



San Mateo County Flood Control District East Palo Alto Menlo Park Palo Alto Santa Clara Valley Water District
A list of ongoing issues and activities of the JPA - published every other month - Volume # 5 - OCTOBER 2001

Resolution passed for the Levee Project

After working on an agreement for over a year, applause was drawn at the September Board meeting when a method for moving forward with the levee restoration project was approved. The Board held a final special meeting and agreed in principle to the terms of levee restoration in July, then negotiations were conducted on the details, and the Board made it official by approving a resolution with a 5-0 vote to restore levees and floodwalls in East Palo Alto and Palo Alto. The project is slated to begin construction next fall.

Annual Creek Maintenance Walk

This ten-year-old, multi-agency tradition was officially handed off to the JPA for coordination this season. Twenty-one people from seven agencies walked the creek in mid-September, taking inventory of the pre-rainy season work that needs to be done. Downed trees were marked; shrubs and other potential impediments were tagged for removal. Maintenance crews will proceed with the work by end of October.

Creek Conditions

We are happy to report that on the whole, the state of the creek is very good. There are few homeless encampments; some areas of trash accumulation; pools of water remain in some stretches providing habitat; and people are enjoying the walk along the creek. Some items of note to add to the JPA's agenda for coordinated maintenance activities are: 1) Methods for private landowners along the creek to remedy fallen trees, degrading fences and landscaping, or any other debris that could potentially be washed downstream creating a hazard. 2) Assessment of local population and threats of the Chinese Mitten Crab.

Special Thanks to Workgroup Volunteers

The JPA would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the folks who've volunteered to sit on two special Workgroups. These groups have been formed around specific studies or projects and have brought together some very exceptional individuals.

Searsville Lake / Dam –

Bill Bennett, State Dept. of Water Resources
Walt Callahan, San Mateo County Flood Control
Jason Christie, Santa Clara Valley Water District
Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

Ted Frink, State Dept of Water Resources
Jim Johnson, Streamkeeper / Watershed Council
Herman Karl, United States Geological Survey
Alan Launer, Stanford University Center for Conservation Biology
Steve Rothert, American Rivers
Kris Schenk, City of Menlo Park
Pat Showalter, Watershed Council
Matt Stoecker, SF Creek Steelhead Taskforce
Joe Teresi, City of Palo Alto Public Works
Michael Fox, Stanford University Facilities Operations
Cynthia D'Agosta, SFC-JPA
Kevin Murray, SFC-JPA

Watershed Sediment Reduction Plan TAC

Geoff Brosseau, BASSMA
Jennifer Curtis, United States Geological Survey
David Freyberg, Stanford University
Jerry Hearn, Watershed Council
Jim Johnson, Streamkeeper / Watershed Council
Herman Karl, United States Geological Survey
Trish Mulvey, CLEAN
Sandi Potter, Regional Water Quality Control Board
David Salsbery, Santa Clara Valley Water District
Laura Young, Santa Clara Valley Water District

NPS Technical Assistance Program to Help

Ms. Peg Henderson from the National Park Service-Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) group will begin providing technical assistance to the JPA over the next year. At the September meeting, Ms. Henderson spoke to the Board of similar efforts she has been involved with on the Truckee River, the Napa River and the Dry Creek watershed in Sacramento. A detailed scope of how the RTCA will help our watershed is being developed and will be brought to the Board in November.

FY 2000/01 Year End Report Released

The JPA released a draft year-end report that highlights the areas of coordination, communication, grant funding/projects and agency development from August 2000 to August 2001.

Interim Personnel Policies Handbook Created

Staff developed an "Interim Employee Policy Handbook" that contains all the policies and provisions of employment for JPA staff members. An ad hoc personnel committee and legal counsel from Richards, Watson & Gershon, have completed review of these policies.

Next Meetings:

October 25th 9 a.m.—Special Planning Session; Menlo Park Recreation Center.
November 15th 6 p.m. - East Palo Alto City Council Chambers.
December—No Board meeting; next issue of CAN.