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**San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers
Authority**

SFCJPA Summer 2023 Newsletter - July 2023

Mitigating Flood Risks. Protecting a Shared Natural Treasure.



Introducing our New Intern

We are delighted to welcome Antonia Minion as our all-around intern. Antonia is assisting us with an array of tasks for both projects and admin/operations. Antonia is a Senior at Gunn High School and comes to us after working in Senator Becker's office. Antonia is looking forward to a career in environment-related policy. We appreciate Antonia's support and look forward to highlighting her contributions going forward.

Pre-Winter Coordination and Preparedness



Pre-Winter Preparations - The SFCJPA team and our member agency colleagues have been coordinating activities to prepare for next winter's rainy season.

Annual Creek Maintenance Walk - We will be identifying and removing hazardous debris.

Invasive and hazardous tree removal plan- This initial plan will focus on the Urban Reach 2 area and will also coordinate with other programs in process by Stanford University in the upper watershed. We are planning to target three invasive tree species: acacia, eucalyptus, and tree-of-heaven. These trees spread rapidly and will out-compete native species, resulting in degraded creek habitat, and potentially contributing to debris jams.

Channel Survey – As soon as the channel is dry enough to safely do this work, Valley Water survey crews will conduct bank and channel LiDAR surveys. The survey information will inform the update of our hydraulic (HEC-RAS) model.

HEC-RAS Model 3rd party evaluation – To ensure the data and assumptions used to build the model are correct, and to confirm the outcomes of the model, we will be retaining consultant services to perform this objective evaluation.

Flood Early Warning System – We are reviewing and assessing existing rain and stream flow gages and potentially adding redundant/additional gages in select locations.

Multi-Agency Coordinating Committee (MAC) – We are coordinating with MAC leadership and members to schedule our regular pre-season meeting and plan for a table-top exercise.

Member City Public Works Teams and Valley Water Coordination – We have set up regular coordination among City public works and Valley Water personnel to ensure we are coordinating our pre-storm preparedness and response action items.

Communications Coordination – We are convening a multi-agency Public Information Officer (PIO) team to ensure we coordinate our community outreach before, during, and after winter storms and any resulting impacts.

Please contact Margaret Bruce at mbruce@sfcjpa.org if you have suggestions for additional preparedness actions items.

Reach 2 Project Update

Reach 2 is the segment of the San Francisquito Creek that passes through the urban area of Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto, upstream of Highway 101.

The Newell Road Bridge – The SFCJPA is supporting the City of Palo Alto's Newell Road Bridge RWQCB permit application. The City of Palo Alto is also coordinating with PG&E and CalTrans. The schedule for Newell Road Bridge construction is expected to be in 2024.

Survey and Hydraulic Model – Survey crews from Valley Water will be conducting a channel and bank-top survey of the creek, starting in August. Also, the hydraulic model (HEC-RAS) used to help us understand and plan for creek flow dynamics will undergo a 3rd party objective review (which will be informed by the results of the survey).

These important action items are expected to be completed by the end of October. Information from these efforts will be used to confirm, or adjust, our planned flood risk mitigation project designs.

SAFER Bay Project Update

October 6, 2023 Tour – Together with several project partners, the SFCJPA will be hosting board members from the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) for a tour of the SAFER Bay Project on October 6, 2023. This tour is open to the public. SFCJPA Board members, member agency staff, and members of the public are welcome and encouraged to join. Please contact Tess Byler at tbyler@sfcjpa.org for tour details.

In The News – On June 19, President Biden and Governor Newsom were in the Baylands Nature Preserve in Palo Alto promoting the new NOAA coastal climate resilience challenge and funding.

President Biden stated that he had just toured the SAFER Bay Project and made reference to the project being a public-private partnership. He also mentioned the East Palo Alto and Belle Haven communities that will be protected by this project. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Hhs_Rwmo3w

Local news coverages of this visit:

<https://paloonline.com/news/2023/06/19/in-palo-alto-president-biden-announces-26-billion-for-climate-resilience-modernizing-electrical-grid>

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/biden-california-18159808.php>

Upcoming SFCJPA Board Meetings

August 24, 3:30pm – Online and at the City of East Palo Alto Council Chambers

September 28, 3:30pm – Online and at the City of Palo Alto City Hall

October 26, 3:30pm – Online and at the City of Menlo Park Council Chambers

November 16, 3:30pm – Online and at the City of East Palo Alto Council Chambers

December 21, 3:30pm – Online and at the City of Menlo Park Council Chambers

Board agendas and materials are posted on the [SFCJPA website](#) at least 72 hours before each meeting.

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.

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