



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

WATER ENTERPRISE
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DATE: September 6, 2005

TO: Richard Sklar SFPUC President
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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

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

Lake Levels: The lake is at a level of 4.4 feet City Datum which is within the Lake Merced Task Force's supported "interim lake level" of 3 to 5 feet City Datum. For historical comparison, Lake Merced was at 3.9 feet in September 2003 and 0.8 feet in September 2001.

Vista Grande 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 purpose of the study is to develop a Watershed Plan that will reduce or eliminate flooding, reduce erosion along Lake Merced, and maximize other potential benefits such as groundwater recharge and augmentation of Lake Merced water levels. As part of this joint study, Daly City and the SFPUC held an evening workshop on July 27, 2005 to present a range of alternative projects. A copy of the presentation slides for this workshop is available at www.sfwater.org (search: "Vista Grande"). The next step is development of a recommended group of projects for further regulatory agency and public review later this year. We will keep the Commission updated on the progress of this watershed study.

Presentation of Pilot Stormwater Wetlands Treatment Project: On August 26, 2005, Dr. Michael Casteell, Research Biologist for the SFPUC's Water Quality Bureau presented our successful results from the joint Daly City/SFPUC Lake

Merced Pilot Stormwater Wetlands Treatment Project at the 10th International Conference on Urban Drainage, in Copenhagen, Denmark. The presentation was titled “*Removal of bacterial indicators of fecal contamination in urban stormwater using a natural riparian buffer.*” Co-Authors included Patrick Sweetland of the City of Daly City and Scott Taylor and myself from the SFPUC. Dr. Michael Casteell provided his own funding to attend this conference.

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

cc: Lake Merced Task Force Members
