Attachment 11. Program Preferences

The proposed San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Capital Improvement Project would increase stream flow capacity in San Francisquito Creek from the downstream face of East Bayshore Road to San Francisco Bay. It would reduce local flood risks during storm events, as well as provide the capacity needed for upstream flood protection projects being planned by the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA). Increasing the Creek's flow capacity from San Francisco Bay to Highway 101 would be achieved by widening the Creek channel within the reach to convey peak flows for 100-year storm events, removing an un-maintained levee-type structure downstream of Friendship Bridge to allow flood flows from the Creek channel into the Palo Alto Baylands Preserve north of the Creek, and configuring flood walls in the upper part of the reach for consistency with structure for Caltrans' enlargement of the Highway 101/East Bayshore Road Bridge over San Francisquito Creek. Project elements include flood walls in the upper project reach downstream of East Bayshore Road, levee setbacks and creek widening in the middle reach between East Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course, and an overflow terrace at a marsh elevation along the Baylands Preserve.

Summary of Program Preferences Addressed by Proposal

The California Public Resources Code §75026 (b) and California Water Code §10544 state that preference will be given to proposals that meet a variety of criteria as set forth on page 12 of the Proposition 84 and Proposition 1E Guidelines dated August 2010. The Guidelines further state that projects seeking SWFM funding must provide "multiple benefits, including, but not limited to, water quality improvements, ecosystem benefits, reduction of instream erosion and sedimentation, and groundwater recharge."

This project will (1) eliminate the significant flooding issues and associated public health threat to a disadvantaged community (DAC) up to the 100-year storm coincident with the 100-year high tide, taking into account a potential 26-inch rise in sea level over the next 50 years; (2) provide for the creation and restoration of approximately 20.1 acres of high quality marsh habitat, ideal for the listed salt marsh harvest mouse and California clapper rail; (3) provide recreation benefits by replacing bicycle paths along the crown of the levees, creating additional gravel trails, and adding benches and interpretive panels at the footing of the existing Friendship Bridge; and (4) provide water quality benefits by reducing flood-related debris and pollutant loading in San Francisquito Creek and San Francisco Bay.

The proposed project also achieves multiple Program Preferences. Of particular significance, there is a **HIGH DEGREE OF CERTAINTY** that the Proposal will address critical water quality needs of DACs. Design and environmental documentation for this project are expected to be completed by early 2012, and the project will be implemented expeditiously following completion, lending a **HIGH DEGREE OF CERTAINTY** that the project will proceed as planned, providing significant **LOCAL, REGIONAL, and STATEWIDE benefits**.

Table 11-1 below identifies the Program Preferences addressed by the proposed project. A more detailed discussion of the program preferences addressed by the Project and the certainty, breadth and magnitude by which the Preference will be met is provided on the following pages.

Table 11-1: Program Preferences Addressed

Program Preference	Addresses Preference?	Certainty of Benefits	Breadth and Magnitude of Benefits
Regional Project	Yes	High	Local, Regional, and Statewide
Integrates Water Management Strategies	Yes	High	Local, Regional, and Statewide
Reduced Conflict	No	n/a	n/a
Contributes to CALFED Objectives	Yes	High	Local, Regional, and Statewide
Addresses WS and WQ Needs of DACs	***Yes***	***High***	***Local***
Integrates Water and Land Use Management	Yes	High	Local, Regional
Not Part of the SPFC and Provides Multiple Benefits	Yes	High	Local, Regional, and Statewide
Addresses Statewide Priorities	Yes	High	Local, Regional, and Statewide

Regional Project

The San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Capital Improvement Project meets several of the regional criteria as defined by CWC §10537, including Improve Flood Management, Improve Water Quality, and Improve Resource Stewardship, as follows:

- ✓ *Improve Flood Management:* The project will increase the Creek's flow capacity from San Francisco Bay to Highway 101 by widening the Creek channel within the reach to convey peak flows for 100-year storm events, removing an un-maintained levee-type structure downstream of Friendship Bridge to allow flood flows from the Creek channel into the Palo Alto Baylands Preserve north of the Creek, and configuring flood walls in the upper part of the reach for consistency with structure for Caltrans' enlargement of the Highway 101/East Bayshore Road Bridge over San Francisquito Creek. The project provides **LOCAL benefits** by reducing flooding in local communities and **REGIONAL benefits** by limiting inundation of Highway 101 during flooding events.
- ✓ *Improve Water Quality:* Project implementation will provide water quality benefits by reducing flood-related debris and pollutant loading to the O'Connor pump station forebay, which ultimately pumps degraded flood waters back to the San Francisquito Creek. Further, modeling has shown that during the 250- and 500-year flood events, a significant volume of degraded flood water leaves the foodplain and drains to San Francisco Bay after flowing through an urbanized area, transporting a host of water quality contaminants and debris to the Bay. The project will significantly reduce or eliminate the volume of flood water leaving the floodplain during these larger events, protecting San Francisco Bay from water quality degradation due to pollutant loading during major flooding events. The project provides **LOCAL and REGIONAL benefits** by reducing pollutant loading to San Francisquito Creek, and **STATEWIDE benefits** by reducing pollutant loading to San Francisco Bay.
- ✓ *Improve Resource Stewardship*: The project will create increased tidal marshland habitat (within new channel) at appropriate elevations for intertidal wetland plant and animal species. Specifically, the project is expected to create approximately 16.1 acres of new or improved Mid-Marsh habitat, and an estimated 4.0 acres of new or improved Low-Marsh habitat ideal for the

listed salt marsh harvest mouse and California clapper rail. The project provides **STATEWIDEbenefits** by providing high quality habitat for the listed salt marsh harvest mouse and California clapper rail.

Integrates Water Management

Theproject integrates several water management strategies including Flood Management, Stormwater Capture and Management, Water Quality Protection and Improvement, Pollution Prevention NPS Pollution Control, and Habitat Protection and Improvement, as follows:

- ✓ *Flood Management*: As described previously, the primary benefit of this Project will be enhanced flood protection (to a 100-year level of protection) within a DAC. The project provides **LOCAL benefits** by reducing flooding in local communities and **REGIONAL benefits** by limiting inundation of Highway 101 during flooding events.
- ✓ *Stormwater Capture and Management*: Existingstormwater capture and management infrastructure in place in the project area is unable to handle the excess flows generated during flood events. By alleviating flooding issues in this urbanized area, stormwater capture and management will be optimized. The project provides **LOCAL benefits** by improving local stormwater management.
- ✓ *Water Quality Protection and Improvement*: The project provides for water quality protection and improvement by reducing flood-related debris and pollutant loading to both San Francisquito Creek and the San Francisco Bay. The project provides **LOCAL and REGIONAL benefits** by reducing pollutant loading to San Francisquito Creek, and **STATEWIDE benefits** by reducing pollutant loading to San Francisco Bay.
- ✓ *Pollution Prevention NPS Pollution Control*: Project implementation will prevent nonpoint source pollution by maintaining flood waters within the channel, preventing polluted flood waters from transporting pollutants and debris from this urbanized area. The project provides **LOCAL and REGIONAL benefits** by reducing nonpoint source pollutant loading to San Francisquito Creek, and **STATEWIDE benefits** by reducing nonpoint source pollutant loading to San Francisco Bay.
- ✓ *Habitat Protection and Improvement*: The project will create increased tidal marshland habitat (within new channel) at appropriate elevations for intertidal wetland plant and animal species. Specifically, the project is expected to create approximately 16.1 acres of new or improved Mid-Marsh habitat, and an estimated 4.0 acres of new or improved Low-Marsh habitat. The project provides **STATEWIDE benefits** by providing high quality habitat for the listed salt marsh harvest mouse and California clapper rail.

Contributes to CALFED Objectives

The project addresses the Water Quality CALFED program objective. An important project benefit is the reduction of pollutant loading to San Francisquito Creek and the San Francisco Bay during flood events. The project provides **LOCAL and REGIONAL benefits** by reducing nonpoint source pollutant loading to San Francisquito Creek, and **STATEWIDE benefits** by reducing nonpoint source pollutant loading to San Francisco Bay.

Addresses Critical Water Supply/Water Quality Needs of DACs

Theproject provides Water Quality benefits to a DAC. Project implementation would eliminate health risks to a disadvantaged community posed by exposure to degraded flood waters. Severe flooding exposes residents of this disadvantaged community to degraded – and potentially dangerous - flood

waters. Degraded water quality of flood waters in urban areas poses a real threat to human health as they may contain potentially hazardous or infectious materials, such as fecal material from overflowing sewer systems, pathogens, agricultural runoff, and chemicals from commercial and industrial areas. Direct contact with polluted flood waters through wound infections, dermatitis, conjunctivitis, and ear, nose and throat infections poses a significant risk of infection. This results in flood damage reduction benefits to a **LOCAL** DAC in the region.

Integrates Water and Land Use Management

The project integrates water and land use management by reducing flooding occurrences within this area, allowing for the development and improvement of local commercial, industrial, multi-family, and residential properties. This results in **LOCALandREGIONALbenefits** to the region.

Not Part of the State Plan of Flood Control and Provides Multiple Benefits

The proposed project is located in San Mateo County, west of the San Francisco Bay. The State Plan for Flood Control (SPFC) is limited to the Delta region. The proposed project notpart of the SPFC. In addition, this project provides multiple benefits:

- The Project will **improve flood protection** for the community, including a disadvantaged community. The project provides **LOCAL benefits** by reducing flooding in local communities and **REGIONAL benefits** by limiting inundation of Highway 101 during flooding events.
- The Project will **eliminate a significant public health threat to a DAC** caused by exposure to various constituents of concern present in the degraded flood waters, providing a **LOCAL benefit**.
- The Project will **provide water quality and habitat protection** benefits by reducing flood-related debris and pollutant loading to San Francisquito Creek and San Francisco Bay, resulting in **LOCAL, REGIONAL and STATEWIDE benefits**; and
- The Project will **provide LOCAL recreation benefits** by replacing bicycle paths along the crown of the levees, creating additional gravel trails, and adding benches and interpretive panels at the footing of the existing Friendship Bridge.