



San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

SFCJPA Fall 2023 Newsletter – September 2023

Mitigating Flood Risks. Protecting a Shared Natural Treasure.



September is National Preparedness Month

Each September we aim to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that can happen at any time.

Our area can experience wildfires, earthquakes, floods, and other types of natural and unnatural events. Having an emergency preparedness plan and thinking ahead about what you need to recover from an emergency reduces the harm emergencies can cause.

New FEMA National Risk Index

As recently reported in the San Jose Mercury News, FEMA has published a National Risk Index (<https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/>). This website provides links to interactive maps, FEMA's technical background materials describing the basis of the risk rating, and a variety of preparedness resources. FEMA's assessment considers the likelihood and consequences of 18 different hazards. Of those 18 hazards, FEMA rates our area as being most vulnerable to the impacts of earthquakes. Being prepared makes us more resilient to any kind of emergency.



Preparing For Winter Storms

What the SFCJPA is doing to get ready for winter

The SFCJPA is only one part of a larger group of coordinated teams among our members' public works, and public safety professionals. To get ready for winter, the SFCJPA is:

- Coordinating member agencies' stream maintenance work – clearing downed trees, and cleaning debris out of the creek channel.
- Creating an invasive species management plan.
- Commissioning an independent review of hydraulic models and a creek channel survey.
- Participating in the Multi-Agency Coordination committee (MAC), where member agencies and public safety teams discuss and prepare for possible winter emergencies.
- Adding more stream flow and rainfall monitoring technology in the upper watershed to improve data collection.
- Alerting CalTrans to the danger of built-up sediment at West Bayshore and encouraging their prompt action.
- Hosting a Community Winter Safety Event on October 26, 2023, in Menlo Park at the Upper Laurel School Campus, starting at 6:30pm.

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

SFCJPA Announcements and Events

SFCJPA Winter Preparedness Community Event - October 26, 6:30pm

Upper Laurel School Campus, 275 Elliott Dr, Menlo Park, CA
94025

Come learn about what you can do to get ready for winter storms and learn about what the JPA members are doing to prepare.

October 6, 10am to Noon - San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority South Bay Projects Public Tour

Follow the link below for more information about the tour and to RSVP.

<https://www.sfbayrestore.org/announcement/san-francisco-bay-restoration-authority-governing-board-tour-projects-and-networking> Tour stops include:

Palo Alto: Palo Alto Airport, 1925 Embarcadero Rd.

Palo Alto: Rinconada Park, Hopkins Ave at Newell Rd.

Palo Alto: Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Dr.

What residents and businesses can do to get ready for winter



Tired of dealing with sandbags, one Palo Alto resident took it on herself to implement her own flood prevention techniques. After experiencing flooding in her crawl space in 1998, when water flowing through her air circulation vents, she built frames with slots around her vents where she inserts boards during storms (pictured above). Other residents have opted for piling sandbags in front of their vents or doubling up by putting boards against the vents and sandbags to secure them.

Another issue mentioned by the resident was her garage. Although sandbags are a popular approach to prevent water from seeping under garage doors, she opted for a large plastic inflatable tube. When filled with water and put against the garage door, the tube creates a seal (or at least a 6-inch barrier) for water. There are many different water-filled barriers available. This website shows examples of these kinds of water-filled tubes:

<https://www.garrisonflood.com/water-filled-flood-tubes>



What you can do to prepare your home, family, pets, and neighbors!

Discuss and create a family emergency plan (useful for all types of emergencies)

- Sign up for emergency alerts
 - San Mateo County – SMCAAlert: <https://www.smcgov.org/dem/smc-alert>
 - Santa Clara County – AlertSCC: <https://emergencymanagement.sccgov.org/AlertSCC>
- Have an emergency kit and a 'Go-Bag' ready for each member of your household. Some good examples of kit-planning are found at <https://www.ready.gov/kit>
- Plan for your pets! During storms, keep them away from the creek.
- Know at least two ways to safely evacuate from your home and neighborhood.

Get your home and car floor and emergency-ready

- Know where to get sandbags and how to fill and stack them.
- Consider other flood-proofing actions if you have low openings to garages, crawlspaces, or basements.
- If you live in a flood-prone area, protect your car by parking on high ground.
- Keep an emergency kit in your car, in case you are not at home when an emergency occurs.

Know your neighbors

- Some neighbors may need help preparing or evacuating – consider checking in on elders, anyone with disabilities, families with small children, or those with limited access to information.
- If you need extra help to prepare for or respond to emergencies, make arrangements for assistance ahead of time.

Businesses need to be ready for emergencies, too!

There are good information resources, examples, checklists, and template documents for businesses to plan for emergencies and for recovery at Ready.gov/business (<https://www.ready.gov/business>).

Sand Bags

In the event they are needed, sand bags will be available at the following locations. Be ready to fill your own. Please take only as many as you need.

East Palo Alto: City maintenance yard, 150 Tara Rd.

Menlo Park: Burgess Park parking lot at Alma St. and Burgess Dr.

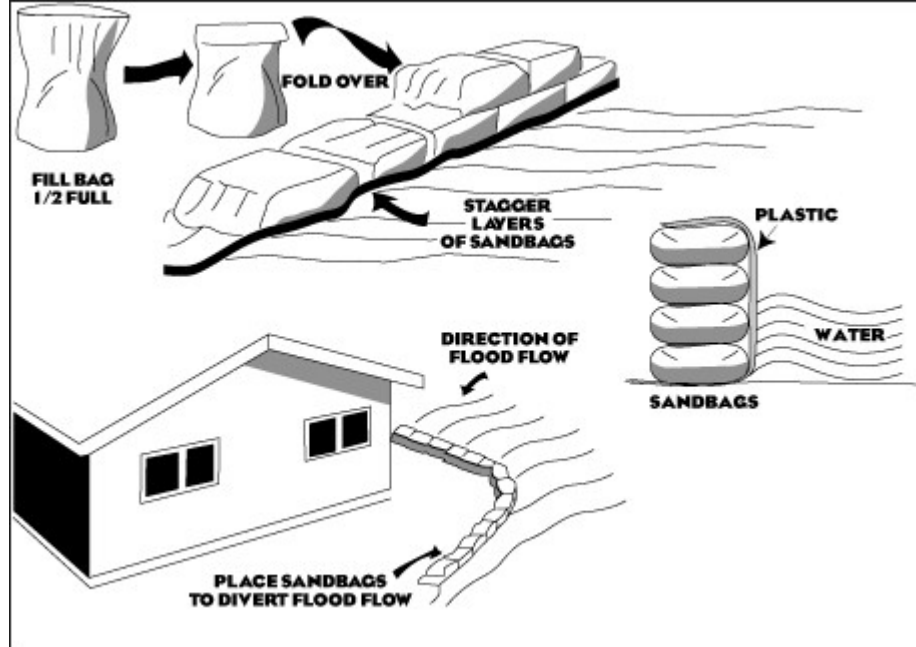
Menlo Park: Fire station No. 77, 1467 Chilco St.

Menlo Park: Pope St. Island, 222 Laurel Ave

Palo Alto: Palo Alto Airport, 1925 Embarcadero Rd.

Palo Alto: Rinconada Park, Hopkins Ave at Newell Rd.

Palo Alto: Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Dr.



Other Organizations' Community Events and Information

Coastal Cleanup Day – Saturday, September 23 9:00AM- 12:00 PM

There are two options for you to help remove trash and debris on Coastal Cleanup Day

San Francisquito Creek:

Sign up at: <https://www.grassrootsecology.org/event-calendar/2023/9/23/coastal-cleanup-day-at-san-francisquito-creek-8k7yn>

Cooley Landing:

Sign up at: <https://www.grassrootsecology.org/event-calendar/2023/9/23/2023-coastal-cleanup-day-at-cooley-landing-93bpj>

The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) Bay Adapt Program Survey

What can the future of the Bay Area and its shorelines look like? There is so much to love about the Bay Area: our communities, beautiful natural habitats, cultural diversity, transportation across the region, and more. Yet the Bay Area faces a big challenge. Because of climate change, sea levels are rising and threatening the places we care about—and we need to start adapting now. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) Bay Adapt program is developing a region-wide strategy for sea level rise adaptation, and we want local communities to help us create a shared vision for adaptation in the Bay Area.

Please [take this seven-minute survey](#) to help us shape a shared vision for the future of the Bay Area's shoreline and the people and ecosystems who depend

on it. To learn more about BCDC and the Bay Adapt program, please visit www.BayAdapt.org.

Check out these local organizations and links for more information on local Emergency Preparedness events:

<https://mpcready.org/events/>

<https://www.bellehavenaction.org/post/menlo-park-resources-during-a-disaster-storm-power-outage-etc>

Red Cross: Preparedness for Everyone:

Be Red Cross Ready Presentations:

This presentation is designed to teach you how to prepare for and respond appropriately to disasters that are likely to occur in your community such as home fires, wildfires, earthquakes, and floods. Join any or all our preparedness modules:

- Earthquakes: Wednesday, September 20th 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Floods: Wednesday, September 27th 12 – 1 p.m.

Prepare Your Home: Tuesday, September 26th 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

This interactive presentation is designed to teach you how to keep your household safe from fires and what to do during a fire. You will learn where you need smoke alarms in your home, how to create an escape plan, test your existing smoke alarms and more.

Hands-Only CPR: Thursday, September 28th 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

This 30-min training teaches hands-only technique for CPR. Participants learn how to check for consciousness, call 911 (or the local emergency number) and give continuous chest compressions. CPR training certification is not provided through this course.

Preparedness for Kids:

Bedtime story with Pedro the Penguin: Two opportunities – Friday, September 15th 7 – 7:45 p.m. and Saturday, September 23rd 7 – 7:45 p.m.

Join Pedro the Penguin and his friends for a bedtime story as they learn how to be prepared and to take action during an emergency. Come in your PJs and bring your stuffy animals.

Preparedness for your Business/Organization/School:

Ready Rating Presentation: Wednesday, September 20th 12 – 12:45 p.m.

This 30-min presentation explains our free membership program that helps businesses, schools, and organizations become better prepared for disasters and other emergencies.

Red Cross mantra for the month is: [Get a kit, make a plan and be informed!](#)

Contact local Red Cross Representatives:

Pooja Klebig

Regional Communications Director

American Red Cross Northern California Coastal Region

Cell: 408.205.3670 | Pooja.Klebig@redcross.org

24/7 Media Hotline: 669.209.5266 | Media Email: nccrpublicaffairs@redcross.org

Ana Romero

Regional Preparedness Manager | Disaster Cycle Services
American Red Cross Northern California Coastal Region
Cell: 408.202.5614 | Ana.Romero@redcross.org

In The News

Baby Beaver spotted near Matadero Creek.

<https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2023/08/25/beaver-makes-species-first-appearance-in-palo-alto-baylands-in-over-160-years>

Who you gonna call? New SFCJPA Cell Phone Numbers

SFCJPA Staff have updated cell phone numbers. Please update your contact information.

Margaret Bruce, Executive Director – **650/384-7850**

Kevin Murray, Sr. Project Manager – **650/380-9164**

Tess Byler, Sr. Project Manager – **650/304-4998**

Miyko Harris-Parker, Finance and Administration Manager and Clerk of the Board – **650/304-2362**

Upcoming SFCJPA Board Meetings

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.

You can unsubscribe at the link below.

San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

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www.sfcjpa.org

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