



The Splash

General Meeting:

Tuesday, May 24, 2016
San Leandro Main Library
300 Estudillo Ave.

Spring/Summer 2016

Upcoming Events

General Meeting

- May 24 6:30 - 8:00 PM
San Leandro Library



Movie Maker, Stan Dodson will join us to screen his documentary "Trailhead", a short film about East Bay creeks and trails.

Join us for popcorn and a show!

Creek Cleanups/Nonnative Plant Removals

- Saturday, June 11 at 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

"The earth laughs in flowers"

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



wildlife populations." EBMUD will have through 2017 to complete this and present it to the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Consider the magnitude of this development: it's **exactly** what FSLC has been working towards for many years. Behind the scenes, the Friends developed a committee (Technical Advisory Group), meeting and negotiating with EBMUD since 2013, to return water flow to the creek that could sustain life below the dam. Some additional background:

The California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) inspects dams statewide for a "maximum credible earthquake without an uncontrolled release of reservoir water". In 2003, DSOD performed a stability evaluation of Chabot Dam. Model results (July 2006) showed the time it would take for water to reach sections of San Leandro. Estimates showed it would take approximately three hours for some areas to be inundated after a Chabot Dam breach. Water at peak inundation would range from a height of zero to five feet.¹

An inundation map is used for emergency planning purposes and does not reflect the stability of a dam. It is a "worst case scenario". Chabot Dam is considered safe from breach up to a magnitude 7.2 earthquake. It was found in the study that a 3-5 foot "slump" in the toe of the dam *could* occur. This would not cause the dam to fail. To be safe, the DSOD required EBMUD to upgrade earthworks to the "downstream toe of the Chabot Dam and the completion of a seismic retrofit of the tower outlet structure."

This issue:

Retrofit +

Exciting times are *just upstream* for San Leandro Creek! California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) has added a *requirement* to the EBMUD and the Chabot Dam retrofit project, to obtain a *Fish and Wildlife Code section 1602 permit* in which CDFW requires a study "needed to determine the feasibility of providing fish passage and/or habitat & flow enhancements downstream of the reservoir for the benefit of native fish and

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Officers and Board of Directors:

Michael Gregory President; Dave Owen Vice President, Jan Woycheshin Secretary, Melanie Courchaine Treasurer, Claudia Taurean Membership Coordinator, Maureen Forney Member at Large Susan Levenson, Watershed Awareness Coordinator/Newsletter Editor

Friends of San Leandro Creek is a 105(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of citizens, students, and businesses dedicated to improving community understanding and awareness of San Leandro Creek and its watershed.

(Continued from pg. 1) In September 2013, "Local Contributions" (in the form of local rate increases), of \$12,170,958 were budgeted for this project. An additional \$5,000,000 was allocated from Proposition 1E Storm Water/Flood Management Grant to EBMUD. The retrofit project totals \$17,170,958. EBMUD is charged with improving the aforementioned dam toe, moving the outlet system (valves and controls to release dam water) away from the lake and removing the historic tower that was deemed "likely to fail" in EBMUD's 2005 dynamic stability report.

How did the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) get involved with this retrofit? The Fish and Game Commission and the Department of Fish and Game make up the fish and wildlife resource management branch of state government. CDFW has broad jurisdiction over man-made or natural fish barriers, fish ways, dam modifications, fish water bypasses, artificial barriers, and fish entrainment situations. In the early 1900s, the California Legislature made it unlawful to impede fish passage (Fish and Game Code Sections 5901 and 5931) and made unlawful accumulation that impedes fish passage (Fish and Game Code Section 5948)². EBMUD was notified that they must negotiate with CDFW in order to obtain a "1602 permit" to *continue the ongoing operations* of Lake Chabot and Upper San Leandro Reservoir. To receive the permit, EBMUD must develop a "San Leandro Creek Study Plan". According to EBMUD, CDFW is requiring other large reservoir projects to get 1602 permits and perform further studies to enhance wildlife below existing dams. It has been enforced in Santa Clara County and across the Bay in San Francisco. The San Leandro Creek Study Plan work is currently out to bid.



Unfortunately, saving the historic tower pavilion is not in EBMUD's budget.

EBMUD & CDFW have further committed to a 5 year "Comprehensive Fisheries Management Plan." Bert Mulchaey (EBMUD Supervising Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist) hopes this will show a *minimum flow of water necessary for life in the creek in every season*. Wild trout and steelhead require specific water thresholds for migrating, spawning and summering. The additional plan will detail limitations to restoration, mitigation to habitat downstream from the dam necessary to make San Leandro Creek habitable to native wildlife. Mr. Mulchaey stated EBMUD could get additional grant funding supporting restoration work necessary to bring back salmonids and other native species to the creek.

FSLC will follow both the retrofit and Creek Study very closely. Regarding the Chabot Dam retrofit project, here are some dates and information: Construction will take place beginning this month (May, 2016) and continue for 12-15 months. Typical work hours will be from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM Monday through Friday. Incoming work trucks will enter the park and make the quick left up the hill and over to the dam on the West Shore Trail (see map on page 3). This will make crossing San Leandro Creek unnecessary. The park will be closed for safety reasons and to protect heavy equipment.

Cement deep soil mixing (CDSM) will be used to strengthen the toe of the dam. Holes are bored and cement grout is pumped deep into the soil. These CDSM columns will penetrate bedrock. This is the least invasive option to strengthen the dam. The trucks will use the least invasive (to our creek) route to the construction site. FSLC are pleased with these options.

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"The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty. The activist is the man who cleans up the river." - Henry Perot

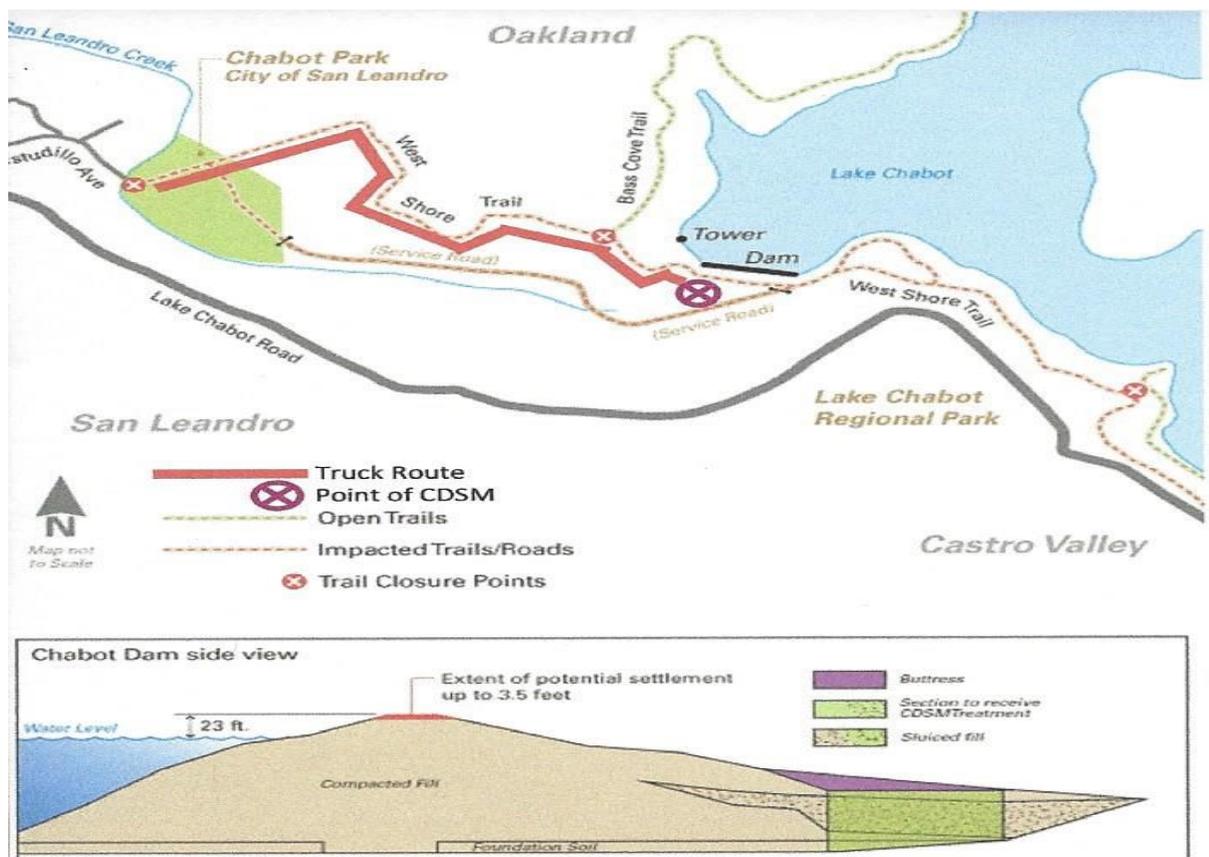
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If you have questions about the retrofit project, please contact Laura Luong at 510-287-0140, or email her at lauraluong@ebmud.com. Visit the EBMUD website to see graphs, photos and information (www.ebmud.com/chabot-dam). FSLC will inform you of any updates and information as well.

San Leandro Creek has a lot of positive changes coming. We are hopeful that our creek will receive a more natural and sustainable water flow. The creek is one of three open creeks (no stretches covered in concrete) in the East Bay. The City of San Leandro/SLPD have launched an integrated homeless task force, placing some of the creek 'residents' into permanent housing. Alameda County Flood Control District will be culling "dangerous" trees on their property in the creek starting this year. The largest negative issues impacting our creek are *water flow*, the *homeless population* and *invasive tree species*. All three are now being addressed. Recall back to 2013 when East Bay creek expert Rob Leidy visited our creek and spoke at our Environmental Forum. His presentation was entitled, "So you want to restore steelhead to San Leandro Creek? No Problem...really!" Dr. Leidy's optimism may be a part of our reality sooner than anticipated.

¹EBMUD, Water Resources Planning Division, "Inundation Map for Chabot Dam Based on 2006 Chabot Dam Break Analysis. July 2008

²California Fish and Game Commission and Department of Fish and Game Bulletin 250 Fish Passage Improvement 2005 B-1 Appendix B Applicable Laws and Examples of Fish Passage Programs at Other Agencies



"What day is it?" It's today," squeaked Piglet. My favorite day," said Pooh."
— A.A. Milne

Have you checked out our web site?



The San Leandro Creek Watershed Awareness Program is a comprehensive watershed education program funded by Alameda County Flood Control and Conservation District, with additional support from the City of San Leandro, implemented by Friends of San Leandro Creek. Thank you to the following for your continued support: Alameda County Public Works, The City of San Leandro, Robert and Lois C. Braddock Charitable Foundation, Fremont Bank and FSLC Members and Volunteers.



Friends of San Leandro Creek Membership Application

Yes, I would like to become a member/renew my membership in the following category: (Please circle one)

- Student \$ 1
Non-Profit \$25
- Individual \$5
Business \$100
- Family \$15

Make checks and please remit to:

Friends of San Leandro Creek
C/O RHSD
835 E. 14th St.
San Leandro, CA 94577

Friends of San Leandro Creek is a 501(c) (3) not for profit corporation. Your donations are tax deductible

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I have a special skill or interest in: _____



Only Rain Down The Storm Drain!