



## San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

# SFCJPA Spring 2021 Newsletter

*Mitigating Flood Risks. Protecting a Shared Natural Treasure.*

## Happy Earth Day!



Earth Day will look different this year with limited group activities. But we can all do something to celebrate the earth. Here are some ideas and resources –

### **Clean, City, Green City Cleanup - Every Day in April**

This volunteer event will be held throughout the entire month of April. Looking for a reason to get out of the house? Help us green our cities and keep waste

off the streets! To volunteer, sign up at [Clean City/Green City](#).

## Virtual National River Cleanup 2021 – Every Saturday in May

Coordinated by SFCJPA member Valley Water

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-national-river-cleanup-2021-registration-143831228075>

Enroll in the Saturday of your choice. By pledging/registering, you will receive free exclusive tips on conducting a safe and effective cleanup. Pledge/Register your cleanup to stay connected with thousands of other residents hosting their own cleanups and to help us track the amount of trash we're keeping off our streets and creeks.



Willows family and friends clean up section of San Francisquito Creek. [January 2021. InMenlo.](#)

### Talkin' Trash

Trash and debris end up in the creek channel because of improperly disposed household trash or yard waste. It is also blown in and carried through drains during storms. We want the San Francisquito Creek to be free of trash and other detritus, which is ugly and ends up in the Bay where it harms fish and wildlife.

In the past, creek clean ups have been coordinated on a regular basis by [Grassroot Ecology](#), but restrictions put in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic have limited these kinds of group activities. These organized creek clean-ups will resume when it is safe to do so.

Multiple organizations share in the task of removing trash, large fallen trees, and large items from the creek. If you see these in the creek channel, please contact Kevin Murray ([kmurray@sfcjpa.org](mailto:kmurray@sfcjpa.org)) at the SFCJPA, who will alert the appropriate organizations.

## Community Meetings

### Reach 2 Project Update Community Meetings

On February 23 and March 2, the SFCJPA hosted two virtual community meetings to provide updates on the status of the Reach 2 “Upstream” project. The first meeting provided a general overview of the project, the second meeting focused on the project’s impacts to trees.

Recordings of the meetings are posted on the SFCJPA’s website at [www.sfcjpa.org/events](http://www.sfcjpa.org/events). You can find questions and written answers, as well as the presentations for each session posted on the website in the same location.

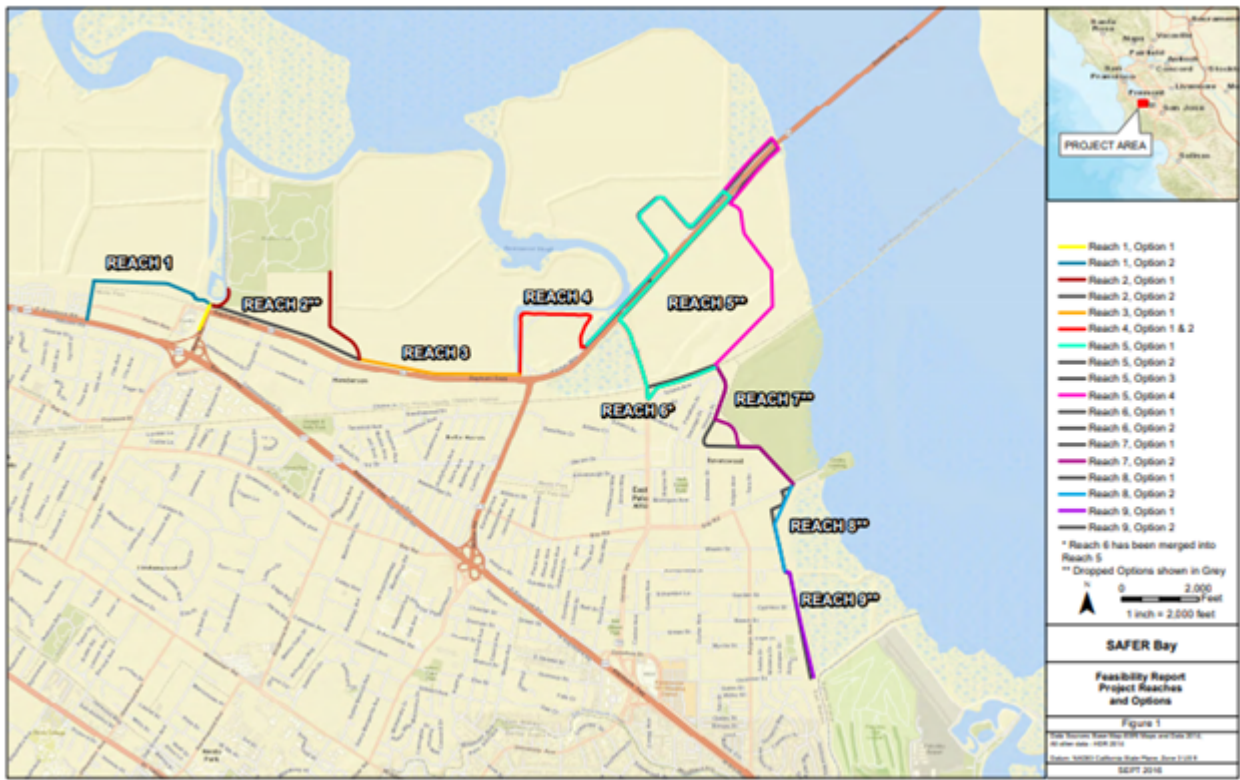
We plan to host another project update workshop in the winter.

## Our Projects

The SFCJPA is addressing the risk of flooding in our jurisdiction through four projects. More information can be found on our website: [www.sfcjpa.org](http://www.sfcjpa.org) under the Projects tab and in the SFCJPA’s [Comprehensive Plan](#). The 4 projects are described briefly below.

### SAFER Bay

The Strategy to Advance Flood protection, Ecosystems and Recreation along the San Francisco Bay (SAFER Bay) Project will protect people, property, and infrastructure from flooding from Bay tides and projected sea level rise through engineered and natural features that benefit our shoreline ecosystem and provide enhanced recreational opportunities. The overall SAFER Bay Project extends along the Bay shoreline from the Redwood City – Menlo Park border on the north to the East Palo Alto – Palo Alto border on the south.



SAFER Bay Project Area Reaches

### Reach 1 – the Downstream Project

Completed in 2019, the Reach 1 or Downstream Project widened the creek channel and built new larger engineered levees. Where there was no room to widen the channel, floodwalls were installed. The project protects more than 1700 properties from a 100-year creek flood during a King Tide event, and specifically incorporated three feet of sea level rise. When considering the additional safety factor of three feet known as "freeboard," our project provides 10 feet of protection from rising tides, compared to today's daily high tide. The project resulted in more than 22 acres of new or improved marsh habitat. New trails, including key connections to the Bay Trail, were developed on top of the new levees.



Widened channel, new levees, and Friendship Bridge between Palo Alto and East Palo Alto. Picture taken immediately after flood protection elements were completed October 2019.

## **Reach 2 – the Upstream Project**

The SFCJPA Reach 2 project extends upstream from where the creek is crossed by West Bayshore road to just upstream of the Pope-Chaucer bridge.

Project elements include widening the creek channel where natural or constructed features restrict the flow of the creek and replacing the Pope-Chaucer bridge.

We are in the planning and design phase of the project, which will provide flood protection up to the level of the 1998 flood of record. Once completed, these improvements will allow all the water that can pass beneath the Middlefield Road Bridge to safely remain in the channel all the way to the Bay.

Channel widening construction is anticipated in 2023 and 2024. Replacing the Pope-Chaucer Bridge is anticipated in 2024.





Existing Pope-Chaucer Bridge

### **Reach 3 – Upstream Detention**

The SFCJPA is just beginning its evaluation of the potential for creating off-stream detention basins higher in the watershed to hold back peak flows and provide more flood protection – perhaps up to the 100-year flood level.

#### **The SFCJPA Team –**

The SFCJPA plans and coordinates flood risk mitigation projects to protect the communities of Menlo Park, Palo Alto and East Palo Alto. The SFCJPA team includes:

**Margaret Bruce**, Executive Director. Nearly one year into her tenure as Executive Director, Margaret applies her diverse background in community water, climate, and energy program leadership, and policy advocacy to maintain and strengthen community partnerships, seek and coordinate funding for critical project work, and strengthen the organization's operational capacity.

**Kevin Murray**, Sr. Project Manager. With twenty years of service to the SFCJPA Kevin's role entails obtaining grant funding, coordinating regulatory permits, shepherding engineering and design work, coordinating environmental monitoring, and being the SFCJPA's tour guide. Kevin is the lead for the Reach 2 Upstream San Francisquito Creek flood risk reduction project and the Reach 3 detention basins evaluation.

**Tess Byler**, Sr. Project Manager. Tess has been with the SFCJPA for five years. Her role entails ensuring project environmental compliance for the Reach 1 and 2 Projects, grant reporting, planning and coordination of real property donations, coordination with other regional organizations, and managing project tree impacts. She is also the lead for the SAFER Bay tidal flood and sea level rise risk reduction project.

**Miyko Harris-Parker**, Finance and Administration Manager and Clerk of the Board. Miyko is in her sixteenth year with the SFCJPA. Miyko is responsible for all the administrative and financial management of the agency and serves as the Clerk of the Board.

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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