

San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

March 26, 2009 Board Meeting

Agenda Item 7

Informational Items

a) Emergency Preparedness and Communication Meetings

On March 18 the JPA hosted a meeting with local emergency managers to discuss the important differences and redundancies in response communication and implementation across jurisdictions. Then, on March 19, the JPA hosted another meeting with emergency managers focused on public notification during emergencies. During the course of these meetings important gaps became apparent that the JPA will work to fill in the coming months:

- 1) Different jurisdictions have different “triggers” by which they activate emergency response in the event of flooding. All participants agreed that it is important that jurisdictions understand these triggers and the planned response by each. The JPA’s implementation of an enhanced Early Warning System is the first step in creating more informed and consistent triggers across jurisdictions, and meeting participants agreed that the JPA’s plans for future enhancements of this system would be valuable for this purpose. The JPA will take the lead in attempting to create set of common triggers for all jurisdictions.
- 2) A common understanding among jurisdictions of when emergency response should be activated depends on reliable data well in advance of flooding. The JPA’s implementation and management of an enhanced Early Warning System will accomplish this, and it will include new robust websites for emergency managers and for the general public.
- 3) The emergency managers responsible for contacting their counterparts in other local jurisdictions do not have the phone and e-mail addresses of those counterparts, and most agreed that relying on dispatch or general numbers during an emergency is not optimal. The JPA will compile and occasionally update a contact list for the primary emergency contacts and back ups for all local jurisdictions.

b) Communications and Outreach, including the “Three for the Creek” community effort

The February 26, 2009 Board meeting included a discussion of JPA communications with government officials regarding our requests for federal appropriations and Economic Stimulus funding. Since the meeting, President Obama signed the FY2009 federal appropriations bill that included \$335,000 for the Corps for the San Francisquito Creek project, Directors Abrica and Gordon traveled to DC, and on March 27th Heyward Robinson, Len Materman and Kevin Murray will meet with Senator Joe Simitian and the Caltrans Region IV Director.

On March 12, Directors Abrica, Drekmeier, and Robinson attended a meeting at Palo Alto’s City Council Chambers hosted by leaders from four local neighborhood associations: Crescent Park (Palo Alto), Duveneck-St. Francis (Palo Alto), Gardens (East Palo Alto), and Willows (Menlo Park). About 75 local residents attended the meeting, and several press articles appeared in response. One outcome of this meeting is “Three for the Creek”, an initiative of these neighborhood associations that is focused on channeling community interest in finding solutions to their common flooding, environmental and recreational concerns through advocacy with government officials and by providing support and technical advice to the JPA efforts. The neighborhood leaders who are spearheading this initiative – Karen White, Norm Beamer, Jim Wiley and Dennis Parker – met on March 24th to move forward with this effort and contact interested residents. JPA staff have assisted the effort by launching www.threeforthecreek.com, a website dedicated to interactive communications regarding the creek and potential projects.

San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

March 26, 2009 Board Meeting

Agenda Item 7

Informational Items

- c) Searsville Dam and Lake – Presentation by Matt Stoecker, Beyond Searsville Dam, and then by Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University

At the May 28, 2009 Board meeting, the consultant engaged by the JPA to study project alternatives for detaining water upstream and increasing flow capacity downstream will present their findings. Following that meeting, the JPA Board will consider possible capital projects in these reaches of the Creek and move forward with design and environmental planning on at least one alternative. In preparation for that decision, we are inviting individuals with expertise related to the project areas to discuss pertinent issues with the Board during meetings this spring. This began at the last Board meeting with a discussion of East Palo Alto's Bay Access Master Plan, and continues at this Board meeting with a discussion of the Searsville Dam and Lake.