

Fact Sheet

Lower Colma Creek Coastal Flood Risk Management Project for the South San Francisco - San Bruno Water Quality Control Plant

Overview: The Lower Colma Creek Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) 103 project is a coastal storm damage reduction project located in South San Francisco, California. The project is looking to build floodwalls around the critical infrastructure of the South San Francisco/San Bruno Water Quality Control District and North Bayside System Unit Facilities (also referred to as the South San Francisco – San Bruno Water Quality Control Plant, (SSF-SB WQCP) to manage the risk of flooding. Flood risk is expected to increase over time due to sea level rise (SLR) and would have significant impacts on a large area that the plant services.

Benefits

- Reduce flood risk of the SSF-SB WQCP
- Manage risk to human life and safety for plant operators
- Reduce and/or avoid discharges of raw sewage into Colma Creek, San Francisco Bay, homes and streets
- Avoid water quality degradation and associated impacts to human health and the environment from raw sewage
- Implement targeted measures that can potentially tie in with future initiatives to evaluate regional coastal storm risk management solutions

Tentatively Selected Plan

Of the evaluated alternatives, the project team recommends Alternative No.2 as the tentatively selected plan. Alternative No. 2 consists of floodwalls on the north and south bank low points of the plant’s perimeter, tying into high ground, as well as a ring floodwall around Pump Station No. 4 which was also found to be vulnerable to coastal flooding.

Alternative No. 2 projected infrastructure investment is \$12.3 million with a reduction of \$774, 843 of annual damages.

Partners

The non-federal sponsor of this project is the City of South San Francisco.

This project has actively coordinated and consulted with a variety of agencies and organizations: US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Water Board, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Colma Creek Citizens Advisory Committee



Figure 1. The South San Francisco Wastewater Quality Control Plant and nearest sanitary pump stations are located just north of San Francisco International Airport, along Colma Creek and San Francisco Bay.

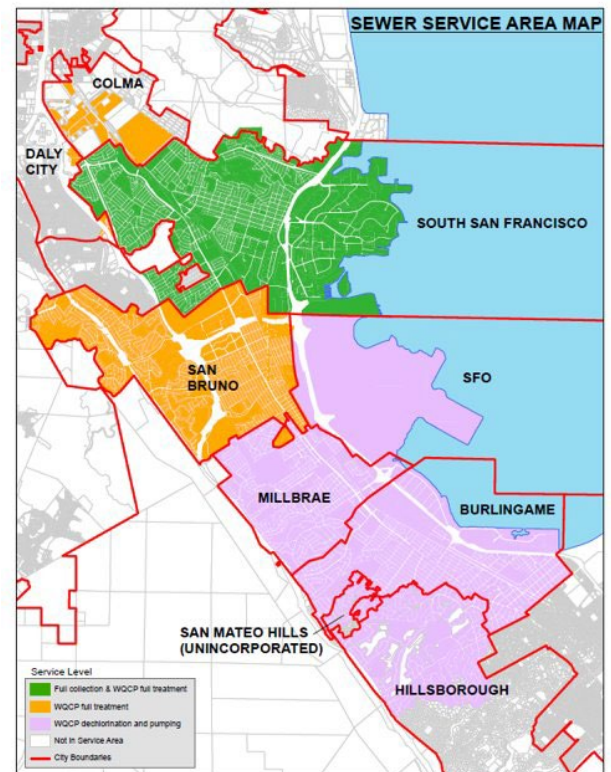


Figure 2. Service area by treatment/service type of the South San Francisco Wastewater Quality Control Plant. 165,000 full time residents ranging from Colma to Hillsborough and the daily population of the San Francisco Airport rely on the plant.

Schedule

Milestone	Schedule
Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement signed / Project Kicks Off	November 2020
Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) Milestone	March 31, 2022
Interagency & stakeholder meetings (USFWS, NMFS, BCDC, Water Board, USEPA, Colma Creek Citizens Advisory Committee)	March 2022
Draft Detailed Project Report (DPR) / Environmental Assessment (EA) completed	June 10, 2022
Public & Agency Reviews of Draft DPR/EA	May 27, 2022 – July 8, 2022
Public Meeting	June 29, 2022
Edit report to address review comments	July 2022- early 2023
Final Report Milestone / Approval	Spring 2023
Move to Design & Implementation Phase	Spring / Fall 2023

Impacts and Mitigation

The following outlines potentially significant resource impacts and the mitigation efforts that will be incorporated into project implementation:

Biological Resources - Vegetation within 4 feet of either side of the proposed floodwall will be cleared prior to construction (except in areas where the 4-foot buffer overlaps with tidal marsh vegetation).

Mitigation: Prior to construction, the area will be surveyed by a qualified biologist for nesting birds and buffers will be set up until the nests are no longer active.

Threatened and Endangered Species - Although Colma Creek is not designated critical habitat, the waters of the San Francisco Bay are considered critical habitat for threatened Central California Coast (CCC) steelhead and Southern Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of green sturgeon.

Mitigation: Equipment is not allowed below the level of extreme high tide to minimize impacts to sensitive habitats. For any work below the level of extreme high tide, the work area shall be isolated at low tide to allow any fish present in the area to escape to areas with deeper water.

Recreation - The Bay Trail may be closed when work is occurring immediately adjacent to the trail alignment.

Mitigation: Limit trail closures during project construction to the maximum extent practicable. Maintain access to the pedestrian bridge during construction.

Cultural Resources - Ground disturbance and excavation during Alternative #2 would potentially impact site of an unevaluated archaeological site depending on its confirmed location and depth within the footprint of the floodwall.

Mitigation: Perform subsurface testing and archaeological and tribal monitors present during any ground disturbing work.



Figure 3. Aerial view of the plant.



Figure 4. Young ducklings with mother at WQCP.