



San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

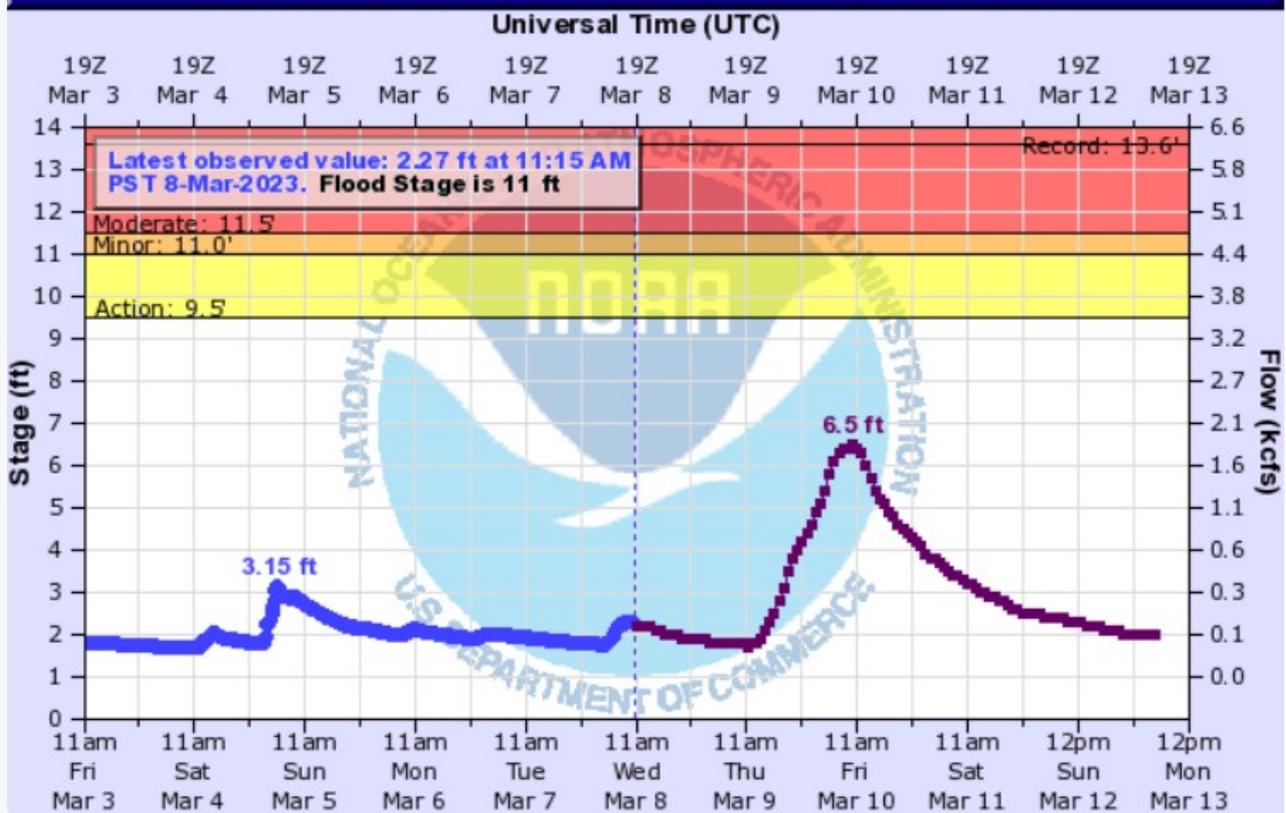
SFCJPA March 2023 Newsletter – Storm Alert

Mitigating Flood Risks. Protecting Shared Natural Treasures.

Atmospheric River and Potential Creek Flooding

The National Weather Service is predicting a robust atmospheric river weather system to arrive on Thursday, March 9 in the afternoon with heavy rains anticipated through the weekend. At the time of this writing, neither NOAA nor the NWS are predicting creek flooding specifically for the San Francisquito Creek, but a general Flood Watch has been issued for the San Francisco Bay Area and Central Coast beginning Thursday afternoon, extending to Sunday morning. The SFCJPA will be watching this storm closely, as are all SFCJPA members.

SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY



Screenshot of NOAA San Francisquito Creek flow forecast

Before the Storm

Now is a good time to review your emergency preparedness plans and resources.

Sign up for emergency alerts.

In San Mateo County - <https://www.smcgov.org/ceo/smc-alert>

In Santa Clara County - <https://emergencymanagement.sccgov.org/AlertSCC>

Connect with your neighbors – exchange phone numbers, check on families with elders and small children who may need an extra hand.

Know sandbag locations near you – <https://www.sfcjpa.org/sandbag-location-map>. Please note that sandbag locations may have changed, or been added, since this map was created. Please double-check on your city's website for current sandbag locations.



Debris and high water at Pope-Chaucer Bridge. 12/31/2022. Photo credit P. Burt.

During the Storm

Do not visit the creek – banks are weak, muddy, and slippery, and trees could fall. Please keep a safe distance.

Avoid travel, if possible, but if you must drive, do not drive into flooded areas.

Check on your neighbors. If you feel unsafe, or if instructed to do so, evacuate.

You can monitor the creek levels in the area at the City of Palo Alto's website:

[Creek Monitor & Camera – City of Palo Alto, CA](#)

NOAA's stream gage is also interesting:

<https://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/graphicalRVF.php?id=SFCC1>

The National Weather Service stream flow actuals and predictions: [CNRFC – Ensemble Products – SFCC1 \(noaa.gov\)](#), and the west coast satellite view: [GOES-West CONUS – Sandwich – NOAA / NESDIS / STAR](#)

You can help your neighborhood by clearing storm drains, or volunteering at a sandbag station and help folks who need assistance with the heavy bags. If you need help, do not be afraid to ask! So many extended a helping hand to others during the previous storms that was wonderful to see.

Reporting Trouble – Helpful City Information

If you need to report storm-related trouble (clogged storm drains, troublesome trees, etc.):

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>

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

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

Getting over the previous set of storms – Help for San Mateo County from FEMA

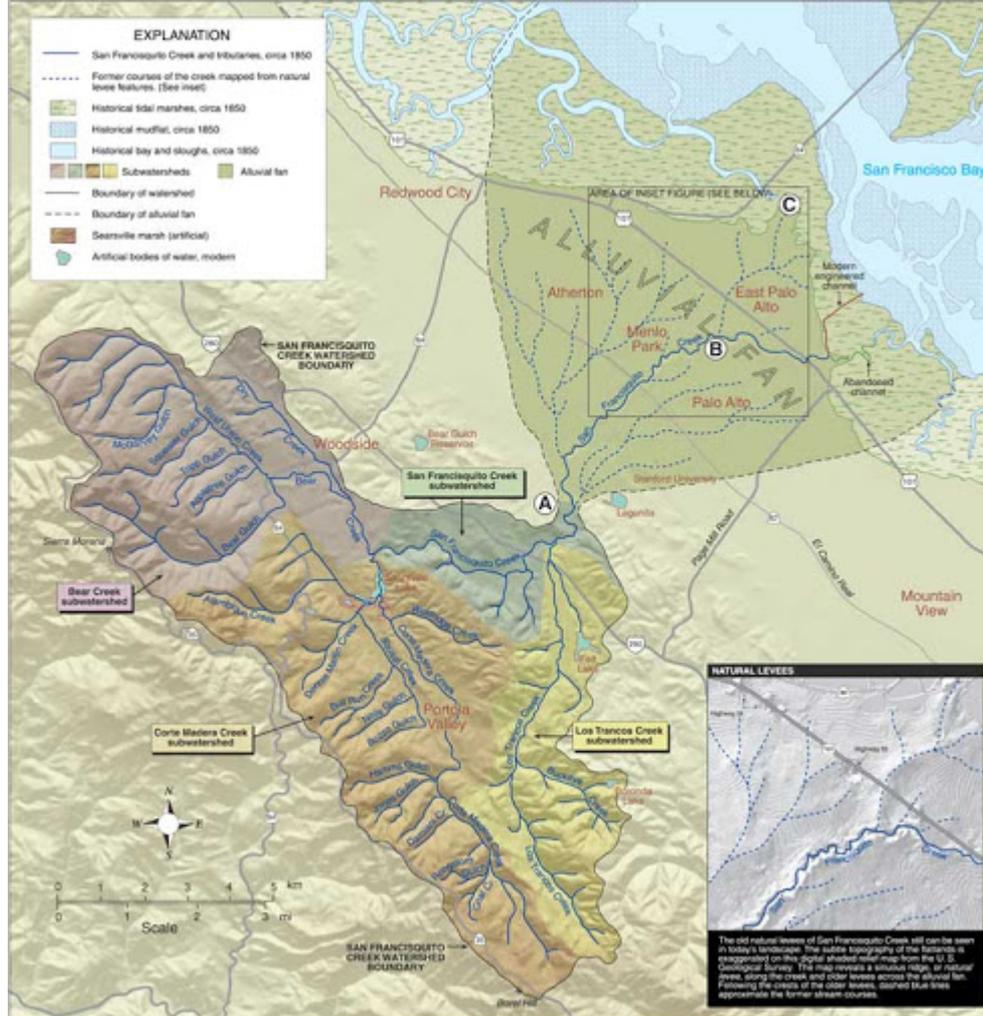
The deadline to apply for federal disaster assistance for damage caused by the storms and flooding that began in late December 2022 is Thursday, March 16, 2023.

Disaster assistance may include grants to help pay for temporary housing and essential home repairs as well as other serious disaster-related needs such as medical and dental expenses, transportation, childcare, and moving expenses.

For more information please visit: <https://www.smcgov.org/ceo/news/time-running-out-apply-federal-disaster-assistance>

About the Watershed

Flooding can have a huge impact – on homes, businesses, infrastructure. But just as life in an earthquake-prone area has some dangers, life near a creek has similar risks. Flooding is a natural event, and it is what creeks and watersheds do. The existence of the San Francisquito Creek’s alluvial fan where Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto are located, built up by creek floods over millennia bearing their loads of sand and gravel, is testament to this natural, flood-prone reality. The SFCJPA’s projects will reduce the risk of flooding and reduce the impact of very large flood events when they come, but nothing we do can eliminate all risks of flooding. We are all learning how to live with this beautiful, fickle, urban stream.



Upcoming SFCJPA Board Meetings - <https://www.sfcjpa.org/2023-board-meetings>

March 9, 2023 – Special Meeting. 3:30 PM. Menlo Park City Council Chambers 701 Laurel St. Menlo Park and by Zoom.

March 23, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting. 3:30 PM. Menlo Park City Council Chambers 701 Laurel St. Menlo Park and by Zoom.

Our address is:

750 Menlo Ave. Suite 250

Menlo Park, CA 94025

Our phone numbers are:

Main Office Number: [\(650\) 643-1450](tel:(650)643-1450)

Margaret Bruce, Executive Director [\(650\) 643-1451](tel:(650)643-1451)

Miyko Harris-Parker, Administration & Finance Manager/Clerk of the Board [\(650\) 643-1452](tel:(650)643-1452)

Kevin Murray, Sr. Project Manager [\(650\) 643-1453](tel:(650)643-1453)

Tess Byler, Sr. Project Manager [\(650\) 643-1454](tel:(650)643-1454)

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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