



**WATER**  
**HETCH HETCHY**  
**WATER & POWER**  
**CLEAN WATER**

**GAVIN NEWSOM**  
MAYOR

**E. DENNIS NORMANDY**  
PRESIDENT

**RICHARD SKLAR**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**ANN MOLLER CAEN**  
**ADAM WERBACH**  
**RYAN L. BROOKS**

**SUSAL LEAL**  
GENERAL MANAGER

**SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
PLANNING BUREAU  
1145 Market Street, Suite 401, San Francisco, CA 94103 • Tel. (415) 934-5700 • Fax (415) 934-5751



**DATE:** October 14, 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 *(WC)*

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

**SUBJECT: BI-MONTHLY LAKE MERCED UPDATE**

---

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

- 1) **Upgrades 90% complete for adding SFPUC surface water to Lake Merced.** Construction is 90% complete on upgrades to the existing system for adding SFPUC surface water to Lake Merced from the Lake Merced Pump Station. A team of staff from the Water Quality Bureau, City Distribution Department, Engineering Design Bureau, SF Dept. of Public Works and Planning Bureau are working on this project. We expect to finish upgrades to the dechlorination system, lake level meter and flow meter in early November in time to allow addition of SFPUC surface water to Lake Merced during the 2004/2005 winter.
- 2) **Discharge of partially dechlorinated water to Lake Merced.** As part of our pilot testing of the upgrades to the Lake Merced Pump Station (discussed above in Item 1) we accidentally discharged water to Lake Merced that was not fully dechlorinated. On September 8th, approximately 400,000 gallons of partially dechlorinated drinking water was discharged. An incorrectly sized dechlorination chemical pump was found to be the cause of the problem and replaced. On September 15th, approximately 180,000 gallons were discharged. This discharge was limited to the first 90 minutes of operation of the station due to inadequate dosing of the dechlorination chemical feed. We reported the discharge to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and have implemented additional protocols to prevent this from reoccurring.

- 3) **Request for proposals for a reducing flooding from Vista Grande Canal.** In early September, the City of Daly City, in partnership with the SFPUC, released a request for proposals for a feasibility study and preliminary design to reduce or eliminate flooding from the Vista Grande Canal. Primary goals of this project are to reduce or eliminate flooding, maximize groundwater recharge and develop viable short term and long term improvement plans with the collaboration of project stakeholders, including the two cities, the public and applicable regulatory agencies. We expect to bring a proposed Memorandum of Understanding, related to the cost sharing, to the Commission for consideration of approval later this year.
- 4) **Groundwater Management Plan.** Response to Comments on the SFPUC's Draft North Westside Basin Groundwater Management Plan were transmitted on October 6, 2004. The public comment period for this document was originally from June 7 to July 15, 2004. The public comment period was extended an additional 30-days, through August 15, 2004, to allow for additional comments. The Draft North Westside Basin Groundwater Management plan provides a roadmap for developing and managing groundwater resources as a local emergency, drought and regular drinking water supply. We expect to issue a revised report and begin environmental review in December 2004.
- 5) **Lake Level Management Plan.** The response to comments and Revised Lake Level Management Plan is expected to be transmitted to the public by early November 2004. This Plan was prepared as a road map for raising lake levels and monitoring the impacts to the lake and shoreline ecology.
- 6) **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. Field sampling occurred the week of August 9, 2004. A draft report will be available in November 2004 and a public workshop will be held to discuss the results and any recommendations.
- 7) **Lake Merced Task Force:** SFPUC staff gave several presentations at the quarterly meeting of the Lake Merced Task Force held on September 9, 2004. Topics included: West Nile Virus, the Only Rain Down the Drain campaign kickoff, the Recycled Water Master Plan Update public outreach efforts as well as the Groundwater Master

Plan and the Interim Lake Level Management Plan. Presenters from the SFPUC included Steve Medberry (BERM), Greg Bartow (Planning) and Suzanne Gautier (Communications).

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

cc: Lake Merced Task Force Members  
Suzanne Gautier, SFPUC Communications  
Paula Kehoe, SFPUC Planning Bureau  
Frank Filice, SF Department of Public Works  
Michael Morlin, SF Department of Recreation and Parks

