

Major SFPUC Water Supply Projects Launched

The San Francisco Planning Department has begun environmental review for several major San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) projects in the Alameda Creek watershed:

[Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant Expansion](#)

The SFPUC proposes to construct three new concrete reservoirs in the upper Sunol Valley.

The Planning Department is preparing an Environmental Impact Report for the project.

They will take written comments on the project until September 4.

There will be a public scoping meeting on the project on Wednesday, August 22, at 6:30 pm at the Sunol Glen School

The SFPUC is proposing a [Habitat Reserve Program](#) to provide habitat as mitigation for SFPUC projects under the Water System Improvement Program.

They are proposing approximately 1,400 acres of habitat to be preserved, enhanced, restored, or created to offset impacts from major water system projects.

The Planning Department is preparing an Environmental Impact Report for the reserve program.

They will take written comments on the project until August 29.

There will be a public scoping meeting on the Habitat Reserve Program on Wednesday, August 15, at 6:30 pm at the Fremont Main Library.

Other upcoming SFPUC projects in the watershed include the [Calaveras Dam Replacement](#), the [New Irvington Tunnel](#), the [Alameda Siphon Project](#), and the misleadingly-named [Alameda Creek Fishery Enhancement Project](#). The Planning Department is also preparing a [Programmatic Environmental Impact Report](#) (EIR) for the entire Water System Improvement Program.

SFPUC Accused of Water Grab

Two major conservation groups accused the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission of trying to siphon more water out of the Tuolumne River so that suburbanites could continue watering their lawns in the face of global warming. Read the [July 31 S.F. Chronicle article](#).

Read the Tuolumne River Trust Report at www.tuolumne.org.

40-Foot Tall Marmot Dam Removed in Oregon!

On July 24th Portland General Electric, along with numerous watershed stakeholders blew the top off of the 40-foot tall Marmot Dam on the Sandy River in Oregon. Next summer they will remove Little Sandy Dam. This is the largest dam ever removed in Oregon and the largest in the Pacific Northwest. All watershed stakeholders and the owners agreed that removing the dam was the right decision for environmental, recreational, and economic reasons.

If a power company can see the numerous benefits of dam removal along with watershed stakeholders, the SFPUC can see the need to seriously assess this option for the Alameda Diversion Dam on upper Alameda Creek and conduct a detailed dam removal alternatives analysis, something that is currently lacking in the proposed Calaveras Dam rebuild project.

Please take a few minutes to watch the below short video clips about this historic dam removal and associated articles:

[Short documentary](#) about the Marmot Dam removal, prior to the recent removal

[Short clip](#) of the initial dam removal blast of Marmot Dam

Portland General Electric [website link](#) showing the explosion and interviews with PGE staff describing their decision to remove the dam