



San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

Inaugural Newsletter January 2021

Mitigating Flood Risks. Protecting a Shared Natural Treasure.

Hello San Francisquito Creek neighbors and community members.

The San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA) is a small regional government agency formed in 1999 as a result of creek flooding that damaged homes in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Palo Alto. The location of San Francisquito Creek and its watershed straddles Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, five cities and Stanford University. It is one of the few creeks that is relatively free from concrete channelization, but is prone to flooding in the urbanized floodplain.

The SFCJPA is governed by a Board of five elected officials - one from each of our member agencies:

Gary Kremen - Santa Clara Valley Water District (Board Chair)

Ruben Abrica - City of East Palo Alto (Vice Chair)

Drew Combs - City of Menlo Park

Alison Cormack - City of Palo Alto

Dave Pine - San Mateo Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District

The Board is pleased to announce a new Executive Director: **Margaret Bruce**, who joined the SFCJPA at the end of June in 2020. Margaret has deep experience in water management and is skilled at applying creative solutions to complex issues. Her professional background includes management of environmental, sustainability, water policy and energy programs. She is a

King Tides



On December 13, 14 and 15 we experienced "King Tides"- these are very high tides caused when there is alignment of the gravitational pull between the sun, moon, and Earth.

Our Downstream Project performed very well during this King Tide event, since it was designed to protect people and property from a 100-year (1%) creek flow during a King Tide, plus three feet of future sea level rise.

The picture is of the Friendship Bridge, spanning the creek between Palo Alto and East Palo Alto, where we widened the creek to create new marsh by incorporating 7 1/2 acres of former golf course land.

If you want to see these higher than normal tides, you are in luck! Head over to the Baylands and see for yourself:

January 10th at 9:30 am, 9' 1"

January 11th at 10:20 am, 9' 3"

January 12th at 11:06 am, 9' 3"

January 13th at 11:53 am, 9' 2"

For more information on King Tides: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/kingtides/>

For more about our completed Downstream project, or our current Upstream and SAFER Bay work, please visit our website: <https://www.sfcjpa.org/>

Get to Know Executive Director Margaret Bruce

Five Fast Facts

1. Her favorite saying is, "I know what I want to get done; you tell me later why I can't!"
2. She has roots in the community - Her grandparents lived near downtown Palo Alto, her mother-in-law grew up on Cooley Landing, and she briefly attended Peninsula School in Menlo Park.
3. She and her husband Steve are almost done writing a science fiction novel.
4. She is a mother of two - one daughter is a local baker and the other recently married in Montana - an event that she sadly could not attend in person.
5. She was evacuated during the CZU Complex fires for three weeks.

Q&A

Why did you want this job? *I want to enable tangible benefits for the community that this agency can provide.*

What are your three main goals for the next year? *Securing funding to enable construction of the Upstream Project and SAFER Bay; continued operational improvements to the SFCJPA; and cultivating strong connections among community stakeholders.*

What do you see as the biggest obstacles at the SFCJPA? *One would be funding - both for operations and projects. We operate on a small budget, yet we construct huge capital projects. Although we leverage the talents and resources of our member agencies, they are also financially challenged these days.*

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

Yes, I would would like to hear from you. Please feel welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Margaret Bruce Executive Director. 650/484-0782 (direct) [408-605-2761](tel:408-605-2761) (cell) mbruce@sfcjpa.org.

Call for Volunteers

Do you know anyone with a few hours a week to spare, or a student with a community service requirement? We are looking for volunteers to help us with some easy, but important tasks, including:

- Organizing historic hardcopy files- including scanning
- Taking photographs of the area
- Uploading historical documents to the website
- Researching and inputting contact information to build the organization's contacts database
- Writing short guest columns for this newsletter

Volunteers will receive:

- A clear set of tasks, instruction, and guidance tailored to their interest and time period.
- If school credit is needed, a letter describing the work accomplished, as needed for school.
- Acknowledgement for work well done
- Plenty of social distance to complete work safely

Please contact Miyko Harris-Parker at 650/457-0943 or mhparker@sfcjpa.org if you are interested in volunteering.

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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San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

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