



SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK

JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY



Historical flood photos

San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

The watershed and floodplain of San Francisquito Creek encompasses approximately 50 square miles from the Santa Cruz Mountains to San Francisco Bay, with the creek serving as the dividing line between the Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. In the past, the creek has divided jurisdictions and communities and has been viewed as a liability.

It was after the historic flood of 1998 that the cities of Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto, the San Mateo County Flood Control District and the Santa Clara Valley Water District joined together to create the **San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority**. In addition to addressing issues of flooding, the SFCJPA projects also provide ecosystem restoration and enhance recreational opportunities.

The SFCJPA is governed by a board of directors with elected officials representing each of the member agencies jurisdictions. With the goal of transforming San Francisquito Creek from a divisive liability into a unifying asset, the SFCJPA plans, designs and implements projects from the upper watershed to coastal wetlands that are of mutual interest to these jurisdictions.

Contact Us

Len Materman, Executive Director
San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority
615 B Menlo Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 324-1972
jpa@sfcjpa.org

For more information, visit **sfcjpa.org**.
Para obtener información en español, por favor
comúníquese con José Villarreal al 408-630-2879.

Funding Sources

Santa Clara Valley Water District

Through its November 2000 Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan, the water district secured \$10.6 million for the planning and design of the 100-year creek flood protection project, stretching from the Bay to Searsville Dam.

In November 2012, Santa Clara County voters also approved the water district's Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program which included \$35.5 million for the construction phase of Bay to Highway 101, as well as funding for construction remedying channel constrictions and modifying bridges at Newell Road and Pope/Chaucer Street.

San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

The SFCJPA received an \$8 million grant from the Department of Water Resources for costs related to the design and construction of the Bay to Highway 101 portion of the project.

Caltrans

Caltrans is funding the construction of the Highway 101 Bridge replacement, as well as 88 percent of the Newell Street Bridge replacement project.

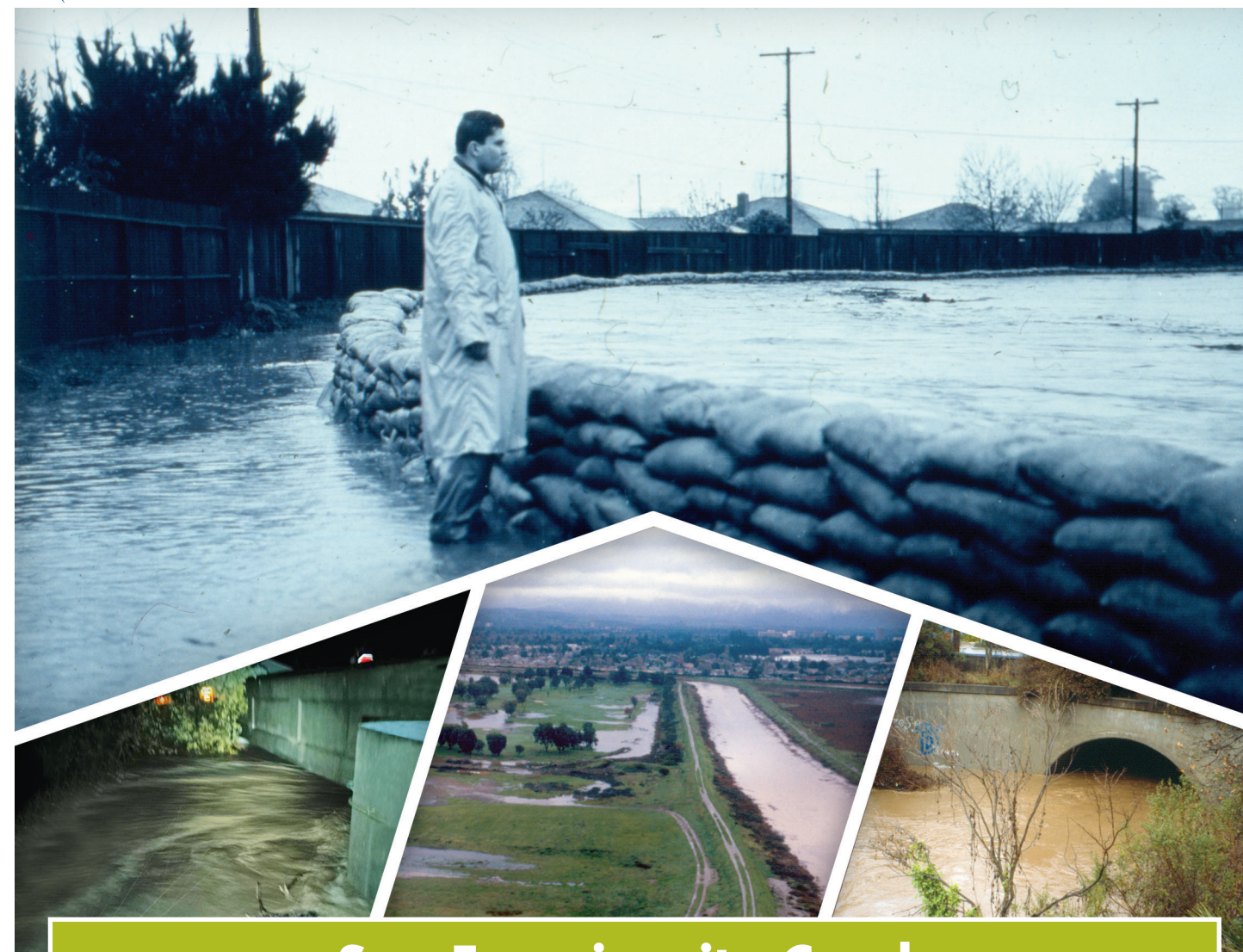
San Mateo County jurisdictions

For the Bay to Highway 101 segment, East Palo Alto and San Mateo County are each providing \$0.8 million. For projects upstream of Highway 101, East Palo Alto has committed \$0.2 million, Menlo Park \$0.5 million and San Mateo County \$0.7 million.



SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK

JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY



San Francisquito Creek

Flood Protection | **Ecosystem Restoration** | **Recreation**

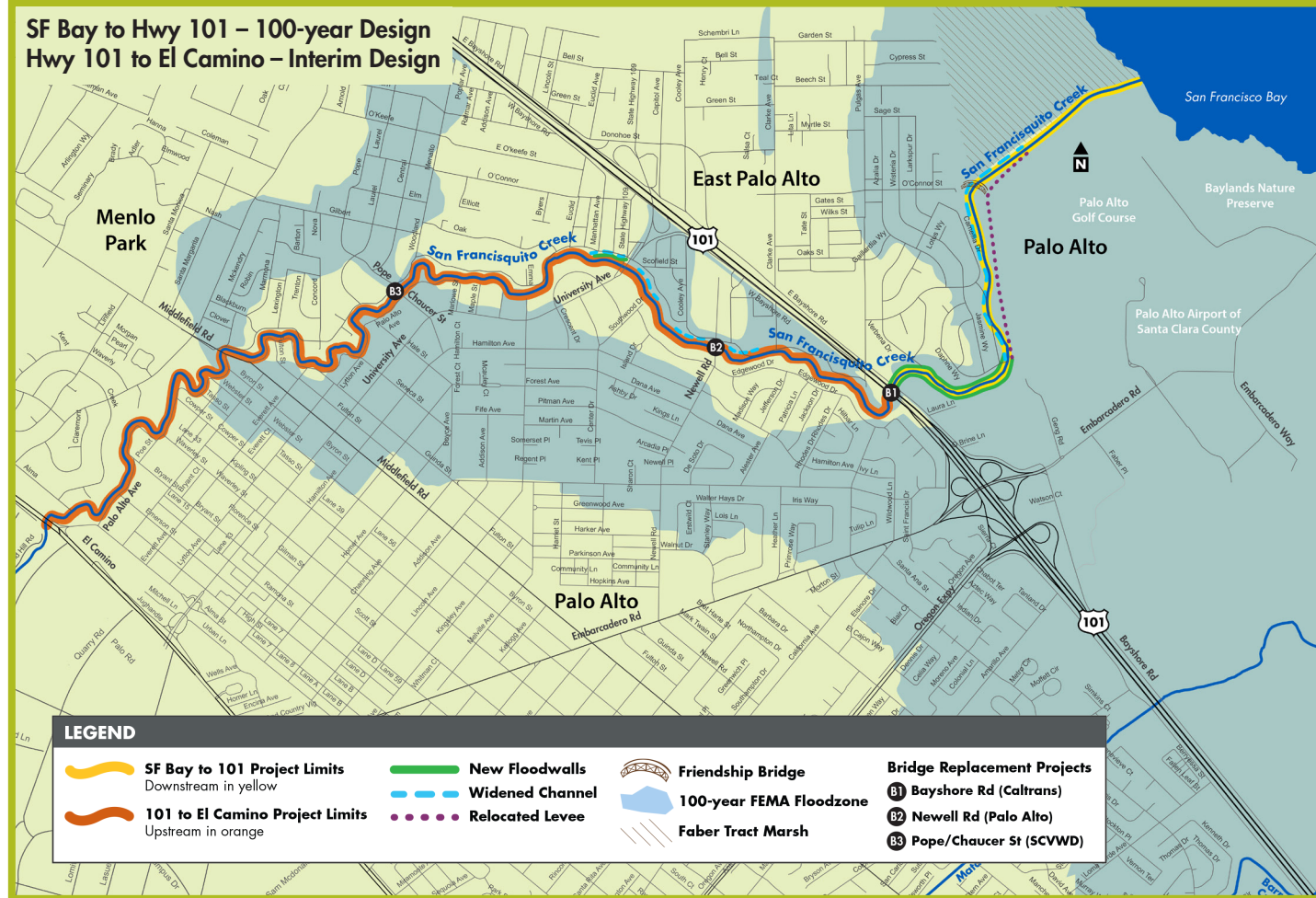
*Providing 100-year creek flood protection to more than 5,700 homes
and businesses in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.*



SFCJPA.ORG

San Francisquito Creek

Flood Protection | Ecosystem Restoration | Recreation



Project background

San Francisquito Creek has flooded on multiple occasions, most recently in December 2012. The largest recorded flood occurred February 3, 1998, when more than 1,700 homes and businesses were impacted, resulting in \$28 million in damages. Significant damages were also caused by flooding in 1955, 1958 and 1995 and by erosion in 1978, 1980 and 1982.

The goal of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority's (SFCJPA) creek related work is to protect more than **5,700** homes and businesses in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park by providing 100-year creek flood protection, during a 10-year tide with over two feet of sea level rise. A separate project to provide flood protection, ecosystem restoration and recreation along the Bay shoreline of these three cities will benefit approximately 5,000 properties.

About the project

The goal of the project is to provide 100-year* creek flood protection** to homes and businesses in the San Francisquito Creek floodplain. This is part of the SFCJPA's comprehensive plan to provide 100-year flood protection from both creek and tidal flooding, with the ultimate objective of removing homes and businesses from the 100-year Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood zone and requirement to purchase flood insurance.

Once completed, the San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection, Ecosystem Restoration, and Recreation project will provide flood protection to more than **5,700** homes and businesses in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

The multifaceted project is divided into two segments, from the San Francisco Bay to Highway 101 (Bay to 101) and upstream of Highway 101.

Segment: Bay to Highway 101

The SFCJPA's first major capital project to go to construction will protect the communities of East Palo Alto and Palo Alto from flooding along San Francisquito Creek between the San Francisco Bay and Highway 101. These communities are at high risk of severe flooding, both from flows coming down the creek and from the Bay tides within the creek channel.

Project elements include:

- Excavating sediment built up in the channel over decades
- New floodwalls
- Channel widening by relocating a levee into the Palo Alto Golf Course

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this project was certified in October 2012 and permit applications were submitted to the regulatory agencies in March 2013. An agreement to fund this project among six different agencies was completed in June 2014. After two years, the SFCJPA received all permits needed from regulatory agencies.

Schedule

Construction for the Bay to Highway 101 segment is scheduled to begin in 2016 and end in 2018.



San Francisquito Creek downstream of Highway 101

* A 100-year flood has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year or the likelihood of occurring once every 100 years.

** Creek flood protection applies to flooding from a creek, as opposed to tidal flooding.

Segment: Upstream of Highway 101

Since the fall of 2009, the SFCJPA, Santa Clara Valley Water District and other local agencies have been analyzing the capital improvements needed to provide 100-year creek flood protection for the flood-prone reach of San Francisquito Creek upstream of Highway 101.

Creek capacity improvements being analyzed include:

- Bridge replacement
- Channel widening and naturalization
- Construction of an upstream floodwater detention basin, underground bypass culvert and/or floodwalls

The environmental impacts for alternatives including these improvements are being analyzed by an SFCJPA Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Draft EIR release and public review period is scheduled for 2017.

A varying combination of detention basin(s), bypass culvert(s), and/or floodwalls will be included in each alternative, in addition to the necessary elements needed to improve current creek flooding conditions – bridge replacements and channel widening or bottle-neck replacement. As a result, planning and design for bridge replacements and channel widening are simultaneously moving forward with the EIR.

Schedule

- Caltrans is replacing the Highway 101 bridge, which is a major constriction to creek flow. Construction began in 2015 and is scheduled for completion in 2017.
- The City of Palo Alto is in the planning and design phase for the Newell Street bridge replacement project and expects to complete design in 2016.
- The Santa Clara Valley Water District is currently in the preliminary design phase for channel widening and the Pope/Chaucer Street bridge replacement project.



San Francisquito Creek upstream of Highway 101