

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4011
Fax (916) 323-4529

E-MAIL
Senator.Simitian@sen.ca.gov

WEBSITE
<http://www.senatorsimitian.com>

California State Senate



SENATOR
S. JOSEPH SIMITIAN
ELEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
160 Town & Country Village
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(650) 688-6384
Fax (650) 688-6370

SATELLITE OFFICE
701 Ocean Street, Room 318A
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 425-0401
Fax (831) 425-5124

October 4, 2011

Director Mark Cowin
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street, Room 1115-1
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Director Cowin:

I write to applaud the recent recommendation by the Department of Water Resources to provide \$8 million from the Stormwater Flood Management Grant program to the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA). The project recommended for funding, the *San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Capital Improvement Project, East Bayshore Road to San Francisco Bay*, is part of a comprehensive program to address the flood management, ecosystem and recreational needs of my constituents in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

The vital grant funding that the Department has recommended will allow the SFCJPA, a unique watershed management partnership, to address the severe flooding risks in this area, last made evident when a major flood damaged approximately 1,700 properties in the creek watershed thirteen years ago. The project recommended for funding will protect many residents living below sea level in homes with rooflines below an uncertified levee, and protect major local, state, and federal infrastructure.

The State's Bay Conservation and Development Commission is using the San Francisquito Creek project as a case study because it will be one of the first projects to simultaneously protect against a 100-year fluvial flood, 100-year tide

and the most extreme predictions of Sea Level Rise. Additionally, it will provide very important ecosystem benefits to endangered species and new or improved trails to residents of the region.

This project is an important one for our region, and I look forward to seeing it begun – and, even more, to seeing it completed – with help from the Stormwater Flood Management grant program. Again, thank you for your recommendation of this grant, and I urge you to maintain the level of this grant award as you finalize the current grant round.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Joseph Simitian". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

S. Joseph Simitian
State Senator, Eleventh District