

San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

Reach 2 Project Status

Presentation to Valley Water
Board of Directors
October 28, 2025



SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

What is The San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority?

Five Members

Created in 1999 to address
flooding impacting multiple
jurisdictions

Collaboratively plan, design, and
coordinate funding for flood risk
reduction projects



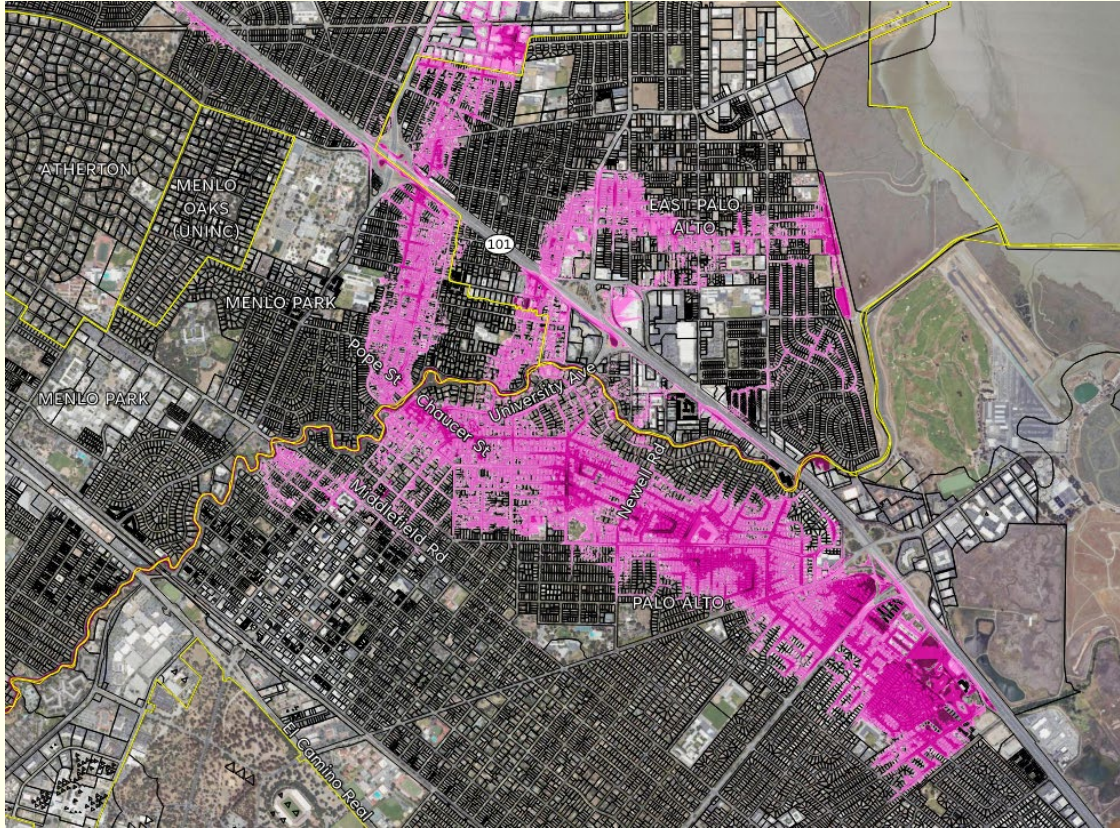
Completed Reach 1 Project at Friendship Bridge



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Project Goals



Modeled flooding extents at a 7,200 cfs storm, similar to the 1998 “Flood of Record”. Results are preliminary and uses a draft hydraulic model pending USACE certification.

Protect To What Level?

Up to the “Flood of Record” (~7,200 cubic feet per second (cfs) or a 70-year event)

Protect How Many Properties?

- ~ 857 in Menlo Park
- ~ 1,252 in East Palo Alto
- ~ 2,943 in Palo Alto

Provide What Other Benefits?

- Enhance creek habitat
- Protect trees as much as possible
- Add recreation opportunities

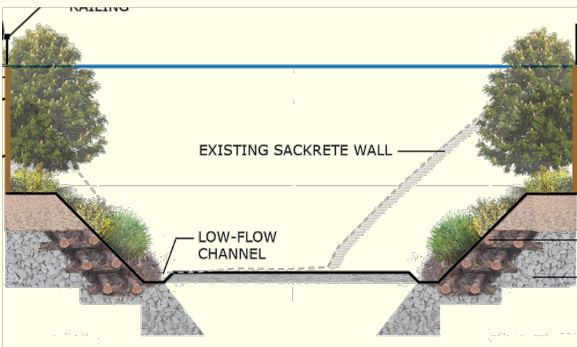


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Summary of WRA Report Alternatives

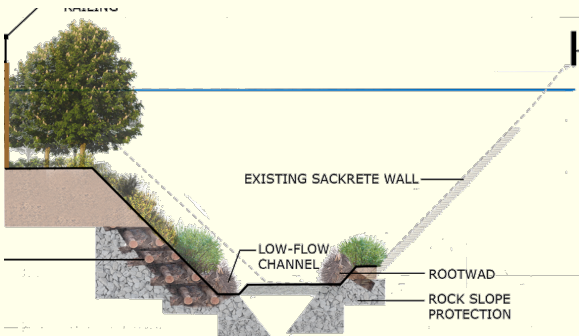
Alternative 1

- Pope Chaucer Bridge replaced
- Widening (both banks) – 4600 LF
- Fixed floodwalls (average 1-3.5 feet high)



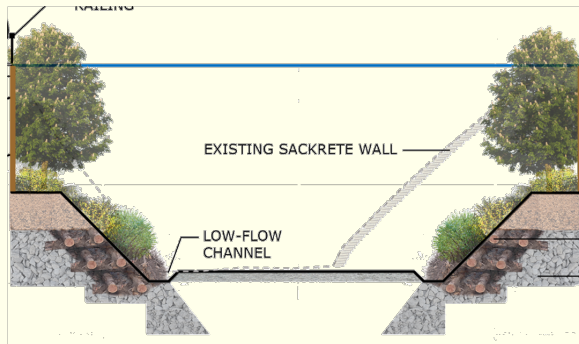
Alternative 2

- Pope Chaucer Bridge replaced
- Widening (left bank only) – 2300 LF
- Fixed floodwalls (average 2-4 feet high)



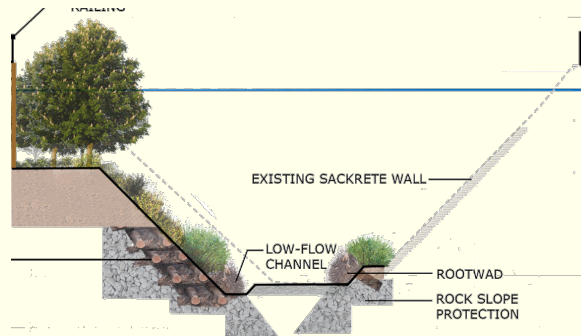
Alternative 3

- Pope Chaucer Bridge modification with culverts
- Widening (both banks) – 4600 LF
- Fixed floodwalls (average 1-3.5 feet high)



Alternative 4

- Pope Chaucer Bridge modification with culverts
- Widening (left bank only) – 2300 LF
- Fixed floodwalls (average 2-4 feet high)



Draft WRA Alternatives Evaluation Report – Project Elements

- Channel Widening – “No Regrets”
 - Remove natural and constructed pinch points in the channel.
 - Optimally widen where access and rights-of-way make construction easier
 - Add toe-of-bank log crib structures for stabilization and habitat enhancement.
- Add floodwalls from upstream of Pope-Chaucer Bridge to Highway 101
- Remove the existing Pope-Chaucer Bridge and replace with an open-span design.



Conceptual rendering of channel widening, floodwall, and walking trail near Cooley Ave and Woodland Ave



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Draft Alternatives Evaluation Report – Key Findings

Key findings –

- No single evaluated action can meet project goals
- Widening in key locations is beneficial, but cannot reach project goals alone
- Replacing the Pope-Chaucer Bridge brings benefits and risks
- Middlefield Rd. Bridge is also a problem area and will be added to the project scope.



Picture of a concrete structure creating a pinch point that would be removed during channel widening



Current Project Activities

Additional Due Diligence Studies:

- Bypass tunnel(s)
- Strategically located permanent passive flood barriers
- Resolve questions or concerns about project elements



Top: Stormwater conveyance tunnel proposed in Harris County, TX



Bottom: Retractable flood barrier



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Anticipated Next Steps

- Final Alternatives Evaluation Report
 - Confirm draft evaluation using the USACE certified Existing Conditions Model
 - Conclude evaluations of potential creek bypass and passive barrier actions
 - Explore potential actions at Middlefield Rd.
- Board selection of the components of the Reach 2 project
- Develop a cost share framework
- Move forward with final design, permitting, and additional CEQA.



Temporary wooden parapet at University Ave



Concrete terrace at Site 2



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OneShoreline
Building Solutions for a Changing Climate



Valley Water

You can learn more about the SFCJPA and our projects on our website: www.sfcjpa.org

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