

San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

November 20, 2008 Board Meeting

Agenda Item 7

Informational Items

a) Maintenance walk report to jurisdictions

Each September, SFCJPA staff organizes Public Works and maintenance representatives from each of the SFCJPA Member and Associate Member agencies for the Annual Maintenance Walk. Downed trees or large debris that can become mobilized and represent a public safety hazard during large flows are tagged for modification or removal from the channel. Trash and dumping sites are noted and reported to volunteers who take part in the annual creek clean up on Coastal Cleanup Day. Discharges, encampments or other illegal activities are reported to appropriate regulatory or law enforcement agencies for follow-up. This year's annual maintenance walk took place on September 9 and 12, 2008. All member agencies participated and work was assigned. SFCJPA staff has received confirmation from maintenance crews that all flagged work items have been addressed, and on November 21, I plan to send the attached draft letter to this effect to the governing bodies of all concern jurisdictions.

b) JPA grant proposals to the State for projects at the Bonde Weir and Allied Arts

On November 12, 2008, the SFCJPA submitted two grant proposal packages to the CA Department of Water Resources' Urban Streams Restoration Program. Funded by Prop 84, the program offers \$9 million in competitive grants statewide for projects that provide flood and erosion protection, sediment management, and habitat restoration in urbanized streams. The SFCJPA proposed funding two distinct projects: 1) \$236,000 to assist the City of Menlo Park with construction of the Bonde Weir Reinforcement and Fish Passage Project, and 2) \$100,000 to stabilize and plant native vegetation on creek banks owned by the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park. The State will send award notifications to successful applicants in the spring of 2009 with contracts to issue grant funding signed by July 1, 2009.

c) Removal of Arundo stand on Menlo Park side of San Francisquito Creek

On November 17 and 18, Kevin Murray, along with the current and former program directors of the San Francisquito Watershed Council, removed the last major colony of *Arundo donax* from the watershed. Additional work will be needed in the years to come to monitor and continue to remove and treat new shoots coming up from the colony each summer. The complete eradication of Arundo from the SFC watershed has been an ongoing effort by a number of agencies and individuals over the past nine years.

d) Proposed 2009 JPA Board meeting schedule

JPA meetings are proposed for the following dates – on the third Thursday of every month – from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and will alternate locations between the three City Council Chambers.

January 15
February 19
March 19
April 16
May 21
June 18
July 16
August 20
September 17
October 15
November 19
December 17



SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

EAST PALO ALTO ■ MENLO PARK ■ PALO ALTO ■ SAN MATEO FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT ■ SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

November 21, 2008

East Palo Alto City Council
Menlo Park City Council
Palo Alto City Council
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors
Stanford University Board of Trustees
San Francisquito Watershed Council Steering Committee

Every September, SFCJPA staff organizes Public Works and maintenance representatives from each of the SFCJPA member and associate member agencies for the Annual Maintenance Walk on San Francisquito Creek. On the walk, a seven-mile stretch of main stem creek (Oak Creek Apartments to Hwy. 101) is hiked and potential public safety problems are identified.

Overgrowth, large debris, and broken or dead trees, which can be carried by high flows and become lodged under bridges or inside culverts is the main focus of the walk. Crews flag these for modification or removal within the next month. Though trash is not a primary focus of the maintenance walk, large and sustained dumping sites are also noted.

After the walk, JPA staff organizes and records the location and jurisdiction of each flagged item into a maintenance chart and disperses this to the maintenance crews of each member agency. All work prescribed is performed prior to October 15th to clear the channel in anticipation of winter rains. JPA staff assists with communications regarding these efforts and member crews report back to JPA when work is completed. The JPA then summarizes and reports to member agency governing bodies when the work is completed.

Typical problems identified on the walk include:

- Vegetation – Overgrown, broken/dead trees and shrubs; aging/vulnerable trees are monitored.
- Trash – Only large debris is removed, and it can take place at any time as scheduled by the maintenance crews. Jurisdictions are encouraged to deliver letters to homeowners found to be dumping garbage or yard waste into the creek.
- Accelerated erosion sites are recorded and considered for long-term monitoring or landowners are notified.
- Illicit discharge incidences are reported to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Game.
- Homeless encampments or any other illegal activity is reported to the appropriate Law Enforcement agency. For encampments, law requires that Police warn inhabitants that they must remove their belongings within 24 hours. Public Works crews can follow up after the 24-hour period to collect any debris left behind.

This year's annual maintenance walk took place on two mornings: September 9 and 12, 2008. All member agencies participated and work was assigned to all. SFCJPA staff has received confirmation from maintenance crews that all flagged work items have been appropriately addressed.

For further information please contact: Kevin Murray, JPA Project Manager at kmurray@sfcjpa.org.

Sincerely,

Len Materman
Executive Director