

City of Palo Alto
Office of the Mayor and City Council

February 9, 2016

R. Zachary Wasserman, Chair
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600
San Francisco, CA 94102-7019

RE: Letter of Support for San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority's San Francisquito Creek Flood Damage Reduction, Ecosystem Restoration, and Recreation Enhancement Project (San Francisco Bay to Highway 101) – Permit Application 2013.007.00

Dear Mr. Wasserman:

As a member agency of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA), the City of Palo Alto (City) has been working on providing flood protection for the thousands of residents who live in the flood-prone areas within the San Francisquito Creek (Creek) watershed. In 2013, the SFCJPA submitted a permit application for the San Francisquito Creek Flood Damage Reduction, Ecosystem Restoration, and Recreation Enhancement Project (San Francisco Bay to Highway 101), which focuses on flood control improvements in the downstream section of the Creek, east of Highway 101 in the cities of East Palo Alto and Palo Alto. This project represents the first phase of improvements aimed at providing residents with protection from the 1% (100-year) flood event, including the impacts of future sea level rise. This initial project increases Creek capacity in the downstream reach prior to the implementation of improvements in the upper reaches, an approach that minimizes the transfer of flood risk that would occur if improvements were first made to areas in the upper watershed.

Because of the importance of a targeted, phased approach to flood protection in the Creek watershed, the San Francisco Bay to Highway 101 Project is a critical first step towards providing overall flood protection for Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and East Palo Alto residents and businesses. Once the project is underway, the SFCJPA will continue to evaluate and implement additional flood protection projects required in the upstream reaches of the Creek.

Our community and neighboring cities continue to face a significant and growing risk of flooding from the Creek. We respectfully request the approval of the SFCJPA's San Francisco Bay to Highway 101 Project BCDC permit application. With the implementation of this project, we will be able continue our efforts to provide increased flood protection to our residents.

Sincerely,



Patrick Burt
Mayor

cc: Palo Alto City Council
Len Materman, SFCJPA Executive Director
Larry Goldzband, BCDC Executive Director
Jim Keene, Palo Alto City Manager

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