

San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

April 23, 2009 Board Meeting

Agenda Item 7

Informational Items

a) Early Warning System Update

In partnership with San Mateo County's Sheriff's Department, Office of Emergency Services, and Department of Parks, and the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, JPA staff has been working to enhance the early warning system for flooding from San Francisquito Creek currently operated by the City of Palo Alto.

Palo Alto operates a rain gauge in Foothills Park in the southern area of the upper watershed that relays real-time data to a website, which also displays stream flow data, for use by emergency responders and the public to make decisions about response to imminent flooding. The system can be improved by installing a second rain gauge in the northern area of the upper watershed, proposed for San Mateo County's Huddart Park, in the West Union Creek sub-watershed, to give a more accurate account of the total rainfall distribution over the entire watershed during peak events. The additional data will also provide a more reliable tool for responders to use when making critical decisions about public safety.

The JPA Board indicated its support for such a project at the March 2009 Board meeting. The West Union rain gauge will be installed in May 2009. At the May or June JPA Board meeting, JPA staff will present a Memorandum of Understanding between the JPA and San Mateo County for the operation and maintenance of the new gauge station.

By combining Menlo Park Fire Protection District and San Mateo County Sheriff's Department funding with a lesser amount of JPA funding, the information from this gauge will be integrated into regional early warning systems (including possibly the County's system) and be accessible through robust websites for emergency responders and for the general public that will be operational in the summer of this year.

b) Philip Williams and Associates Upstream and Downstream Alternatives Analysis Update

The JPA Board approved a contract with Phillip Williams and Associates (PWA) at the February 2009 board meeting to evaluate opportunities for the upstream detention of water during severe rain events, and to analyze and recommend a capital project that provides flood protection, ecosystem and recreational benefits downstream of 101.

The final report, including preferred project alternatives, from PWA will be delivered to the JPA Board at its May 28, 2009 meeting. Len Materman and Kevin Murray received a progress report from PWA on April 16, 2009, and it included the following information.

PWA has found that there is significant opportunity to reduce flood risks to East Palo Alto and Palo Alto in the reach of the stream between US 101 and the San Francisco Bay. The candidate alternatives developed by the JPA management team have been tested for hydraulic performance, and will be evaluated for environmental impacts and construction costs over the next month. PWA staff have developed a methodology for evaluating potential detention sites, and they are currently working with LIDAR data the Hydrology Model produced by the Santa Clara Valley Water District to quantify the possible flood protection benefits of multiple upper watershed detention sites.

San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

April 23, 2009 Board Meeting

Agenda Item 7

Informational Items

c) City of Menlo Park / JPA Proposal for Federal Economic Stimulus Funding

On April 6, 2009 the City of Menlo Park submitted a grant proposal to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Project Grants Program for federal economic stimulus funds. The proposed project would modify the Bonde weir to provide for improved adult and juvenile steelhead migration.

This proposal also requested funds to improve bank stability, vegetative habitats, and provides for resting areas for fish migrating through the channel. The combination of these project components will be designed to reduce stream bank erosion and improve fish migration throughout the stream reach between University Avenue and Sand Hill Road. If funding is awarded, the City of Menlo Park would manage construction of the Bonde weir modifications, and the JPA would manage channel improvements. The JPA would receive up to \$25,000 in funding to offset staff time spent on the project. NOAA will notify applicants regarding awards in early June 2009.