



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

PLANNING BUREAU

1145 Market Street, Suite 401, San Francisco, CA 94103 • Tel. (415) 934-5700 • Fax (415) 934-5750



DATE: June 21, 2005

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

THRU: Susan Leal, General Manager
Paula Kehoe, Water Resources Planning Manager

FROM: Greg Bartow, Integrated Water Resources Manager

SUBJECT: BIMONTHLY LAKE MERCED UPDATE

GAVIN NEWSOM
MAYOR

RICHARD SKLAR
PRESIDENT

ANN MOLLER CAEN
VICE PRESIDENT

E. DENNIS NORMANDY
ADAM WERBACH
RYAN L. BROOKS

SUSAN LEAL
GENERAL MANAGER

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

Trout Day 2005 at Lake Merced: For the second year in a row, California Trout coordinated a family fishing day at Lake Merced. Hundreds of youth and adult fishing enthusiasts participated in the June 11, 2005 event. The event had the support of numerous co-sponsors including the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, the Lake Merced Task Force, the California Department of Fish and Game, Pacific Gas and Electric and the SFPUC. In addition to free fishing, the event included a free youth fishing clinic and outreach focused on watershed protection and ecological stewardship. SFPUC staff that contributed to the success of the event included Patrick Conroy, Suzanne Gautier, Michael Kellogg, Robert Lopez, Diane Parker and Scott Taylor.

Pilot Stormwater Wetlands Treatment Project: The City of Daly City and the SFPUC completed the second year of this project. Discharges occurred during 8 storms. All discharges were sampled and met standards except one storm where Vista Grande Canal flooding from Daly City overwhelmed the treatment wetlands. The project was initiated in January 2004 and is providing preliminary screening information on wetlands treatment to reduce nutrient and bacteria levels in stormwater. Samples are collected during each discharge event. Monitoring results to date indicate a 99% reduction in bacteria levels. Over 10 million gallons of treated stormwater was added to Lake Merced during the 2004/2005 rainy season. A technical report will be completed this summer that summarizes the results from the past winter. We expect to request regulatory approval to expand the pilot project during the 2005/2006 winter to allow larger and more frequent stormwater discharges.

Pacific Rod and Gun Club: As previously reported, SFPUC staff prepared a draft report detailing the results of a voluntary investigation on the environmental risk of lead shot and associated chemicals at the Pacific Rod and Gun Club. The public comment period for the report ended on March 1, 2005. SFPUC Staff are currently working to complete the response to comments and will issue the final report in July 2005. However, due to delays associated with staffing changes we now expect the report to be completed in July 2005.

Watershed Study to Reduce Flooding and Beneficially Reuse Stormwater: At the Commission's February 8, 2005 Meeting, the SFPUC approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Daly City to expedite a feasibility study and preliminary design to reduce flooding from the Vista Grande Canal and its upstream watershed. The study will evaluate detention, groundwater recharge and treated discharges to Lake Merced. A public involvement budget is included in the contract and a stakeholder meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2005. A final report is expected to be completed in early 2006. The consulting team consists of RMC Water and Environment, Professor Emeritus Alex Horne of UC Berkeley, and Gus Yates, Consulting Hydrologist. We will keep the Commission updated on the progress of this study.

Spring/Summer Lake Merced Newsletter: Robert Lopez and Suzanne Gautier of the SFPUC's Communication Division prepared and distributed the attached newsletter that updates the public on a number of projects that the SFPUC is working on at Lake Merced.

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

Attachment A – Lake Merced Spring/Summer 2005 Newsletter

cc: Lake Merced Task Force Members