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PLANNING BUREAU

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**DATE:** December 9, 2004

**TO:** E. Dennis Normandy, SFPUC President  
Richard Sklar, SFPUC Vice President  
Ann Moller Caen, Commissioner  
Adam Werbach, Commissioner  
Ryan L. Brooks, Commissioner

**THRU:** Susan Leal, General Manager  
Michael P. Carlin, Planning Bureau Manager *(MPC)*  
Paula Kehoe, Water Resources Planning Manager

**FROM:** Greg Bartow, Groundwater Program Manager

**SUBJECT: BIMONTHLY LAKE MERCED UPDATE**

This is a bimonthly update on recent actions taken by the SFPUC to restore Lake Merced water levels.

**Lake Merced Task Force Members meet with General Manager Leal.** The Member's discussed efforts to develop a Lake Merced master plan as well as concerns that the City's budget crisis and cutbacks are preventing the Department of Recreation and Parks from being able to fully maintain the lakeside park. The Members that attended the November 10th meeting were Dick Allen, Tim Colen, James Grant, Jim Stark, Mona Cereghino, Dick Morten, Dan Murphy, and Dee Dee Workman. SFPUC staff is following up on actions items and additional meetings are planned starting in early 2005.

**SFPUC agenda item on conjunctive use term sheet with the City of Daly City.** This item is in your agenda package this month. The conjunctive use pilot program has shown that there is vacant storage space in the southern Westside Basin. This space can be filled with water simply by reducing pumping and allowing natural recharge to occur. The purpose of the proposed conjunctive use program is to make use of an estimated 75,000 acre feet of groundwater storage space in order to increase the reliability of water supplied by the SFPUC system. This storage volume is the equivalent of another Upper and Lower Crystal Springs Reservoir. The Daly City Council is scheduled to consider approval of the Term Sheet at its regular December 13, 2004 meeting. Increasing the volume of water in storage will also have a long-term positive effect on increasing lake levels.

**Daly City dedicates new recycled water plant for golf courses and Daly City Parks.** A historic collaboration between three area golf courses, the City of Daly City and the SFPUC resulted in a landmark 50-year recycled water use agreement to build a \$7 million tertiary treatment plant in Daly City. It is designed to produce 2.77 million gallons per day. Dedication ceremonies were held on October 26, 2004. The Lake Merced Golf Club, San Francisco Golf Club, and the Olympic Club will all be substantially reducing groundwater pumping which will have a long-term positive effect on increasing lake levels.

**Application submitted to Regional Water Board for adding SFPUC surface water to Lake Merced.** Earlier this month the Water Quality Bureau submitted an application to the Regional Water Board for permission to discharge dechlorinated water to Lake Merced as part of our efforts for raising and maintaining lake levels to increase wildlife and recreational beneficial uses of the lake. Pending approval from the Regional Water Board, we expect to begin regular water additions in January 2005. Discharges will be curtailed between February 15 and July 15 of each year due to Golden Gate Audubon Society concerns about inundating bird nests in the lakeside bulrush.

**Interim Lake Level Management Plan recirculated for public comment.** This Plan was prepared as a road map for raising lake levels and monitoring the impacts to the lake and shoreline ecology from 2004 to 2007. A Long-Term lake level plan would be developed in 2007. Comments are due January 9, 2005.

**Pacific Rod and Gun Club Lead Shot Investigation and Risk Assessment.** Previous SFPUC studies have indicated that lead at this site does not pose a significant health risk to humans or the environment under existing conditions. The purpose of this new investigation is to evaluate whether a change in existing conditions (i.e., inundation of residual lead shot, caused by rising water levels at the Pacific Rod and Gun Club) could potentially create adverse human or ecological hazards. Initial field sampling occurred in August 2004 and indicated that additional testing should occur in areas where the lead shot has oxidized and potentially could be more soluble. A report documenting the findings will be available in late January 2005.

**Pilot Stormwater Additions Continue -** The City of Daly City and the SFPUC are continuing to discharge treated stormwater to Lake Merced from the Vista Grande Canal on a pilot basis. The project, initiated last winter, is providing preliminary screening information on wetlands treatment to remove nutrients and bacteria die-off rates. Samples are collected during each discharge event.

**Groundwater Management Plan Developments –** In November we drilled and constructed a 600 feet deep, multi-level, groundwater monitoring well at the Lake Merced Pump Station in advance of drilling a test production well.

Additional information on SFPUC activities related to Lake Merced can be found at <http://lakemerced.sfwater.org/>

cc: Lake Merced Task Force Members