



San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

SFCJPA Spring 2023 Newsletter

Mitigating Flood Risks. Protecting a Shared Natural Treasure.

Reach 2 Project Update Community Meeting

What date: April 20, 2023

What time: 6:30 PM

Where: Duveneck Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room, 705 Alester Avenue, Palo Alto

What About: The San Francisquito Creek JPA, and cities of Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and East Palo Alto and JPA member Valley Water, have scheduled a neighborhood workshop on the status of the San Francisquito Creek Reach 2 project. Join this neighborhood meeting to learn about next steps for the project, including the Newell Street Bridge replacement, Channel Widening and Top-of-Bank work, and the Pope-Chaucer bridge replacement.

Participate in person, or watch the meeting live via YouTube. The YouTube link can be found through this website: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/Events-Directory/City-Manager/San-Francisquito-Creek-JPA-Neighborhood-Workshop>



Streambank Erosion



The past winter's storms were a reminder of the San Francisquito Creek's potential for high flows. Many stream-side property owners experienced bank erosion due to the quantity, force, and frequency of high water. The San Francisquito Creek flows across its alluvial fan – the geologic formation built up over thousands of years and made up of loose sandy and gravelly materials, deposited by the creek in previous floods. Alluvial fan materials are naturally prone to erosion. Private property owners are responsible for maintaining the creek banks under their ownership. Streambank 'hardening', where concrete or other structures are used to correct or prevent erosion, can inadvertently create more erosion nearby. Therefore, the comprehensive "San Francisquito Creek Bank Stabilization and Re-vegetation Master Plan" was developed to aid property owners in assessing and addressing bank erosion. That document can be found on the SFCJPA's website at this link: <https://www.sfcjpa.org/jpa-documents-archives>

If you are a stream-side property owner and would like to discuss bank erosion and watershed stewardship, please contact us through our website. We are exploring ways to coordinate bank stewardship efforts.



Trees along the Creek

Several years of drought put great stress on local trees. The past winter's storms proved too much for many trees along the creek. Trees fell into the creek

channel from public and private property. During storms, when trees and tree debris threatened to block the creek channel SFCJPA member cities coordinated to remove these troublesome trees. When a tree falls from a private property, it is the responsibility of the private property owner to address the fallen tree and correct any damage – such as broken fences – caused by the tree. If the tree has fallen from a public property or a Valley Water maintenance easement, that tree will be addressed by one of the SFCJPA’s members. Later this summer, when the creek channel has dried out, the annual stream maintenance walk will identify any large vegetation to be cut into small pieces or removed before the next rainy season.

If you are a stream-side property owner and would like to discuss trees along the creek and watershed stewardship, please contact us through our website.

One for the Record Books

The winter of '22-'23 was one for the record books! 31 atmospheric river storms came across California bringing record-setting rainfall, snow, and wind. The following list is the top ten recorded San Francisquito Creek flows. The 2022 New Year's Eve storm comes in as the second highest flow on record.

Rank	Date	Cubic Feet per Second Flow (cfs)
1	FEBRUARY 3, 1998	7200
2	DECEMBER 31, 2022	6340
3	DECEMBER 22, 1955	5560
4	DECEMBER 23, 2012	5400
5	JANUARY 4, 1982	5220
6	JANUARY 1, 2005	4840
7	FEBRUARY 7, 2017	4820
8	APRIL 2, 1958	4460
9	JANUARY 21, 1967	4000
10	FEBRUARY 13, 2000	3930

The storm of January 9, 2023 comes in 13th on the list at 3650 cfs.

Community Leader Spotlight



Ruben Abrica – Board member and East Palo Alto City Council member

A 30-year resident of East Palo Alto, Director Abrica recently concluded a two-year term as Board Chair of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority. In addition to Director Abrica's service on the board, he has a long history of community service and leadership. In the early 1980's Ruben was instrumental in establishing East Palo Alto as an incorporated city and served on its first city council. He also serves on the boards of BAWSCA (Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency) and C-CAG (the City and County Association of Governments of San Mateo County) on behalf of the City of East Palo Alto. A graduate of Stanford University, Director Abrica is an Instructor at De Anza Community College in the Intercultural/International Studies Division. He is also an adjunct professor at The National Hispanic University.

The team at the SFCJPA extends their sincere appreciation for Director Abrica's leadership and dedication to the San Francisquito Creek watershed and all its inhabitants.

Happy Earth Day!



Upcoming SFCJPA Board Meetings

April 27, 2023. 3:30pm. At East Palo Alto City Offices and online

May 25, 2023. 3:30pm. At Palo Alto City Offices an online

June 22, 2023. 3:30pm. At Menlo Park City Offices and online

We have included you in our distribution because you have participated in one or more of our community meetings, your organization or community members may be impacted by the work of the SFCJPA, or you are directly involved in the SFCJPA's projects.

We do not share your contact information with anyone!

Please feel welcome to forward to anyone we may have missed.

You can unsubscribe at the link below.

San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

750 Menlo Ave. Suite 250

Menlo Park, CA 94025

www.sfcjpa.org

You received this email because you signed up on our website or made a purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)

