TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS
DATE: JANUARY 18, 2005 CMR:135:05

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON STATUS OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECT

This is an informational report and no Council action is required.

BACKGROUND
In April 1999, the cities of Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and East Palo Alto, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the San Mateo County Flood Control District formed the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (JPA) in order to cooperatively pursue a flood protection and environmental restoration project for San Francisquito Creek. Due to the substantial cost of this large-scale endeavor, the JPA has partnered with the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on a General Investigation (GI) project to plan and implement the improvements. Through this cooperative arrangement, a majority of the project costs will be funded by the federal government, supplemented by local matching funds. The fiscal year 2003-04 federal budget included $100,000 for a reconnaissance study of San Francisquito Creek – one of only five new studies proposed nationwide. During the reconnaissance study phase, the Corps has been examining the flood and erosion control issues surrounding San Francisquito Creek in order to determine whether or not there is a “federal interest” in partnering with the JPA and local officials on a joint federal/local flood control project. The Corps has nearly completed the reconnaissance study and has given preliminary indications that it will find adequate justification for continued federal participation in a project on San Francisquito Creek.

DISCUSSION
In order to continue its efforts on San Francisquito Creek, the Corps must receive funding for the project each year in the federal budget. It has been increasingly difficult to secure funds for flood control projects due to competing national priorities such as the Iraq war and homeland security. Last month, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo sent a letter to JPA Executive Director Cynthia D’Agosta announcing that the approved federal budget for fiscal year 2004-05 includes an appropriation of $100,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers to continue its General Investigation of the San Francisquito Creek watershed. This funding will allow the Corps to complete the reconnaissance phase of the project and to begin the feasibility stage, during which conceptual options for flood control and environmental restoration will be identified and analyzed. Special thanks are due to Congressmembers Anna Eshoo, Mike Honda, and Zoe Lofgren, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, JPA Executive Director Cynthia
D’Agosta, and members of the JPA Board of Directors (including Palo Alto Councilmember Dena Mossar and Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Member Greg Zlotnick) for their extensive efforts over the past several years pursuing federal funding for this important regional need. This year’s funding will ensure that the JPA will continue to make progress towards its goal of providing flood protection to Palo Alto and the entire creek watershed.

ATTACHMENT
Attachment A: Letter from Congresswoman Anna Eshoo’s office to San Francisquito Creek JPA

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cc: Cynthia D’Agosta, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority