



San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

Mitigating Flood Risks. Protecting a Shared Natural Treasure.

Late Fall Newsletter - November 19, 2024

Upcoming Events - SFCJPA Board Meeting Reach 2 Project Briefing

San Francisquito Creek Reach 2 Project Briefing at Regular Board Meeting on November 21, 2024, at 3:30pm.

The November 21, 2024, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA) regular Board meeting will feature a presentation by the SFCJPA's Reach 2 project consultant, WRA Environmental Consulting, Inc. The meeting agenda and can be found on the SFCJPA website here:

<https://www.sfcjpa.org/s/Agenda-Packet-of-Materials-for-the-November-21-2024-Regular-Meeting-of-the-Board.pdf>

This meeting is both in person at City of Menlo Park Council Chambers as well an online with pre-registration. A recording of the meeting will be posted on our website at the same location within a few days of the meeting.

Project Updates

SAFER Bay Project

On November 18th, the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA) released the Public Draft Project Description for the project known as the **S**trategy to **A**dvance **F**lood Protection, **E**cosystems and **R**ecreation along San Francisco (SAFER) Bay Project located in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, San Mateo County.

The Public Draft Project Description is Chapter 2 of the upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and presents the proposed project that will be analyzed in the DEIR. The SFCJPA expects that the DEIR will be available by August 2025.

Release of this Draft Project Description prior to release of the DEIR is not required as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, but the SFCJPA has determined that doing so will provide the community and other stakeholders with current information about levee alignments and the restoration strategy. This is an informational item- the SFCJPA is not seeking comments at this time. The community and other stakeholders will be invited to comment on the DEIR following its publication.

The Public Draft Project Description is available here: <https://www.sfcjpa.org/safer-bay-project>.

Scroll down to 'Project Documents'.



SOURCES: HDR, 2024; ESA, 2024

NOTES: Reaches to be evaluated at a project-level of detail are shown in solid lines; reaches to be evaluated at a program-level of detail are shown as dashed lines. The northern parts of the Bedwell Bayfront Park Reach would tie into high ground at Bedwell Bayfront Park.

SAFER Bay Project

Figure 1
Project Location and Components



National Flood Insurance Program - New Monthly Flood Insurance Payment Option

There is a new monthly payment option available for flood insurance payment. For more information see link below:

<https://www.insurancejournal.com/magazines/mag-features/2024/11/18/801355.htm>

This change may be applicable to, and useful for, local residents in the FEMA floodplain.

“The National Flood Insurance Program will soon start to accept monthly payments for flood insurance premiums, ending 55 years of requiring full payment upon application or renewal.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), administrator of the NFIP, said the change was made to adhere to language within the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, passed a decade ago.”

Student Intern Spotlight

This past summer one of our fantastic student interns, Brooke Threlkeld, a second-year environmental engineering major at UC-Davis, completed a research project for the SFCJPA – looking into the various kinds of passive flood barrier systems that are available and evaluating their potential suitability for San Francisquito Creek. She presented this capstone project to our member entities in August. You can find Brooke’s report and a link to her presentation slides on our website [News & Information — San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority](#).

What Weather This Winter and What to do?

Rain is coming soon – NOAA and the National Weather Service forecast a strong atmospheric river storm, drenching Northern California and bringing some rain to the San Francisco Bay Area through the weekend. There is no predicted risk of San Francisquito Creek flooding. Up to two inches of rain is forecast for the upper San Francisquito Creek watershed through the weekend, leading to some flowing water in the creek channel - probably less than 1 foot in depth.

According to the National Weather Service, we are heading into a weak La Nina cycle. Typically, a La Nina event results in more storms impacting the Pacific Northwest, and fewer reaching the San Francisco Bay Area. This means there is a slightly greater than average chance that this winter will be on the dry side. However, those are historical trends, not predictions. So, now, before the rainy season begins in earnest with this week’s storms, it is a good reminder to prepare.

Here are a few things you can do:

Sign up for emergency alerts - San Mateo County – SMC Alert:

<https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=smcgov>

Santa Clara County – AlertSCC: <https://oem.santaclaracounty.gov/prepare-4-steps/register-alerts>

Create and talk-through a household emergency plan – what will you do if flooding impacts your community, or if the power is out, roads are closed, or there are other natural disasters?

Make sure you know - more than one way in and out of your neighborhood, where is it safest to drive, to park your car, to stay until normal conditions are restored.

Take a minute before rain events to make sure your neighborhood storm drains and domestic drainage systems (roof gutters, downspouts, curb gutters, etc.) are clear of leaves or other debris.

The SFCJPA and its members review our procedures, have regular communications, and convene emergency situation practice events to make sure we are all prepared, equipped, and coordinated in the event of a winter emergency.

Reporting Trouble

If you need to report storm-related trouble:

In Palo Alto –

<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/Residents/Services/Report-an-Issue>

(Palo Alto 311)

In Menlo Park – <https://menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/Police/Emergency-preparedness/Hazards-and-emergencies/Storms-and-flooding>

Or call [\(650\)330-6300](tel:(650)330-6300)

In East Palo Alto –

<https://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/publicworks/page/flood-protection-disaster-preparation>

Or call [\(650\)321-1112](tel:(650)321-1112)

If you live in an unincorporated area along the creek or are not sure, please ask us at <https://www.sfcjpa.org/connectwithus>

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

750 Menlo Ave. Suite 250

Menlo Park, CA 94025

www.sfcjpa.org

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