

**San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority**

**August 27, 2009 Board Meeting**

**Agenda Item 7**

**Informational Items**

a) Capital Project Update

At its July 23, 2009 meeting, the JPA Board directed staff to issue two separate Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) for professional consultants interested in conducting: 1) Design Services and 2) Environmental Planning for the JPA's initial Capital Project along San Francisquito Creek between Highway 101 and San Francisco Bay.

Several consultant firms responded to the RFQs by submitting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) for the JPA's consideration. The SOQs are not full proposals for the project, but are pre-proposal submittals intended to demonstrate a consultant's interest in working on the project, and experience and expertise with similar projects.

Teams made up of JPA, Member Agencies, and Stanford staff reviewed the SOQs based on standard criteria, and have selected the top candidates to invite to submit full proposals and to interview for the contracts. The results of these reviews were discussed with the full JPA Technical Advisory Committee (formerly known as Management Team) at its August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, JPA staff released Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to the candidate consultant teams. Four such teams have been invited to submit a proposal for the Design Services contract, and three consultant teams for the Environmental Planning contract. The lead firms of candidate teams for Design Services are: HDR Engineering, Mark Thomas & Co, Philip Williams and Associates, and URS Corporation. The lead firms of candidate teams for Environmental Planning are: David J. Powers and Associates, Environmental Sciences Associates, and ICF Jones & Stokes. These firms and specialized sub-consultants included on their respective teams have demonstrated extensive expertise and experience relevant to the project.

The JPA will host a pre-proposal workshop and site tour with the candidate consultant teams on Friday, August 28 2009 to familiarize consultant team members with the work previously done on project planning, orient them with the physical surroundings of the project site, and answer any questions they may have about the proposal and hiring process.

These consultants' full proposals will be submitted to the JPA on September 15, 2009. JPA staff is currently assembling a team of individuals to review the full proposals and interview candidates on September 22 and 23. Following the selection of the top consultant for each contract, JPA staff will lead the contract negotiations. The scope of work for each contract will be consistent with standards and guidelines used by the Santa Clara Valley Water District for similar flood protection and ecological enhancement projects.

Upon successful completion of the negotiations, the JPA Board will be asked at the October 22 meeting to authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract for Design Services and a separate contract for Environmental Planning for the project.

Additionally, JPA staff has drafted and is working with staff representatives of the San Mateo County Flood Control District (FCD) and the Santa Clara Valley Water District to finalize a funding agreement to pay for the planning and design of the project.

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As mentioned in the Executive Director's Report for this meeting, Len Materman has submitted a formal request to the San Francisco District of the Corps of Engineers so that JPA costs to plan, design and construct the Capital Project will be credited towards the local share of the construction of the ultimate federal, watershed-wide project.

Following up on the interest in an upstream detention project expressed at the last meeting by residents of the Ladera community, the JPA Executive Director met with a group of community leaders on August 24<sup>th</sup> and will formally present information to the Board of the Ladera Community Association on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Part of the discussion of this agenda item will include a discussion of community outreach around JPA capital projects moving forward.

b) Arundo Removal and Revegetation Update

The JPA received landowner permission in November 2008 to begin a project that would remove the last significant colony of the invasive *Arundo donax* from San Francisquito Creek.

The JPA had previously assisted the San Francisquito CRMP, later called the Watershed Council, in an eradication project intended to completely eliminate Arundo from the watershed. Because of its fast-growing and rapidly proliferating characteristics, and because Arundo has no natural predators or competing species in California, it has been shown to increase the risk of flooding, fires, and the destruction of natural habitat in watersheds where it becomes established. The Watershed Council was able to remove all of the significant Arundo stands except this last one. When the Watershed Council ceased its Arundo eradication efforts, the JPA took the lead on eliminating this final established colony to insure that the species did not re-establish itself.

The JPA had partnered with the City of Menlo Park on a federal grant proposal that would have provided \$75,000 to the JPA to conduct Arundo removal, bank stabilization and native revegetation on the project site. Unfortunately, the grant pool was very competitive and funds were not awarded to the City/JPA project.

JPA staff then began to implement the project in partnership with Acterra to provide volunteer work, native plants and materials at a reduced cost, and project assistance from their San Francisquito Project Director. Additionally, David "Tex" Houston, a local consultant, has donated project design services and some materials to the project, and is working on the project's installation at a greatly reduced rate. The City of Menlo Park has provided green waste hauling and disposal at no charge to the JPA, without which the project would not have been possible.

To date, the JPA has expended approximately \$5,000 of current year project consultant funds to prepare the needed regulatory agency notifications, remove an estimated 10,000 pounds of Arundo from the project site, treat the stumped reeds with an approved herbicide, design the bank stabilization and revegetation elements, purchase materials and native plants, and begin installing the final project elements. The total expenditure for this project will not exceed \$7,000 thanks to volunteer work and the contributions provided by the entities mentioned above. A series of photos documenting the project's progress will be presented at the Board meeting.