



SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK  
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**Notice of Regular Meeting of the  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
City of East Palo Alto Council Chambers  
East Palo Alto, California  
November 16, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: October 26, 2017 Regular 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. S.F. Bay-Highway 101 project: discuss construction activities and planning
  - b. Upstream of Highway 101 project update
6. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – *Non-agendized requests or announcements; no action may be taken.*
7. ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE NOTE: This Board meeting Agenda and supporting documents related to items on the Agenda can be viewed online by 3:30 p.m. on November 13, 2017 at [sfcjpa.org](http://sfcjpa.org) -- click on the "Meetings" tab near the top.

**NEXT MEETING:** Regular Board meeting, December 14, 2017 at 3:30 PM, City of Palo Alto Council Chambers

**San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority**  
**November 16, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Board**  
**Agenda Item 3**  
**October 26, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes**

Director Pine called the meeting to order at 3:44 p.m. at the City of Menlo Park Council Chambers, Menlo Park, California.

DRAFT

**1) ROLL CALL**

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

Alternates Present: Lisa Gauthier, City of East Palo Alto

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

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

Legal Present: None

Others Present: Trish Mulvey, Palo Alto resident; Dennis Parker, East Palo Alto resident;  
Jerry Hearn, Portola Valley resident; Jim Wiley, Menlo Park resident;  
Russell Chen, SCVWD; Ken Dueker, City of Palo Alto OES; Kamal Fallaha,  
City of East Palo Alto; Ann Stillman, San Mateo County Flood Control  
District; Carol Fredrickson, SCVWD; Jean McCown, Stanford

**2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Director Gauthier made a motion to approve the agenda, with moving agenda item 5c ahead of agenda item 5a. Director Kremen seconded. Agenda approved 3-0 with moving agenda item 5c ahead of agenda item 5a. Director Abrica, Director Scharff and Director Keith not present.

**3) APPROVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Chairperson Pine made a motion to approve the September 28, 2017 Regular Board meeting minutes. Director Kremen seconded. September 28, 2017 Regular Board meeting minutes approved 3-0. Director Abrica, Director Scharff and Director Keith not present.

**4) PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**5) REGULAR BUSINESS**

S.F. Bay-Highway 101 project: discuss construction activities and planning

Mr. Materman provided the Board with an update on the Bay- Highway 101 project activities.

Director Gauthier expressed her happiness with the progress of construction and asked when East Bayshore Road will be fully re-opened. Mr. Materman said that in his last communication with Caltrans, its project manager indicated that both lanes of East Bayshore would be open by Thanksgiving, and that SFCJPA staff would follow up with Caltrans and forward any updates.

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Upstream of Highway 101 project: update on EIR, stakeholder process and project development

Mr. Materman provided a summary of planning for the project upstream of highway 101.

Jean McCown, Stanford University, provided a brief update on Stanford's plans for Searsville Dam, noting that Stanford is advancing studies on a project that would create a hole in the bottom of the dam and a new channel behind the dam by flushing sediment downstream. This alternative would allow for fish passage and the remaining structure to hold back water during high flows.

Director Kremen asked what Stanford's expected timeframe is for making a decision on Searsville. Ms. McCowan responded that the timeframe is unknown, but it would be a few years before an EIR for Searsville would be completed.

Chairperson Pine asked when an official project proposal would occur. Ms. McCown said that the university hopes to have a proposal ready next year. Ms. McCown noted that the project alternatives that the SFCJPA is investigating will be considered as Stanford advances its own proposed project at Searsville.

Discuss emergency preparedness for upcoming winter season

Mr. Materman discussed the actions taken in recent years that helped prepare for winter storms. Mr. Murray provided a summary of the annual maintenance walk that took place in September, noting that there was not a lot of debris that needed to be removed from the channel this year.

Mr. Materman introduced Carol Fredrickson, Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), who provided a summary of the SCVWD's winter prep activities and its Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for San Francisquito Creek. Ms. Fredrickson briefly explained the purpose of the SCVWD's EAP, noting that it is an internal document for SCVWD operations. Ms. Fredrickson spoke about the SCVWD's annual winter forecast meeting that morning, noting that the National Weather Service forecasted conditions similar to last year, but likely not as severe.

Director Kremen asked if there would be updates on the EAP and if the SCVWD would be working with others outside of the District during the update process. Ms. Fredrickson noted that there would be an update to the EAP and once it was ready a draft would be sent to Ken Dueker, who heads the San Francisquito Creek Multi Agency Coordination (SFC MAC) effort.

Ken Dueker, City of Palo Alto, acknowledged staff from the member agencies and provided the Board with an update on the City of Palo Alto's activities. Mr. Dueker, spoke about the SCVWD kick off meeting, the SFC MAC, the Emergency Services Volunteers program, the National Weather Service Skywarn Spotter Program.

Director Kremen questioned the stability of the cell phone networks during a flood situation asking if they could go down like they did in the Santa Rosa fires. Mr. Dueker confirmed that cell phone networks could go down in a flood event and that radio communications have been built into the SFC MAC plan in case of such an event.

Director Kremen asked if there was something Boards and Councils could do ahead of time, so that a Board Chair or Mayor could act when an event occurs without convening a full meeting of the governing body. Mr. Dueker explained that the Boards and Councils should cross check with their legal councils on the process of expeditiously ratifying a local emergency declaration.

Chairperson Pine asked staff to provide the Board with some lessons learned from the last winter season. Mr. Materman stated that SFCJPA staff would work with staff from the member agencies to put together a list and report back to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

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Trish Mulvey, Palo Alto resident, thanked Mr. Materman for agendaizing the topic. Mrs. Mulvey shared that the SCVWD Board and the San Jose City Council are having a joint meeting next Friday to consider changes to the Coyote Creek EAP following flooding that occurred there earlier this year. Mrs. Mulvey expressed her interest in learning how the SFC MAC agencies can utilize the new rainfall prediction tools being developed in our region and mentioned that the SCVWD is looking for feedback related to its local mitigation plan.

Jim Wiley, Menlo Park resident, spoke about his concern that the San Mateo County Alert system does not allow recipients to request alerts for just one area rather than for the entire County. Chairperson Pine stated that there is a way to narrow the alerts to just certain areas in the County.

Mr. Wiley further commented that the SFCJPA website and notification system is broken because he was not receiving text alerts and that it is hard to navigate on his smartphone. Mr. Wiley requested that the Board budget funds to update the website to include two National Weather Service websites that show forecasts for the creek.

Mr. Materman explained that the [sfcjpa.org/floodwarning](http://sfcjpa.org/floodwarning) website is optimized for Android and iPhone viewing and that its homepage includes links to five different weather forecast websites – two of which are National Weather Service websites – as well as links to local emergency services departments and winter storm preparedness resources. Mr. Materman stated that we can look into updating the National Weather Service weblinks if Mr. Wiley forwards that information to us.

**6) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

None.

**7) ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Pine adjourned the meeting at 5:18 pm.

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

**San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority**  
**November 16, 2017 Board Meeting**  
**Agenda Item 5**  
**Executive Director's Report**

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

**a. S.F. Bay-Highway 101 project: discuss construction activities and planning**

Since construction began in the summer of 2016, we have discussed construction activities for our project to improve public safety and recreation, and increase marsh habitat, along San Francisquito Creek from the Bay to Highway 101. The SFCJPA, Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), and cities of Palo Alto and East Palo Alto continue to meet weekly with the SCVWD's levee and floodwall contractor (Teichert Construction) to coordinate construction activities, work sequencing, and permit compliance. Additionally, the SFCJPA has continued to coordinate utility relocation with those entities, the City of Palo Alto's Golf Course project, PG&E, and the East Palo Alto Sanitary District (EPASD).

The following summarizes activities since the last Board meeting or planned for the rest of 2017:

- All in-channel work is complete for this year, including tie-in features to provide interim flood protection this winter by closing the gaps between floodwalls installed in 2017 and the existing levees to be replaced beginning in June 2018.
- Soil excavated from both sides of the creek that is suitable for levee fill, and recently imported levee fill, are being used to construct the new Palo Alto side levee on golf course land.
- PG&E has completed the cross-creek portion of their new gas transmission pipeline. PG&E estimates it will connect that section, and the section of pipeline installed in the Palo Alto Golf Course last year, to the existing pipeline north and south of the project area by November 19. PG&E will then remove portions of their abandoned gas pipeline outside the existing channel and next year Teichert will remove the remaining in-channel portions of the abandoned line.
- East Palo Alto Sanitary District finished installing new sewer and recycled water lines under the creek.
- Caltrans has completed in-channel work on its project to replace the Highway 101 bridge over the Creek. Caltrans reports that East Bayshore Road will be reopened by Thanksgiving and West Bayshore Road by the end of 2017. Additional work on Highway 101 will continue into early 2018.
- The SFCJPA has secured FAA clearance to install the support structure for the new boardwalk connecting the existing Friendship Bridge to the new setback levee on the Palo Alto side. This work will begin in 2017, ahead of schedule. We continue to work with Palo Alto Airport management to minimize the impacts of construction on Airport operations.
- In December, we expect Hanford ARC, contractor to the SFCJPA, to begin installing habitat restoration features in the Faber Tract and outer Faber Tract. Due to restrictions related to the nesting season of Ridgway's Rail (formerly called Clapper Rail), this work will last until late 2018.
- This week, SFCJPA staff intend to apply to the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority for funding to construct the Faber Tract and Outer Faber Tract habitat restoration features.
- As discussed at previous Board meetings, costs associated with claims and change orders from Teichert Construction have the potential to significantly affect the project budget. While we continue finding suitable levee material to import and seek locations to export material in order to reduce costs, these and other issues may increase construction costs beyond the contingency amount established in the six-party Construction Funding Agreement. SCVWD, SFCJPA and member agency staff have initiated discussions on strategies to address this issue.
- On November 9, a quarterly partnering meeting was attended by key staff from the SFCJPA, SCVWD, City of Palo Alto, PG&E, and contractors. It focused on project costs and potential claims, and on issues that must be resolved prior to project completion in late 2018. Included in the planning for next year are actions we must take now to put us in the best position to complete work within the temporal and geographic restrictions due to endangered species in the area.

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**b. Upstream of Highway 101 project update**

As discussed at previous Board meetings, the SFCJPA continues to move forward with project planning and environmental documentation for a capital project upstream of Highway 101. Our objective is to propose a project that is meaningful to – and supported by – our communities, and achievable in the near future within the constraints of regulatory permits, land, and funding.

We are awaiting documentation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of its preferred project alternative and the benefit-to-cost ratio of that alternative. We anticipate receiving this before the end of the year, after which the SFCJPA Board can consider the costs and benefits of moving forward with the Corps. While the SFCJPA continues to work with the Corps to maintain the possibility of federal funding for construction, we are also advancing this project locally in case the Corps plan does not align with local priorities and we must construct the project without federal funding.

Our work over the last month to advance the project locally has focused in part on consolidating and processing the input received from the public at the stakeholder workshops held during the month of October. This feedback, which was summarized at the October 26 Board meeting, is informing the development of our Draft EIR so that the proposed project matches the interests of our communities and is the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA), a determination that is a requirement of federal and state permits. The first workshop was held on October 4 in Menlo Park, then on October 14 we hosted a bus tour of potential project sites in the floodplain area, and the final workshop was held on October 25 in Palo Alto. These events were publicized via a mailed bilingual flyer, multiple broad e-mails and social media posts, including Nextdoor announcements.

Over the last month, we have also worked closely with our Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consultants and SCVWD staff to refine project alternatives and analyze their temporary and permanent impacts. We anticipate releasing the Draft EIR for public comment during the first quarter of 2018.

The flood protection project alternative of detaining floodwaters in upstream areas of the watershed continues to receive strong support from residents in the floodplain. As we have discussed since 2009, the only locations capable of providing meaningful floodwater detention exist on Stanford University property in areas west of the main, developed part of campus. Many Board meetings over the years have included discussion of this alternative with Stanford representatives, including on October 26, 2017 when we received an update on a potential project to modify the Searsville Dam. At the November 16 Board meeting, we will discuss this topic and potentially seek Board direction to provide input and encourage action in collaboration with SFCJPA member agencies.

Submitted by:



Len Materman  
Executive Director