

Minutes
San Francisquito Watershed Forum
February 12, 2009

In attendance were members from:

- Beyond Searsville Dam
- Jasper Ridge
- SFCJPA
- San Mateo County Water Pollution Prevention Program
- San Francisquito Watershed Project (Acterra)
- Streamkeepers
- The interested public

Beyond Searsville Dam – Matt Stoecker

Matt presented a slideshow on the watershed and dam, making a case for dam removal. Highlights included:

- Dam currently provides no drinking water, hydro power, flood control or fish passage.
- Dam is 90% full of sediment ~1.5 million cubic yards
- The lake is 12' deep at the dam.
- Corte Madera and Sausal Creeks, now inundated, were once highly sinuous channels.
- Restoring wetlands would restore a “sponge effect” and help with flood control.
- Exotic fish and bullfrogs now inhabit the ecosystem.
- There are still native rainbow trout above the dam.
- Coho salmon may have historically inhabited the SF watershed.

Spirited discussion followed Matt’s presentation. Philippe Cohen of Jasper Ridge and others made some observations of current conditions at Searsville:

- The lake is used by neo-tropical birds and bats, as well as other organisms.
- Stanford uses lake water for landscaping and fire protection in lieu of using drinking water.
- Removal closes the door to all other management options.
- Sediment has aggraded by several feet, so wetlands won’t return without additional work.
- The main stem of SF Creek may aggrade, reducing the channel cross-section and increasing flood potential following dam removal.

JPA Implementation Update – Kevin Murray

Kevin presented us with the timeline and a discussion of project alternatives. The current timeline is:

- Conduct Technical Analysis – *Consultant Interviews on 2/17/09*
- SFCJPA Board Action on Final Project Alternative – *Summer 2009*
- Design, Permitting and Environmental Review – *2009 to 2011*
- Funding and Construction Agreements – *2010*
- Construction Begins – *Summer 2011*

Alternatives currently under consideration include:

1. widen the Creek channel, possibly with a new, natural mouth into the San Francisco Bay
2. create a secondary channel through the Golf Course
3. increase flow capacity under Highway 101 in conjunction with Caltrans construction
4. retention basin(s) higher in the watershed to delay storm flows

Prop. 84 grant proposal for Low Impact Development (LID) – Matt Fabry, SMCWPPP

Matt of the San Mateo County Water Pollution Prevention Program is seeking support for a proposed grant application for San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to promote and build green streets and parking lots. Benefits of such development include:

- Better storm water quality – filtering pollutants
- Increasing available groundwater
- Slower runoff – less “flashy” system

Matt says SF Creek area is an ideal area due to the bi-county location, making the grant application more regional in scale. San Mateo has built small-scale demonstration projects, and the grant would go to build larger scale projects in the vicinity of the creek.

Matt also cited the Palo Alto rebate program, which gives homeowner rebates for:

- Rain Barrels
- Permeable Paving
- Cisterns
- Green Roofs

