

CRESCENT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK FLOOD INFORMATION

including City Council Candidate's Statements On The Flooding Issue and Update from Len Materman of the Joint Powers Authority

Here are some links to further information on the candidates:

Read PAN City Council Candidate [Questionnaire Responses](#)

2009 City Council Election (<http://www.paneighborhoods.org/>)

Council Candidate [Information](#)

City Council Election Issues [survey results](#)

League of Women Voters [Council Member; City of Palo Alto](#)

<http://www.smartvoter.org/2009/11/03/ca/scl/race/5121/>

Scientists find earliest AIDS case
CHICAGO (AP) — Scientists have pinpointed what is believed to be the earliest known case of AIDS — an African man who died in 1959 — and say the discovery suggests the virus first infected people in the 1940s or early '50s.
Where AIDS came from is still a mystery, although experts assume an ancestor of the virus crossed from monkeys or other primates into people at some point. However, whether this occurred in recent decades or centuries ago is a matter of debate.
Now, researchers say they have conducted genetic analysis of an HIV sample that appears to date back to the 1950s.
See AIDS, page 21

Texas executes born-again killer
HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Karl Faye Tucker, the pitiless killer whose born-again Christianity sparked a worldwide debate over redemption and restitution on death row, was executed yesterday.
Tucker, 35, had been convicted of hacking a man and woman to death during a 1983 break-in.
She became the first woman executed in Texas since the Civil War, and the first nationwide since 1984.
In her final words, Tucker said she was sorry for her sins.
See WALLER, page 21

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INSIDE
Rape at Stanford
A rapist remains at large following Stanford's second dorm rape this school year. See page 5

Folk's back in 10
Stanford's Kristin Folk will be back in the lineup in 10 days after she fractured her back in her shooting hand. See page 26

Nuke your computer
Clinton wants more nuclear testing using computers, and a couple of local companies will benefit from his plans. See page 10

Novelist buys team
Tom Clancy has bought the Minnesota Vikings. See page 12

Flood slams Palo Alto
Worst since 1955; much of the city still underwater
BY BRIAN BODWIN
San Francisco Creek jumped its banks yesterday, leaving a vast section of Palo Alto underwater and forcing firefighters to use boats to evacuate hundreds from their soggy homes.
The flood — the Peninsula's worst since 1955 — inundated homes, cars, basements and streets in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park after a relentless storm dumped nearly four inches of rain in a 24-hour period.
About 375 people in the three communities were driven from their homes by rising San Francisco Creek waters, officials said.
Palo Alto City Manager June Fleming declared a state of emergency and Palo Alto school Superintendent Don Phillips ordered the schools closed yesterday.
Classes will resume today with the exception of flood-damaged Divisadero Elementary School, which will open tomorrow, Phillips said.
In Palo Alto, the storm dumped 3.75 inches of rain at the fire station at Embarcadero and Newell roads during the 24 hours ending yesterday at 8 a.m.
In Woodside, the fire department closed the road.
See FLOOD, page 7

Higher ground — Four stand on dry land on Desoto Drive. Daily News photo by Brian Bodwin.

Flood of 1998 stretches for two miles
A map shows the flooded area stretching for two miles along San Francisco Creek. The map labels areas in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Menlo Park, including San Francisco Creek, Divisadero, and various streets like University Ave, Elgin Ave, and others. Flooded areas are shown in gray.

4 PAGES OF FLOOD COVERAGE INSIDE
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► Storm makes a mess statewide. Page 9

City runs out of sandbags, more ordered
BY ELAINE GOODMAN
Residents arrived in droves at Palo Alto's sandbag stations yesterday only to find them empty, even though the city quadrupled its sandbagging program this season.
Some were so desperate, they took bags to Johnson Park and cleaned out the sandbox.
"They have been running out all day," said Public Works Coordinator Janet Portman. "As fast as we can put it down, it's gone."
Residents picked up about 9,000 sandbags yesterday at Palo Alto's four sandbag stations, according to City Clerk Gloria Young, who was serving as the city's flood spokesman.
In previous years, the city only had one sandbag station.
At many of 20,000 sandbags.
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Chaucer bridge in 1907



1948 narrowing "renovation" of Chaucer bridge

Dear Neighbor,

The election for five vacant seats in the Palo Alto City Council is on November 3. The Crescent Park Neighborhood Association Board sent the following background statement on the San Francisquito Creek flooding problem to each candidate, and invited them to respond on the issue. Leon Leong, Corey Levens, John Hackmann, Brian Steen, Greg Scharff, Gail Price, Larry Klein, Dan Dykwel, Karen Holman, Chris Gaither, Mark Weiss and Nancy Shepherd responded. Their responses are also provided below.

We also asked Len Materman, Executive Director of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority, to give an update on the JPA's efforts on flood control. His response appears at the end of this booklet.

CRESCENT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK FLOOD INFORMATION

The Crescent Park Neighborhood Association has been concerned about the problem of flooding from San Francisquito Creek for many years. Because you are a candidate for City Council, we would like to inform you about this issue, and to that end the attached write-up gives you some background from our perspective. We would be very interested in your position on this issue. Any written comments that you care to submit by October 23 will be circulated to our membership.

The City of Palo Alto experienced a flood in February of 1998 that caused over \$28M (in 1998 dollars) in damages to hundreds of residences in the City of Palo Alto. Similar damage would cost approximately \$50M in today's dollars even with the recession.



By far the major cause of the flooding was the Chaucer Street Bridge, which diverted water into our streets and flooded hundreds of homes — not only in the Crescent Park neighborhood, but also in the Duvenek-St. Francis and Greer Park areas near Route 101.

The capacity of the Chaucer Street Bridge is reliably estimated to be approximately 1,000 cubic feet per second less than the capacity that the creek would otherwise have at the location of the bridge.

The City of Palo Alto was the major contributor to a \$3.5M settlement of the suit brought by a small number of owners whose homes were flooded in 1998. The lawsuit was based on a claim of inverse condemnation — i.e., alleging that the Chaucer Street Bridge was a public work, and that its presence in the creek caused flooding that damaged the properties of the claimants.

The City of Palo Alto was responsible for the conversion of the Chaucer Street Bridge, in the 1940's, from what was previously a clear span bridge that would not have contributed to any flooding problem, instead creating a culvert with a limited capacity that is a major cause of flooding.

Since the 1998 flood, the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (JPA) has embarked on a long range plan to solve the "100 Year Flood" problem. This is not expected to produce any actual results for at least 20 years or longer, at a cost of tens of millions of dollars. More recently, the JPA has approved a short-term project to address problems downstream of 101. This is a good project, but it only indirectly addresses the problem of flooding from Chaucer Street Bridge (the below-101 work is viewed by many as a prerequisite to the above-101 work).

There is a high probability that before the long term, total solution for the creek can be implemented, there will be another heavy rainfall such as the one that happened in 1998. If the Chaucer Street Bridge continues to limit the creek flow below the natural creek bank capacity, another 1998-level flood will occur. Indeed, the bridge will cause flooding at rates even less than that of the 1998 flood. The City of Palo Alto should not sit back and wait for the JPA to complete its long range solution. To do so continues to expose the residents of Palo Alto to the risks of flooding, and expose all citizens of the City — even those who are not likely to be flooded — to the risks of having to pay for the flood damage by having their tax dollars go to settle or respond to a judgment in any future lawsuit resulting from flooding caused by the Chaucer Street Bridge.

The City of Palo Alto has a history of taking the lead in solving its own problems and implementing creative solutions to difficult problems.



The problem created by the Chaucer Street Bridge is something that the City of Palo Alto can fix, and ought to fix, without waiting for the federal government, or any other local agencies, to bail it out. Of course, the city must work with other agencies such as the San Francisco Joint Powers Authority. But Palo Alto should be at the front line, pushing for a short term solution to 1998-level flooding, and not simply wait and see what the JPA or others do to fix the problem.

In light of the city's present financial condition, the Crescent Park Neighborhood Association will commit to organizing a Public/Private partnership to help with the cost of replacing the bridge. However, the Crescent Park Neighborhood Association will start the organization only after the City of Palo Alto has committed to replacing the bridge.

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

Leon Leong:

I believe that the Chaucer Street bridge is just one of several issues involved with flood control; an improvement on the Chaucer bridge, would help reduce the potential for flooding, but not necessarily eliminate every possibility. From other presentations that I've seen on the subject, the JPA involves a lot of government entities, which makes it difficult to move expeditiously.

I would support a redesign & replacement of the Chaucer Street Bridge through a public/private partnership, given the appropriate parameters:

- 1) It not increase the potential of flooding along any portion of the creek
- 2) It remain a public right of way
- 3) The public/private partnership have an appropriate governance & funding structure.
- 4) Cooperation with the City of Menlo Park.

Hopefully this is an issue that the next council can make progress on!

Corey Levens:

Thank you for your email concerning the flooding from San Francisquito Creek in the Crescent Park neighborhood. Though I have not had an opportunity to perform extensive research on this matter, I believe I have enough information to take a preliminary position on this issue.

I agree with the statement of the Crescent Park Neighborhood Association that the project recently announced by the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority appears to be a good one. After fifty years, it is a welcome development. As the solutions and “fixes” being discussed are subject to future studies and are not imminent, however, there is clearly a need to take corrective action in the short term. Hoping and praying that we do not experience the “100 Year Flood” in the interim is not a solution.

In general, I would favor taking corrective action in this case to minimize potential damages and losses to the Palo Alto residents who are at risk. Also, where, as in this case, there is the potential for liability for all Palo Alto residents, i.e., from legal liabilities, I am even more inclined to support such a project. Perhaps most significantly, where there is prior precedent to serve as a guide, namely, the flooding in 1998, it seems to me that the need for preventive action becomes unquestionable and, even more, should be a priority.

I am also an avid supporter of public-private partnerships and would seek to encourage such arrangements wherever possible and feasible if I am elected to the City Council. The willingness of the Crescent Park residents to organize such a public-private partnership makes the decision to proceed with this project that much easier and speaks volumes to the level of civic engagement and community concern existing in the Crescent Park neighborhood.

As an aside, with regard to public-private partnerships, while I am very much in favor of such arrangements, it is not always the case that such cooperation is necessarily for the general public welfare. The more I have learned about the Lytton Plaza project, for example, the more concerned I am about the process by which it was approved and funded. In general, such projects must be beneficial to the City and the residents at large in order to justify the public participation. In addition, in any such project the relative commitments of the public and private entities must be well defined and delineated. Such projects must stay within their prescribed budgets and not become drains on public funds.

I hope I have been responsive to your questions. If not, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to discuss these issues with you further.

John Hackmann

Flooding is a very important issue on many levels, the severe property loss, the clean up time, insurance claims, lost work time, possible mold development, reduction in home value, and in many other ways.

Recent developments hold some hope. I followed the presentation to Council on the increased flow options in the lower portion of the Creek. Also, it seems that a more professional leadership has emerged to work with the Corps of Engineers. So, more funding may be in the pipeline.

In my opinion, partial solutions that are cost effective should be implemented immediately, unless there is good reason to believe they would worsen the problem elsewhere. Jean McGowan of Stanford stated a high upstream basin would be only partially effective, but still, partial is helpful. Also, permeable pavements, and rain barrels on gutters as proposed would be a slight help, but probably very slight.

To me, I am still concerned that in the many years of non-action the leader of the joint powers group hired an assistant, both at very high rates and with high annual costs and little progress, and only later disclosed that the new employee was a nephew of hers. All around said there was no clear policy on anti-nepotism so it was OK. I disagree. If those are indeed the facts, it was not OK.

Council needs to make creek control and flood control a high priority.

Infrastructure like this has been neglected in Palo Alto by our Council.

Well-engineered solutions need to be agreed upon, funded, and carried out. It was a pretty hard rain in October.

Brian Steen:

Thanks for presenting this information on behalf of the Crescent Park Neighborhood Association.

I've done some research on the issues associated with San Francisquito Creek flooding, the JPA efforts and other management groups.

If replacing the Chaucer St. bridge would solve the problems shown on the JPA website without creating new impacts, I believe it would have been done by now.

I'm supportive of the JPA's continued work and will commit to moving the decision/funding process faster (that is my approach to many Palo Alto issues). I see the improvements proposed by the JPA on all three reaches as integral and connected improvements that should proceed on an engineering based priority.

I don't believe achieving a lasting solution should drag on for years and will work to shorten the process and accelerate deployment of the best solutions.

Thanks for providing this opportunity to comment.

Greg Scharff:

I believe that it must be a priority of the City Council to insure the safety of our residents and their property. I agree that the City of Palo Alto should not sit back and wait for the JPA to complete its long range solution. To do so would continue to expose the residents of the Crescent Park Neighborhood to the risks of flooding. This is

unacceptable and it must be a high priority of the City of Palo Alto to resolve this problem and protect our residents.

I am the only candidate that has made organizing public private partnerships to strengthen our community a top priority. At my website Electgregscharff.com and in the Pan Questionnaire I have taken a strong stand in favor of public/private partnerships.

I am very pleased that the Crescent Park Neighborhood Association will commit to organizing a Public/Private partnership to help with the cost of replacing the bridge. I believe that this is a realistic and workable solution to a pressing problem. As a City council member I will commit to working with the Association to make this Public/Private partnership a reality.

Gail Price:

Thank you for the information about the history of the San Francisquito Creek Flood. Given the potential for a serious flood and the consequences of not addressing the issue of Chaucer Street Bridge, I would ask for information to substantiate that the short-term proposal by the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (JPA) is truly insufficient to provide significantly improved flood protection. It seems that rather than funding “interim” solutions that a broader long-term solution would be more desirable and make fiscal sense. Since \$400 million dollars of needed unfunded infrastructure improvements have already been identified by the City of Palo Alto, the concept of a public/private partnership for this project certainly seems worth exploring. I would also examine what other funding mechanisms for comparable projects may have been used successfully by other local and regional governments.

Larry Klein:

Thank you for your invitation to comment on the San Francisquito Creek potential flood situation.

It's been more than eleven years since the '98 flood and no significant action has taken place despite a great deal of effort by many well intentioned people. As I said in frustration at one public meeting on this subject, this is the most intractable issue I've confronted in my thirteen years as a Council Member. This is because of the need to get approval of any plan by the various jurisdictions in the JPA, then the approval of the Army corps of Engineers and only then determine a funding mechanism.

The JPA has moved glacially but I am feeling somewhat better about its direction under the leadership of its new Executive Director Len Materman. Still, we need to move faster.

In developing any action plan we must keep in mind the medical dictum “First, do no harm.” We have a moral, legal, political and financial obligation to make sure that no action we take places the people downstream from us in East Palo Alto at greater risk. The downstream improvements now planned are thus a significant step in the right direction.

But we cannot accept the present time line of completing planning by 2020 and beginning construction of the upstream improvements by 2025. Yikes!

Two action steps that we can and should take may help us to accelerate this time line. First, we need to step up our lobbying effort in Washington, D.C. Palo Alto has recently hired a new lobbying firm to represent the City. They recently appeared before the City Council and one of the things they emphasized was that on virtually any issue Palo Alto's chances of getting federal monies are substantially enhanced if we are part of a regional effort. They noted that this was likely a factor in our recently obtaining the funds we did for the Creek, modest though they are.

Second, Menlo Park Mayor Heyward Robinson, this year's head of the JPA, has suggested that we have a local bond measure election re flood protection for the Creek. The details of such an election would of course need to be worked out but a positive vote would send a strong message to Washington that we need action now.

My interest in this issue is personal as well as governmental. My son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons live in Crescent Park.

Dan Dykwel:

I can appreciate the frustration of the residents of Crescent Park with the slow response by the JPA to flood mitigation efforts. This has certainly been a protracted study period with no apparent funding identified, nor an agreed upon plan of capital projects. I have reviewed the slide presentations and the "Critical Issues and Questions Regarding JPA Capital Projects" dated July of 2009. I certainly don't need to repeat here what you already know.

As you are painfully aware, the numerous jurisdictions and the dependency on the Corps of Engineers and scarce funding for studies and planning have all exacerbated the situation. Even the proposed letting of consultant contracts for planning and specifications and an EIR for more work east of US 101 would be for work to begin no earlier than 2011.

The Crescent Park neighborhood interests lie in what Palo Alto can do to move the effort forward. I applaud your proposal to form a public/private partnership to help fund a replacement for the Chaucer street bridge, the bottleneck in the middle section of the San Francisquito Creek watershed. There are no fast or simple answers to solving this difficult situation, but the lack of an aggressive timeline for action is certainly problematic. I do not know to what extent community members have volunteered to assist with data collection or writing draft EIRs, or whether it's even feasible, but it seems as though it might be a way to shorten the work the consultants must do before presenting findings that can result in the approval of the capital projects needed to start solving the flooding.

As a Council member, I will consider this effort an important part of the infrastructure repair and replacement, along with streets and sidewalks, needed to bring our city back to a state of safety and comfort and will work to move it forward with the

speed our residents deserve. I would also look more closely at the potential to accelerate an agreement to detain water in the foothills, despite the multitude of political jurisdictions. Of course, I understand that most of those upper stream jurisdictions are not affected by flooding so have much less incentive to invest time and energy in this problem. Regardless, we need to make the case based on regional cooperation.

Karen Holman:

One of the primary responsibilities of government is to protect life and provide safety for community members. As such, the flooding issue needs to be addressed more quickly than 20 years hence.

Replacement/redesign of the Chaucer Street Bridge appears to provide considerable improvement in flood management. The offer of a public-private partnership in these difficult economic times further reduces reasons to delay. The City should accept the offer and address these concerns in the near term, potentially also taking advantage of lower construction costs during the economic downturn. Fixing the issue might also well be less expensive than settling a second lawsuit.

Chris Gaither:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment to your Crescent Park Neighborhood Association regarding the Chaucer Bridge and creek flooding situation. I recall all too well the challenges of the flood, and the resulting issues when the then City Manager received sand bag protection for her home.

Per the attached document [the CPNA statement], it is important for the City of Palo Alto to be more pro-active in solving the Chaucer bridge and San Francisquito Creek challenges. To wait for an agency such as the JPA to bring about a solution, and one that will take another 20 years (plus) to fully implement is basically saying let's wait for others to determine our future, as we are certain they have our personal interests in mind and will fully address our concerns in due time, but we must be patient and wait. Does Gulliver's Travels sound familiar to anyone?

History shows us all too well (the recurring Oakland Hill fires, and the recent typhoons in the Philippines) that if the correct and proper action is not fully implemented, the same results will occur over and over. You can count on it! How many times have people in the Oakland Hills rebuilt their homes after each damaging wild fire? I have relatives in the Philippines who had severe damage to their home during this past typhoon - the same type of damage they experienced in a similar typhoon not long ago. Yet, just like the residents of Oakland Hills, they simply rebuild their homes, but nothing is ever done to address and mitigate the source of the problem.

As a city council person, I would fully support the Crescent Park Association's pro-active steps to find funding for this project via public-private partnerships, and I would approve an initiative for the city to implement a permanent fix to the problem. I would work with the Association to bring before the entire council the necessary well thought out plan that would ultimately be approved for action.

Of course, just before an election and during a campaign, one would expect a candidate to normally take such a position. You know, the old say one thing they want to hear, and never do anything later once elected. The question becomes when one is in the “hot seat” (on the council) what would one do when actually faced with the call to the question?

It is important to have leaders on the council. Those who are willing to go outside the norm, and to think outside the box to find solutions for on-going problems. In addition, when I managed properties, I always appreciated having the eyes and ears of the residents to help me find solutions, and to point out potential problems that loom down the road. We have a wealth of human resources in Palo Alto. The ultimate solution to this challenge is most likely to come from the very residents that are affected by the problem - which is often the case. Again, if you let others determine your fate, you normally don't receive what is in your best interest. Your association has been waiting for years since the 1998 flood to have a real and permanent fix to the bridge problem. This is an issue that has been expressed to all city councils since the flood. Along with some other on-going city wide concerns and delayed infrastructure projects, Palo Alto finds itself facing the same challenges with respect to certain issues year after year with no real forthcoming results. Your association, as well as all Palo Alto residents need a council that will establish policies and procedures that address real life and local issues.

I do have one question for your association - what type of private companies do you have in mind to approach for funding and other solutions related to the bridge? I would suggest looking at large companies that are doing well and have an interest in Palo Alto like Apple, Facebook and Google. These are cutting edge companies that have the Einstein view of “Believe” anything is possible, and they identify with Palo Alto's outlook on life. They also would probably respond well to a “venture funding” like presentation for engaging in such a public-private partnership. After all, these companies would respect such a creative request as they all had to ask for “funding” to achieve their respective visions.

I sincerely hope for the sake of your association, and all of Palo Alto, new council leadership will do more than listen to your concerns, but will actually pro-actively work with you the residents to find a permanent solution to the Chaucer bridge problem during the next four years. I would be happy to provide my personal help to your association regarding this issue whether I am elected or not. The camaraderie and relationships I have developed with my co-candidates will not end regardless of the results of the election as relationships are the most important part of any endeavor. You now have my email address and contact information. Please let me know how I can help your association truly move forward with this issue.

Mark Weiss:

Feel free to ring me at 650.305.0701 and I will come out to meet you or any one from CPNA and I'd be happy to walk through the neighborhood and survey the offending structure or facility.

Meanwhile, and not to appear dismissive or snide, you might take the opportunity to peruse the following passage, John Kennedy's famous inaugural address, especially the concluding section, paragraph 23 or so.

I was in utero at the time of his death but do believe that my term on this planet overlaps with his -- he, like his more recently deceased brother Ted, are influences on me.

http://www.famousquotes.me.uk/speeches/John_F_Kennedy/5.htm

If you need a land use attorney, again not to be snide, -- sincerely -- I recommend Owen Byrd, a former city planner/ commissioner I believe who I met at Bay Area Action (where I also met current Mayor Drekmeier). In terms of property and land use stuff, I think the current board is very pro property owner, especially Larry Klein.

I'm interested in helping you but my predilection is more towards social issues, community services, First Amendment, the arts, democracy reform and not property rights per se. But I am pretty new at this and willing to learn.

Nancy Shepherd:

My position on this issue is that these types of threats to private property for Palo Alto homeowners need to have proper expediency in resolution. If elected I intend to use neighborhood organizations, such as Crescent Park, as the eyes and ears for council so that collaboration can build a resolve for solutions to problems just like potential San Francisquito Creek flooding.

Tim Gray:

Any City's primary purpose and obligation is to protect the life and property of the residents of the community. Therefore, by definition, getting a solution to the creek flooding automatically elevates a solution to the flooding to the highest priority.

Of course, we must seek cooperation and coordination from our regional partners, however the urgency of the situation demands that the City take aggressive steps to solve the problem.

This is the kind of project that should be funded from a Standard Repair and Maintenance, Infrastructure reserve fund, but instead of having a "Piggy Bank" to fund our City's essential needs like this, we have raided the "Piggy Bank" and left a \$450 Million IOU in its place.

Specifically, we have a documented \$450 million in unfunded infrastructure needs, and this is the direct result of many years of councils spending all available revenues on operations, as opposed to setting aside adequate reserves. The political theory goes that making tough choices about efficient and lean operations is much more tough than ignoring prudent capital and repairs reserves. The slippery slope of politics as usual assumes that by the time accountability is required, it will fall on someone else's watch.

Well, that Turkey has landed and in 2009 we are informed that our generation has been fleeced by those that have gone before us. To the issue at hand, we must make the protection of life and property our number one priority, find the funds to get a solution to

the potential flooding in place, and structural adjust our spending on operations to make room for future infrastructure needs, as well as the urgent past projects we have ignored.

Only from the point of balance can we really achieve a sustainable financial balance.

MESSAGE FROM LEN MATERMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

On October 22, the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority Board authorized JPA Executive Director Len Materman to sign an agreement with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and San Mateo County Flood Control District to fund the design and environmental planning of a project to bring 100-year flood protection to Palo Alto and East Palo Alto downstream of Highway 101. The Board also authorized Len to sign contracts with a design firm and an environmental planning firm so that construction on the project can begin in 2011. This project is timed to be completed before a Caltrans project begins construction on the Highway 101 bridge over the Creek, which will increase the Creek's capacity at that location to a 100-year flow level. In addition to the flood, ecological and recreational benefits, these projects will allow for work upstream of Highway 101 all the way to Middlefield Road.

Bringing 100-year flood protection to that reach of the Creek is anticipated to be the most complicated and costly part of the JPA's comprehensive flood management program. A recent JPA study has indicated that solving this problem would be more achievable by temporarily detaining water during a major storm upstream of Highway 280 on Stanford University land. Additionally, the JPA has begun to develop a scope of work for a consultant to study possible designs to solving the Highway 101 to Middlefield problem, and the relationship between upstream detention and this reach; a study they anticipate happening during the first half of 2010.

Meanwhile, the comprehensive Feasibility Study by the Army Corps of Engineers continues, amid efforts by the JPA to accelerate the process by advancing the Corps local funds, taking on tasks normally done by the Corps, and by securing federal appropriations to the project. Over the next few months, the JPA will be taking a look at the resources needed to implement capital projects between Middlefield and the Bay, and upstream of Highway 280, as well as supporting the Feasibility Study. Finally, the JPA is developing a new website for the public and for emergency responders that will incorporate rainfall and flow data from throughout the watershed to provide a more comprehensive picture of expected Creek flow in the flood zone of the three cities; this website will be complete this fall.

