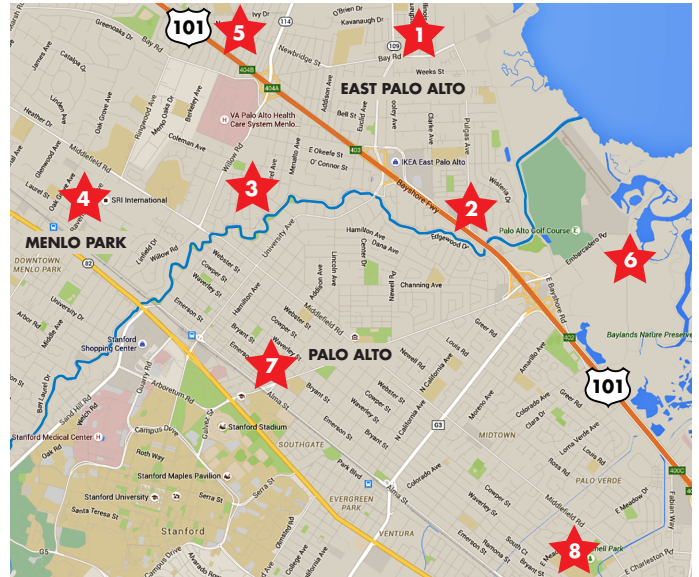
La ley federal exige un seguro contra inundaciones, si usted tiene una hipoteca reglamentada federalmente y su propiedad se encuentra en una de las áreas que aparecen en los mapas creados por la Agencia Federal para el Manejo de Emergencias (FEMA) como susceptibles a inundaciones con probabilidad del uno por ciento. Todas las comunidades en los condados de Santa Clara y San Mateo participan en el Programa Nacional de Seguros contra Inundaciones de FEMA, lo que significa que usted puede comprar un seguro contra inundaciones para proteger su propiedad de los peligros de las inundaciones. Las instituciones de crédito tienen la responsabilidad legal de determinar si se requiere seguro contra inundaciones para otorgar un préstamo, pero su ciudad ofrece ayuda para leer y entender el Mapa de Tarifas de Seguros contra Inundaciones (Flood Insurance Rate Map) de FEMA y proporciona información sobre certificados de elevación de FEMA.

Hay un periodo de espera de 30 días antes de que la cobertura del seguro contra inundaciones entre en vigor. La cobertura de las pertenencias es por separado, de forma que los inquilinos y los negocios puedan asegurarlas. La cobertura de las pertenencias también está disponible a los propietarios de viviendas independientemente de la cobertura estructural requerida. El obtener ambas pólizas cubre a su propiedad y a sus pertenencias en caso de una inundación. La mayoría de los agentes de seguros las venden.

## Trabajando para reducir sus tarifas

Además de los proyectos para la protección contra inundaciones diseñados para apartar las propiedades de las zonas de inundación, la educación, la orientación y otros esfuerzos destinados a reducir el peligro de las inundaciones como este folleto, ayudan a disminuir sus primas de seguros a través del Sistema de Clasificación de la Comunidad de FEMA. Este es un programa de incentivos voluntario que reconoce a las comunidades por implementar prácticas que exceden los requisitos federales mínimos. A cambio de los esfuerzos proactivos de la comunidad por reducir el riesgo de inundaciones, los dueños de pólizas de seguros pueden recibir primas reducidas del seguro contra inundaciones. Comuníquese con el Ayuntamiento de su ciudad para descubrir cómo se están reduciendo sus primas de seguros contra inundaciones.

## Estaciones para sacos de arena



1. **East Palo Alto:** City maintenance yard, 150 Tara Rd.
2. **East Palo Alto:** at the intersection of Clarke Ave. and E. Bayshore Rd., next to Home Depot
3. **Menlo Park:** on the median at the intersection of Laurel Ave. and Pope St.
4. **Menlo Park:** Parking lot at Alma St. and Burgess Dr.
5. **Menlo Park:** Fire station No. 77, 1467 Chilco St.
6. **Palo Alto\*:** Palo Alto Air Terminal, 1925 Embarcadero Rd.
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\*Palo Alto Sandbag Webcam:  
<http://www.valleywater.org/services/PaloAltoSandbagWebcam.aspx>

## Cómo llenar una bolsa de arena



- A** Trabaja con otra persona y llene la bolsa un tercio de su capacidad.
- B** Doble la punta abierta de la bolsa en un triángulo.
- C** Coloca una línea de bolsas con la punta doblada hacia arriba y en frente de la dirección del flujo de agua. Pise cada bolsa en su lugar. Al igual que como lo haría con ladrillos, escalóne las bolsas arriba de las otras bolsas con las puntas dobladas. Pise cada capa de bolsas. Para estabilizar la estructura, la base debe ser 1.5 veces más ancha que la altura. (Por ejemplo, 6 pies de ancho por 4 pies de altura)
- D** En los lugares donde el agua podría subir sin ninguna corriente, ponga una tarpa de plástico en el suelo y contra las paredes, y forme una media pirámide de bolsas de arena. Cubra las puertas y rejillas de ventilación con madera.

## ¿Está preparado para una inundación?

Las inundaciones pueden ocurrir durante lluvias intensas, pero por lo general suceden después de varios días de fuertes lluvias que saturan la tierra. Aun en plena sequía, existe el riesgo de fuertes lluvias que podrían causar inundaciones. Debido a las condiciones secas, la tierra está extremadamente seca. Durante los primeros días de lluvias fuertes, en vez de ser absorbida por la tierra, el agua será desviada y correrá hacia los ríos y arroyos. Esto aumentará rápidamente los niveles de agua en los arroyos, y podría resultar en inundaciones.

Cuando los arroyos se desbordan de sus bancos, el agua de las inundaciones generalmente fluye con rapidez a través de las comunidades alejándose de los ríos. Las aguas de una inundación se pueden mover a una velocidad peligrosa a una distancia de miles de pies de su punto de origen en sólo minutos.

## ¿Sabía usted que...

Aunque las probabilidades de que ocurran inundaciones en el uno por ciento del área susceptible a inundaciones parecen escasas (el área que tiene una probabilidad del uno por ciento de sufrir inundaciones en un año dado, designado por

la Agencia Federal para el Manejo de Emergencias, Federal Emergency Management Agency), las probabilidades reales de una inundación del uno por ciento son mayores a uno en cuatro durante la vigencia de una hipoteca de 30 años.

## Números importantes

Para cualquier emergencia llame al **9-1-1**.

Para reportar inundaciones en las calles o desagües pluviales bloqueados:

**Menlo Park**  
650.330.6300

**Palo Alto**  
650.496.6974

**East Palo Alto**  
650.321.1112

[www.cityofpaloalto.org/storms](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/storms)

Para saber más sobre el seguro de inundaciones, llame al 1.888.724.6978 o visite **floodsmart.gov** para encontrar un agente local.



# ¿Qué hacer durante una inundación...

## Antes

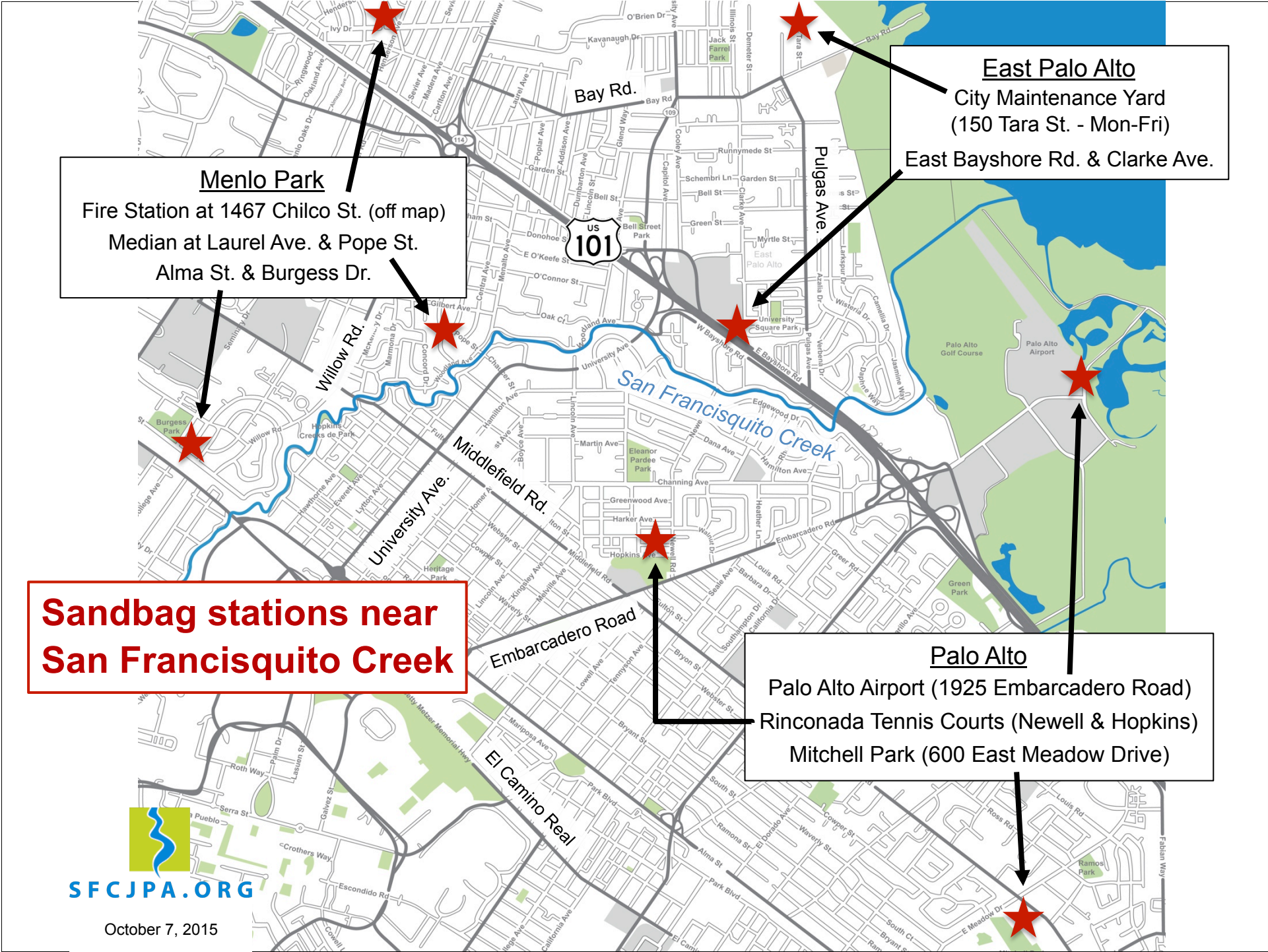
- Prepare un plan familiar de emergencia para enfrentarse a inundaciones, terremotos e incendios. Elabore un paquete de emergencia para su hogar y otro para su auto. Deposite las pólizas de seguro, documentos y otros objetos de valor en una caja de seguridad.
- Inspeccione su propiedad periódicamente. Selle las grietas de los cimientos y los muros exteriores de su hogar y las pequeñas aberturas que haya alrededor de las tuberías con cemento blanco, concreto, con material de relleno para grietas o con masilla.
- Reúna materiales de construcción de emergencia, como tablas de madera, lonas de plástico y sacos de arena.
- Construya barreras para evitar que el agua de una inundación entre a la estructura.
- Conserve los colectores de agua pluvial y los canales de desagüe libres de escombros. Considere la posibilidad de colocar lonas o sembrar cualquier superficie inclinada sin vegetación que haya en su propiedad.
- Entérese de dónde se encuentran las corrientes de agua y los canales de desagüe de la zona donde vive.
- Aprenda a cerrar o desconectar los servicios públicos de su hogar.
- Mantenga lleno el tanque de gasolina de su auto.

## Durante

- Tenga en cuenta que pueden ocurrir inundaciones repentinas. Si una inundación es inminente, evite las zonas bajas y busque refugio en las zonas más altas posible.
- Sintonice la estación de radio 1010 AM para obtener información de emergencia, informes del tráfico e instrucciones.
- Si es necesario evacuar el área, desconecte los servicios públicos en las válvulas o interruptores centrales. Desconecte todos los aparatos eléctricos. No toque ningún equipo eléctrico si usted está mojado o parado sobre una superficie mojada. La evacuación es más fácil y segura antes de que la inundación alcance demasiada altura.
- El agua en movimiento con una profundidad de tan sólo seis pulgadas puede derribar a una persona. Si tiene que caminar a través del agua, hágalo donde el agua no esté en movimiento. Use un palo para verificar la firmeza del suelo que se encuentra frente a usted y para ayudarle a conservar el equilibrio.
- No conduzca su vehículo a través de áreas inundadas. Si las aguas se elevan alrededor de su vehículo, abandónelo inmediatamente y diríjase a terreno más elevado. El agua con una profundidad de un pie puede hacer flotar múltiples vehículos. El agua de dos pies de profundidad que fluye con rapidez puede arrastrar a la mayoría de los vehículos, incluyendo SUVs y camionetas.

## Después

- Escuche las noticias para informarse si el suministro de agua de la comunidad puede ser consumido.
- Nunca intente caminar, nadar, manejar su auto o jugar en las aguas de una inundación. El aceite, gasolina o aguas negras pueden haber contaminado el agua. Los cables eléctricos subterráneos o caídos también pueden haber cargado de electricidad el agua.
- Permanezca alejado de los cables eléctricos que hayan caído y notifique a la compañía de electricidad.
- Regrese a su hogar sólo cuando las autoridades hayan indicado que es seguro hacerlo.
- Repare los tanques sépticos dañados, sumideros, fosos y sistemas de lixiviación lo más pronto posible. Los sistemas averiados de aguas residuales representan un serio peligro para la salud.
- Limpie y desinfecte todo lo que se haya mojado. El lodo que queda después de una inundación puede contener residuos cloacales y sustancias químicas.
- Cualquier mejora superior al 50 por ciento del valor de la estructura deberá cumplir con los requisitos del Programa Nacional de Seguros contra Inundaciones.



**Menlo Park**  
 Fire Station at 1467 Chilco St. (off map)  
 Median at Laurel Ave. & Pope St.  
 Alma St. & Burgess Dr.

**East Palo Alto**  
 City Maintenance Yard  
 (150 Tara St. - Mon-Fri)  
 East Bayshore Rd. & Clarke Ave.

**Sandbag stations near San Francisquito Creek**

**Palo Alto**  
 Palo Alto Airport (1925 Embarcadero Road)  
 Rinconada Tennis Courts (Newell & Hopkins)  
 Mitchell Park (600 East Meadow Drive)