

# The San Francisquito Creek Authority News



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 # 6 - DECEMBER 2001

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Special New Year greetings from the JPA staff to you!!!

Closing year 2001 and opening year 2002 provides us an opportunity to say thank you for your dedication throughout the year and your support in our work with the San Francisquito Creek Watershed. Reflection reveals that 2001 brought both high-quality accomplishments and many newly established friendships. Preparation for the new-year revolves around an enthusiastic confirmation of our commitment to you, to lead the community toward flood relief and creek preservation.

On behalf of the San Francisquito Creek JPA, again we say thanks, and wish you a Joyous 2002!

Cynthia D'Agosta

Kevin Murray

Andrew Kloak

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## JPA Seminar Series Begins

On December 14<sup>th</sup> in Menlo Park, the JPA kicked-off the first in a series of four seminars on long-range planning for flood relief and creek preservation for the San Francisquito watershed. Panelists and members of the community discussed environmental conditions to be considered as the JPA looks to engage the Army Corps of Engineers in a watershed study in 2002. Representatives from Save the Bay, Committee for Green Foothills, Center for Biological Diversity, Watershed Management Initiative and Watershed Council, and Stanford University presented various different issues of concern. The two-hour seminar will be aired on Public T.V., Channel 6 in the month of January.

The second seminar will be held in February and will focus on regulatory issues as they relate to flood relief and creek preservation. Keep posted for date and location (TBD). Seminars three and four will include Federal, State and Local Legislative perspectives (April) and dialogue on Land Ownership and Management of the Watershed (June).

## Flood Relief and Creek Preservation Planning Workgroup

This workgroup centers on setting the stage for the JPA to be the local project sponsor, integrating strategies of the member agencies for engaging the Army Corps of Engineers, and investigating types of plan processes, for long-term planning and

implementation of a project. The Workgroup met for the first time in December.

Two exciting models of "community based" flood management and planning initiatives were presented by Ms. Peg Henderson of the NPS, RTCA program. The Napa and Truckee River projects are being carried out through a broad based community planning process which has enabled them to achieve top ranking for state and federal grants, pass local referendums to financially support the project, and secure funding from the Army Corps of Engineers.

To see more: [www.co.washoe.nv.us](http://www.co.washoe.nv.us) and click on Truckee River Flood Management Community Coalition.

The next meeting for this workgroup, which is open to the public, is planned for February 13<sup>th</sup>. Contact Cynthia D'Agosta for more information.

## Coordinating Emergency Response

Also in mid-December, the JPA brought representatives from emergency services departments from ten agencies together to coordinate response efforts throughout the watershed. The fact that SFCreek is the border between the counties of San Mateo and Santa Clara was acknowledged as making the coordination of emergency services departments a much-needed priority. It was agreed that coordination of action and communication between all the jurisdictions was an achievable goal.

Participants suggested that the JPA Board be asked to initiate policy for the member agency emergency services operations to follow specific guidelines that serve to produce coordinated functioning during emergencies. The group felt that subsequent workgroup meetings of emergency services representatives should be conducted to formulate a communications plan, and that these should be coordinated by the JPA.

### Upcoming Items of Interest...

1.) The January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002 JPA Board meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the City of Palo Alto Council Chambers, 250 Hamilton Street, Palo Alto. Agenda includes presentations on:

-Representatives from member agency Emergency Response Teams will present their procedures to flood response, and talk about the need to have watershed wide coordination.

-Duane Dykema, Senior Meteorologist with the National Weather Service, will speak on "Predicting the Seasons' Rains".

-Year End Budget for FY2001-2002 and Proposed Budget for FY 2002/03

2.) February--No Board meeting; Part 2 of the Seminar Series (see above); Volume #7 of the CAN.

### Welcome to these new participants in the watershed planning effort:

**Phil Chang**, San Francisquito Watershed Council Coordinator (replacing Pat Showalter, who is now with Santa Clara Valley Water District).

**Peg Henderson**, National Park Service-Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance (NPS-RTCA).

**Debra O'Leary**, Army Corps of Engineers-on special assignment to the City of East Palo Alto through the Federal Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Program.

**Nicolas Rofougaran**, Harvard Law Schools' "Program on Negotiation", has received a National Science Foundation Award to conduct post-doctorate work in the watershed. His work is being sponsored by the USGS 'INCLUDE' - Creek project.



Contact us at the SFCreek  
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