

# Creek bond measure possible

**BY DIANA DIAMOND**

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The agency in charge of preventing San Francisquito Creek from flooding is tossing around the idea of a bond measure that would possibly go before voters.

Menlo Park Mayor Heyward Robinson, who is chairman of the creek Joint Powers Authority, said a bond issue would fund further work on the creek. The creek overflowed its banks in 1998, flooding hundreds of homes in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

Len Materman, executive direc-

tor of the creek Joint Powers Authority, said the agency has asked Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, to seek \$550,000 a year from the Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is involved in creek projects.

The Joint Powers Authority is looking for alternatives because the current spigot of money from the federal government isn't providing enough funds to get much done.

Under current funding levels, a feasibility study would not be com-

pleted until 2020 and construction would not begin until 2025.

"Is this the timing and the strategy we want to adopt?" asked Materman at yesterday's board meeting.

Also yesterday, the board authorized \$1.4 million to fund the planning and design of a project between East Bayshore Road and San Francisco Bay; up to \$695,000 for design services for floodwater improvements; and up to \$592,000 for environmental analyses and assuring adherence to state regulations — totaling \$2.7 million.