



# SPN SURVEYOR

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Winter 2025  
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## Onboard the vessel Raccoon

*A look back at San Francisco District operations & other top stories in 2024*



### Also inside this issue . . .

Groundbreaking held for Pajaro levee project, page 3

Year in Photos: A look back at 2024 events, pages 6-7

Army divers survey Port Chicago Disaster site, page 12



# COMMANDER'S CORNER

## District teams make impact in local communities

By Lt. Col. Timothy W. Shebesta  
San Francisco District Commander

From representing the San Francisco District in uniform at so many groundbreaking and ribbon cutting ceremonies, my travel schedule was booked solid in 2024, and that is a testament to the hard work and dedication of this workforce on delivering our program to communities that need it the most.

In FY24, SPN had another impactful year in terms of execution dollars. We started off with a massive \$307 million in federal funds to obligate, and we received an additional \$132M in new appropriations through funding streams like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Over 72 percent of our actions (256) and dollars (\$95.8M) for the year were awarded to small business contractors helping to boost local economies across Northern California.

But beyond these numbers, our staff worked closely with our non-federal sponsors to make sure projects moved forward on time, on budget and made a positive impact on people's lives. One



shining example of this and a proud moment for our District was seeing shovels hit the ground for the \$599M Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project. We are now set to put in place a modern-day resilient levee system that will make the communities along the Pajaro River safer, and we are all laser-

focused on delivering this project as fast as possible.

In this issue of Surveyor, we chronicle the top stories from 2024 and highlight the many milestones reached by our District teams and our partners—from Pajaro to Alameda to Marin City and all the way up to the Smith River.

It was at the Smith River and Eureka, where we rounded out the year signing project agreements with two tribal partners—Yurok and Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation. With the Yurok, we are kicking off a planning study to research and identify the next best steps for ecosystem restoration in a post-dam Klamath River Basin. At the Smith River, we are partnering with the Tolowa on extensive infrastructure improvements to a 50-year-old wastewater system that will improve the lives of 150-plus low-income households.

As I like to say at these commemoration events, what I can promise our partners is that they will work with a team of highly committed individuals at SPN who "care about you, your interests and your future." With such a dedicated workforce, I look forward to more exciting things to come in 2025.

### SPN SURVEYOR

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## Fun abounds at Bring Your Kid to Work Day

By Tammy Reed  
District Public Affairs

The San Francisco District hosted its first "Bring Your Kid to Work Day" since COVID with a fun-filled event Aug. 18.

Park Ranger James DeGraw and Fisheries Biologist Mackenzie Odenwald traveled from Lake Sonoma to 450 Golden Gate to talk about the water safety and salmon recovery missions at the district's two Northern California lakes.

Many interactive activity stations filled the main conference room such as a flood model, pasta bridge building, beach erosion demonstrations, and earthquake boxes, while several kids raced around the room capturing the entire event with cameras. Last but not least, Regulatory Division's Jennifer Stabile pre-



Beach  
San Francisco District Hydraulic Engineer Patrick Sing discusses flood model scenarios with several children.

sented a lesson on herpetology showcasing her knowledge of all things creepy, followed by a scavenger hunt. Twenty-eight kids attended and had a blast spending time with their parents in the office.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Feature Story:** District planning team applies nature-based solutions to Roi-Namur island recovery efforts **4**

**Photo Timeline:** A look back at San Francisco District events and milestones in 2024 **6**

**On the Bay:** Raccoon crew removes hazards in Oakland **8**

**Closer Look:** District launches \$14.5 million flood resilience project in Marin City with community celebration event **9**

**Tribal Partnership:** Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and San Francisco District sign historic agreement in Smith River **10**

**Environmental:** Agency leaders sign project partnership agreement in Alameda to construct recycled water pipeline **11**

**In Photos:** Army divers survey Port Chicago Disaster site **12**

## Groundbreaking held for Pajaro levee project

By Brandon Beach  
District Public Affairs

Leaders from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Pajaro Regional Flood Risk Management Agency officially broke ground Oct. 2, 2024, on a \$599 million levee repair project aimed at reducing flood risk from the Pajaro River and Corralitos and Salsipuedes creeks. Decades in the making, the project kicks off at Reach 6 with construction of new setback levees along a section of Corralitos Creek that flows near a housing area, local businesses and the Pajaro Valley Unified School District office building.

Speakers at the mid-morning event included: Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, USACE South Pacific Division Commander Col. James



*Lt. Col. Timothy Shebesta delivers his remarks.*

Handura, USACE San Francisco District Commander Lt. Col. Timothy Shebesta and PRFMA Chair Zach Friend, among others.

"It's amazing what you can get done when you're all pulling in the same direction," said Lofgren.

## On the cover

[Top] In 2024, USACE Drift Collector Raccoon removed all types of hazardous floating debris from Bay Area waters (photo by Beach). [Bottom left] A Roi-Namur church steeple rests on the coral-strewn ground from where it once stood following a series of weather driven waves Jan. 20, 2024, that devastated the island (photo by U.S. Army). [Bottom right] Leaders officially break ground on the \$599 million Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project (photo by Beach).

Winter 2025

## District News

### Chief's report signed for Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Study



HQ, USACE PAO  
*Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon signs the Chief's Report for the Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Study.*

By Brandon Beach  
District Public Affairs

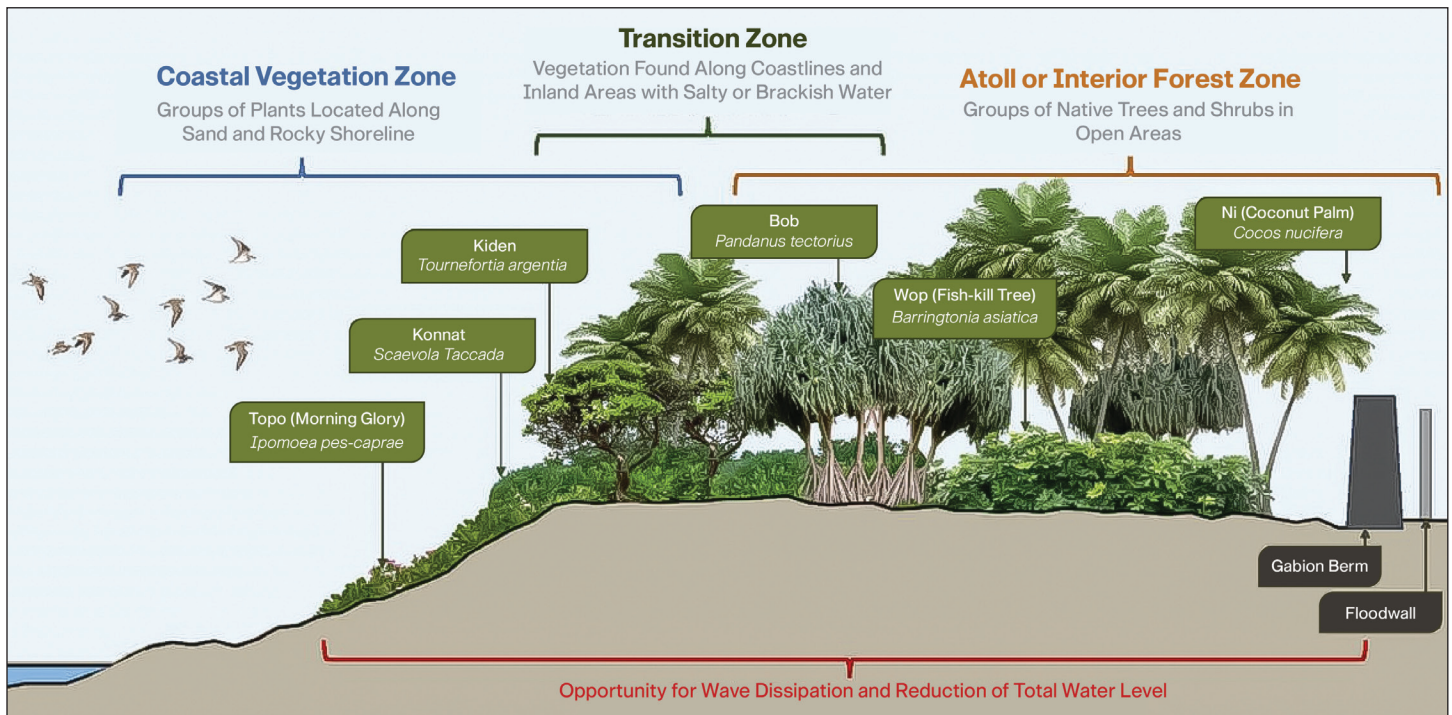
Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon, 55th chief of engineers and commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, signed the Chief's Report for the Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Study on May 31, 2024, during a ceremony at USACE Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The milestone represents a culmination of four years of study between the San Francisco District and the Port of Oakland, the non-federal project sponsor. More importantly, the signing of the report advances the project to Congress for authorization.

Several members of the San Francisco District project team were on hand to witness the historic signing in person, among them Tommy Williams, the district's deputy for project management (DPM), Dr. Tessa Beach, deputy DPM and planning chief, Erika Powell, project manager for the study, and Barney Wair, the study's engineering technical lead.

"This moment is the culmination of years of hard work by our team along with countless members of the Port and extremely strong community engagement," said Williams. "Today also marks the beginning of a tremendous amount of work moving forward to safely construct this project which develops a cleaner and more sustainable environment."





*This graphic illustrates the nature-based solutions the planning team came up with. This is one design solution to mitigate damage to facilities from overwashing waves at Roi-Namur, the second largest island of the Kwajalein Atoll in the western central Pacific Ocean. On Jan. 20, 2024, a high water-level and wave event struck the island of Roi-Namur causing significant damage to infrastructure from direct wave impacts and inundation flooding. During the six-hour event, waves periodically washed overland, striking buildings and pushing tens of thousands of cubic meters of water onto the island. Debris such as sand, gravel, corals, large rocks and chunks of concrete that was previously located on the offshore reef and shoreline was pushed by waves hundreds of feet inland.*

# ENVIRONMENTAL

## District planning team applies nature-based solutions to Roi-Namur disaster recovery

**By Tammy Reed**  
*District Public Affairs Office*

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District’s knowledge of and push for Engineering with Nature principles and designs reached a new high as the district’s EWN expertise jumped an ocean all the way to Roi-Namur, the second largest island of the Kwajalein Atoll in the western central Pacific Ocean. It’s part of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and it lies 2,100 nautical miles southwest of Honolulu and about 4,200 nautical miles southwest of San Francisco.

On Oct. 11, a San Francisco District project development team submitted its preliminary EWN and non-EWN design plans to protect facilities against large waves to the USACE Honolulu District to present to the U.S. Army Garrison – Kwajalein Atoll and U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command.

The Kwajalein Atoll falls under the Honolulu District, and it is a high priority Department of Defense site with multiple stakeholders calling it home such as Missile Defense Agency, Defense Logistics Agency, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and U.S. Army Garrison – Kwajalein Atoll. Kwajalein and Roi-Namur have more than 1,250 residents, which are comprised of military personnel, Army civilians, contractor employees and family members.

On Jan. 20, 2024, a high water-level and wave event struck the island of Roi-Namur causing significant damage to infrastructure from direct wave impacts and inundation flooding. During the six-hour event, waves periodically washed overland, striking buildings and pushing tens of thousands of cubic meters of water onto the island. Debris such as sand, gravel,

corals, large rocks and chunks of concrete that was previously located on the offshore reef and shoreline was pushed by waves hundreds of feet inland.

Dr. Jin Yang from the Honolulu District is the technical lead of the team working on formulating solutions to mitigate damage to facilities from overwashing waves and drainage system improvements to mitigate inundation flood waters if such an event were to happen again. The protection is designed to a service life of at least 10 years with the understanding that designs for longer term solutions are in development.

A Honolulu District coastal engineer, Dr. Jack Davis, who worked on the project noted that "while experts were reviewing aerial imagery from before and after the event, they observed that areas with dense stands of vegetation appeared to mitigate



the flooding or at least the vegetation appeared to trap debris and prevent it from moving inland."

Yang added, "We brought the observations to the customer's attention during a working meeting, and they showed interest in moving this further with the design. Because of this, I reached out to Julie Beagle at San Francisco District."

Yang used to work here in San Francisco District, and he wanted the District to do the EWN designs as he said, "they are known for EWN and Environmental Justice."

San Francisco's Julie Beagle is the chief of Environmental Services Branch and is a practice lead for the district's EWN program.



Beagle

In early June, Beagle brought San Francisco District, and other practice leads, Elizabeth Godsye from Mobile and Michelle Viera from Jacksonville District, into the phase of the project that included getting the project designs to 35 percent.

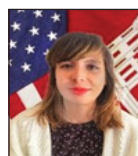
"We worked with the team to move the alignments of the grey infrastructure further back away from the shoreline and include the vegetation buffer," she said. "Sometimes EWN is all about giving shorelines space - it increases habitat area, decreases pressure on the built infrastructure and reduces erosion. Nature-based solutions are based in nature so we are learning from what happened in the storm event, using plants that exist on the island and using those tools to increase resilience along the shoreline."

Anna Kirsch, a San Francisco District civil engineering technician, added, "During the project meetings, there were concerns of the design not impacting Army operations, so we had to accommodate and work around their requests. Our plans give them the option to use either

the EWN or non-EWN designs."

"The biggest differences are the location of the coastal protection berm - EWN design has it further from the shore to allow for a bigger area to plant vegetation to serve as a natural barrier. Non-EWN has no vegetation area in the design."

Kirsch added, "There are also other unique instances; the island has some



Kirsch

World War II legacy structures and landmarks that needed to be preserved and other structures that we had to build around. Some buildings will have to be relocated or abandoned to build the new coastal berm and floodwall."

She described the main design improvements as a new gabion (rock-filled bag) berm with setback floodwall, which will consist of either concrete blocks or stacked "eco-blocks" The EWN design will have an additional planting area, and there is a new swale and culvert design for southwest of the airfield.

San Francisco District Environmental Manager Jade Ishii was also part of the project development team who worked with Kirsch to complete the designs.

"We recommend using plants native to and sourced from Roi-Namur to establish a resilient coastal forest at



Ishii

a low cost," she said. "There are many naturally dense and complex patches of vegetation around the island, and the EWN team suggested strategically creating similar vegetation patches to enhance protection of critical structures."

Ishii said that the numerous

districts gave the U.S. Army Garrison - Kwajalein Atoll a number of choices, and Honolulu District is waiting to hear back from them.

"This was a big PDT, with members from Honolulu as the tech lead and project manager," Kirsch said. "Here we had civil engineering and EWN; Sacramento brought in mechanical engineering; Detroit had structural and geotechnical engineering; and the Army Geospatial Center, Warfighter Support Directorate provided the lidar survey and aerial imagery. There were lots of folks in different time zones, but we successfully completed our end of the designs."

Davis added, "The project was a great representation of how USACE can reach across the lines of its districts and divisions to tap expertise and capacity needed for projects."

## About Roi-Namur



*An aerial photo the morning of Jan. 21 shows extensive flooding in the central portion of Roi-Namur, which is the second-largest island of the Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. (Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Jessica Dambruch)*

The two islands of Kwajalein and Roi-Namur are home to approximately 1,300 Americans, working for the U.S. Government as military service members, Department of Defense Civilians and Contractors. The U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll supports the U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command's Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site. The test site serves as a space and missile defense test range for the Department of Defense.

*The photo below depicts the aftermath of the wave disaster that occurred on January 20.*





# YEAR IN

## A brief look back at San Francisco

### JANUARY 26

Leaders from the San Francisco District and East Bay Municipal Utility District sign a milestone project partnership agreement paving the way for construction of the first recycled water pipeline to serve Alameda. The project is boosted by \$3.2 million in federal funds appropriated through the Army Corps of Engineers' Environmental Infrastructure Assistance Program. The project aims to repurpose a half mile of 1940s-era cast iron potable water pipeline below the Oakland-Alameda Estuary.



### FEBRUARY 10

More than 50 bikers participate in the third annual King Tide Bike Ride in San Jose. The event was a chance to learn about king tides and the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Protection Project currently under construction by the San Francisco District and Valley Water (non-federal partner). The project aims to restore tidal marsh habitat, manage risk from coastal flooding and improve recreation opportunities. The bikers rode three miles along the Guadalupe River Trail to Alviso Marina County Park.



### MARCH 17

The San Francisco District and South Pacific Division served as local hosts during the week-long USACE Worldwide Public Affairs Conference March 18-21 in Oakland, Calif. A long list of SPN personnel were instrumental in ensuring the workshop was successful and memorable and that included providing a two-hour educational boat tour around the Bay, serving on a panel discussion and planning several social events.



### APRIL 19

San Francisco District Regulatory Division conducts its annual field trip at the Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project implemented by the Contra Costa County Flood Control District. This project was permitted by the multi-agency Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT), and it is in its third-year post construction. Staff were able to see the reconnection of Walnut Creek with its floodplain, the recovery and enhancement of tidal wetlands, and an ecotone levee after the de-authorization of this section of the federal flood control project on Walnut Creek. The ecotone levee is also an example of a nature-based feature.



### MAY 10

After more than 13 years at the helm of the USACE Drift Collector Dillard, Capt. Kixon Meyer retires from service. A former Coast Guard officer, Meyer leaves behind a lasting legacy as the Dillard's first and only captain since the command and control catamaran was acquired and christened by the San Francisco District in 2010. Over the course of his time with the SPN Navigation Branch, Meyer and his crew removed countless tons of hazardous floating debris from Bay Area waters, while also forging strong relationships with the district's maritime partners.





# PHOTOS

## District events, milestones in 2024

**MAY 30**



Staff from the San Francisco District and California Coastal Conservancy host a nature-based solutions workshop at the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project following a decade of adaptive monitoring. Among the 60 attendees were leaders from several international agencies including the World Bank and Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management.

**AUGUST 28**



Members of the San Francisco District Regulatory Division Team meet with tribal historic preservation officers from two Humboldt County-based tribes — Wiyot and Blue Lake Rancheria — for a listening session designed to exchange ideas, share concerns and answer any questions. “We are here to listen to your perspectives on the delivery of our regulatory program, as we transform to better serve the needs of all of our customers,” said Jim Mazza, SPN Regulatory Division chief. “Rest assured our mission to protect the nation’s aquatic resources and navigation capacity, while allowing reasonable development through fair and balanced permit decisions, remains the same.”

**SEPTEMBER 21**



Some 40 District employees and their families help remove hundreds of pounds of trash from Angel Island during the annual California Coastal Cleanup. For well over a decade, the District has organized cleanup efforts at Angel Island’s Point Blunt Beach, an area described by John Clagget, a California State Park interpreter, as a “trash magnet.” “It sticks out like a sore thumb on the island and everything that floats in the Bay gets sucked right up there,” he said. Volunteers boarded the CLAM for the short voyage from Sausalito to Angel Island. All of the trash collected by volunteers was loaded onto the vessel and transported to the Corps’ Sausalito Debris Yard for disposal.

**OCTOBER 25**



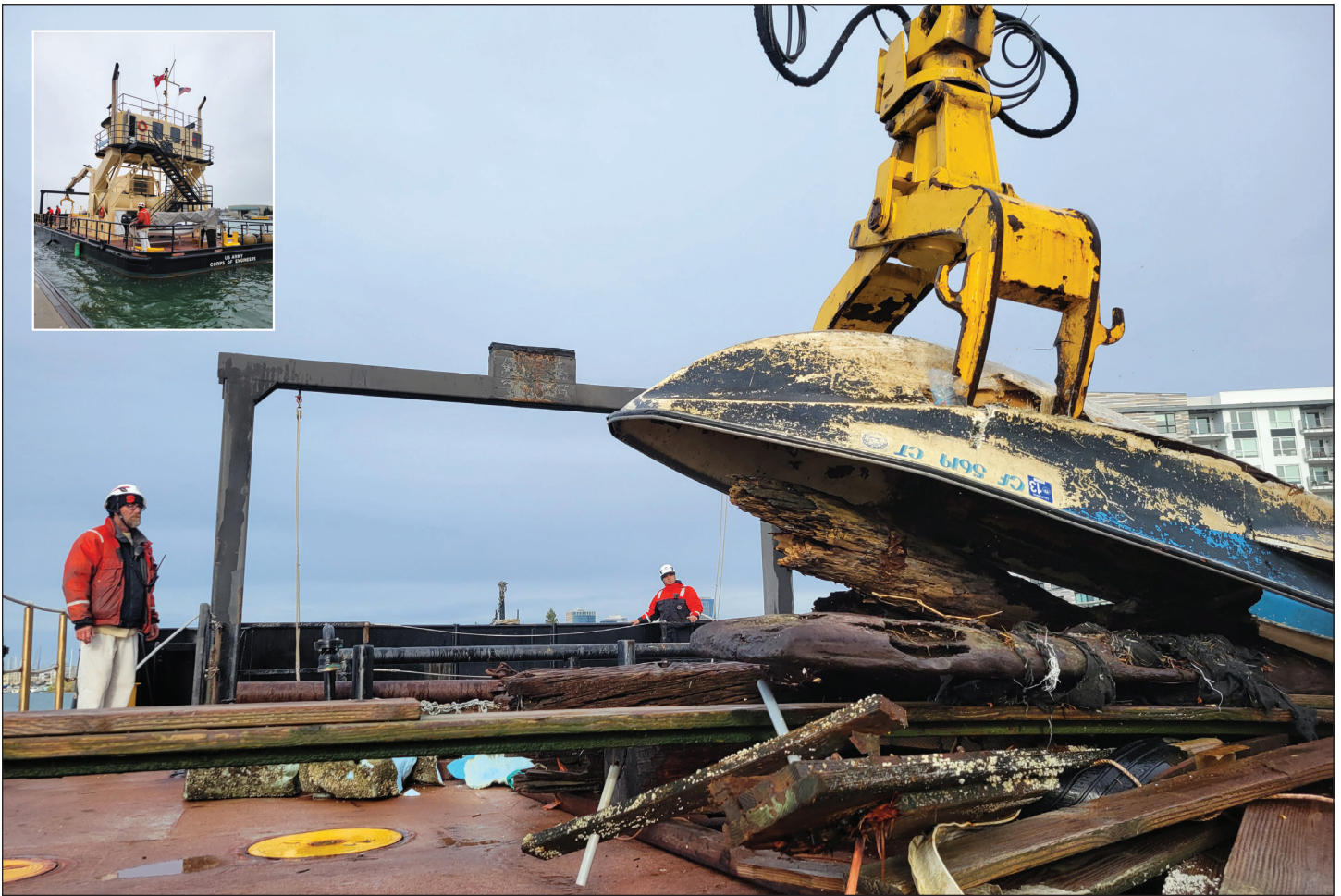
Lake Mendocino hosts a community event aimed at celebrating its new public/private partnership with the Greater Ukiah and Tourism Alliance. District Commander Lt. Col. Timothy Shebesta signed the cooperating agreement in August with the aim of increasing awareness of Lake Mendocino as a recreation destination and resource. The event included several keynote speakers including Lake Mendocino Operations Project Manager Poppy Burkhead, as well as dance performances and a ribbon-cutting ceremony. “Our job is to build and maintain projects, so we’re pleased to be able to partner with GUBTA to handle the marketing and promotion for all the recreation activities available at Lake Mendocino,” said Burkhead.

**DECEMBER 5**



SPN employees enjoy the festivities at the Bay Model Visitor Center during the district's annual Holiday Luncheon.

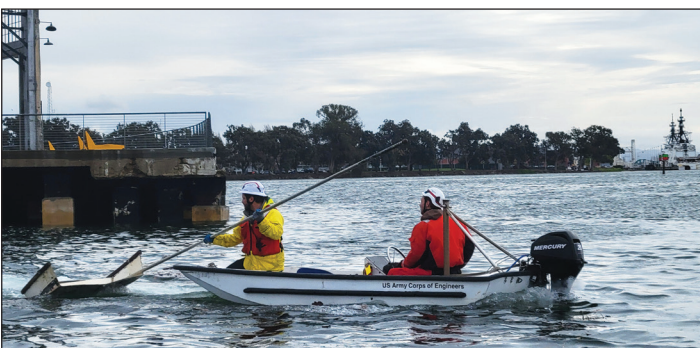




## Raccoon crew removes hazards in Oakland

**By Brandon Beach**  
*District Public Affairs Office*

Crewmembers of the USACE Drift Collector Raccoon got off to an early start Dec. 13 as they snagged a multitude of large woody debris lodged along the shores of the Oakland Estuary. The crew used a series of winter king tides to their advantage as they were able to access several hard-to-reach areas near Brooklyn Basin. Deploying a work skiff (aka Trash Panda), a two-person crew used pike poles to hook the debris and drag it into open water where crane operators onboard the Raccoon could load it onto the deck. Raccoon Capt. Peter Brownell (*pictured right*) estimated the crew hauled in over seven-and-a-half tons of navigational hazards in just under three hours. Special thanks to the volunteers of I Heart Oakland-Alameda Estuary who helped coordinate the clean-up efforts.





# CLOSER LOOK

## District launches flood resilience project in Marin City

By Brandon Beach  
District Public Affairs Office

A \$14.5 million flood resilience project is kicking off in Marin City, Calif.

Leaders from the Marin City Community Services District, Marin City Climate Resilience and Health Justice and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held a community celebration event Nov. 7 marking the start of a project aimed at providing long-overdue relief to the historical flooding problems that have plagued the city for well over half a century.

"We want to have a healthy community here in Marin City, and we need to stop this flooding that's been happening for 83 years," said Terrie Green, executive director of Marin City Climate Resilience and Health Justice, and the event's master of ceremonies. "It's unbelievable. This is 2000-and-almost-25, and we are struggling with this issue. It's unreal."

In August, Marin City was selected for a Congressional pilot program with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to improve flood safety and address water resource challenges in small and economically disadvantaged communities across the United States. Marin City was selected by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to be one of 12 communities who will participate in this program where the federal government will



*Terrie Green, executive director of Marin City Climate Resilience and Health Justice, discusses the historical flooding problems that have plagued Marin City for well over half a century. In August, Marin City was selected for a Congressional pilot program with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to improve flood safety.*

cover 100 percent of the cost of a water resources project. The new project will focus on addressing flooding to improve safety, health and community well-being.

Speakers at the mid-morning event included: Terrie Green, executive director of Marin City Climate Resilience and Health Justice, Lt. Col. Timothy Shebesta, commander of the USACE San Francisco District, Marin County Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters, U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman, and several residents who shared testimonials on the need for flood resilience in their community.

*Lt. Col. Timothy Shebesta, San Francisco District commander, delivers remarks at the podium.*

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*"We want a healthy community here in Marin City."*

**Terrie Green**  
MCCRHJ Executive Director

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"What I can promise this community is this – You will work with a team of highly committed individuals who care about Marin City and its future," said Shebesta. "They will listen to and leverage your expertise and knowledge throughout our federal planning process to chart a more sustainable and resilient future for Marin City."

The San Francisco District's project delivery team will now work closely with Marin City sponsors to move the project into its planning, design and construction phases.

### In Their Own Words

"A newness, a revival is happening here in Marin City," said Royce Mclemore, Marin City resident.

"This program was designed to ensure underserved communities have a guaranteed seat at the table," said U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman. "They haven't always had that. The application process was super competitive. There were only 12 applications selected for the pilot, and so it's a big deal that Marin City received this award, and we should really celebrate this accomplishment."

"It is wonderful to see the federal funding coming to Marin City for further improvements and solutions to our long-standing flooding challenges," said Marin County Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters.





# TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP

## District tackles wastewater project in Smith River

### Release

*Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation*

The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District signed a ceremonial agreement Dec. 18 that will provide the Nation with \$800,000 toward extensive improvements to a 50-year-old wastewater system serving low-income households at Xaa-wan'-k'wvt (Howonquet) Village and Resort in Smith River, Calif.

*"This is a historic partnership that will ultimately improve the health and well-being of our community."*

**Jeri Lynn Thompson**

*Tribal Council Chairperson*



The Nation's Tribal Council met with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives for a ceremonial signing of the agreement, exchange gifts and enjoy a meal while taking in the view of the Smith River Estuary, just a few miles south of the California/Oregon border. Attendees discussed the wastewater system project planned for the area as well as Tolowa Dee-ni' culture, history and environmental practices.

"This is a historic partnership between the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that will ultimately improve the health and well-being

of our community as well as the surrounding environment," said Tribal Council Chairperson Jeri Lynn Thompson. "This agreement is only the first step in securing overall funding for a project that will ultimately connect 150-plus low-income homes to a quality regional wastewater system by replacing the existing outdated, lagoon-based wastewater system."

"We are extremely proud to partner with the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation on a project that I'm confident will greatly improve the living conditions of those who call this beautiful part of California home," said Lt. Col. Timothy Shebesta, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District. "As an added benefit, the project

will help assure the pristine environment of the Smith River watershed, and we look forward to bringing our collective expertise to the table."

The Nation plans to replace wastewater infrastructure at Xaa-wan'-k'wvt Village and Resort, located at the Mouth of the Smith River, on the Pacific Ocean. The property, formerly known as the Ship Ashore Mobile Home Park, was purchased by the Nation in 2016, and renamed to Xaa-wan'-k'wvt Village & Resort, in recognition of the return of the historical Xaa-wan'-k'wvt Village, a municipality that provided the Tolowa people with governance, food,

*continued next page*



*[Above] San Francisco District Commander Lt. Col. Timothy Shebesta shakes hands with Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Tribal Council Chairperson Jeri Lynn Thompson following the signing of an agreement Dec. 18 that will provide extensive improvements to a 50-year-old wastewater system serving low-income households in Smith River, Calif. [Left] Leaders from SPN and Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation stand for a group photo. (Photos by Scott Graves, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Public Information Officer)*



# ENVIRONMENTAL

## SPN, EBMUD sign milestone agreement in Alameda

### Release

District Public Affairs Office

Leaders from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District and East Bay Municipal Utility District signed a milestone project partnership agreement today paving the way for construction of the first recycled water pipeline to serve Alameda.

The project was boosted by \$3.2 million in federal funds appropriated through the Army Corps' Environmental Infrastructure Assistance Program. The program, authorized through Section 219 of the 1992 Water Resources Development Act, provides planning, design and construction assistance for water and sewer-related environmental infrastructure projects for communities throughout the United States. Congressional leaders, including Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Senator Alex Padilla, and the late Senator Dianne Feinstein, helped push for funding for the project as part of federal spending efforts.

"We're thrilled to secure this federal investment for East Bay communities and proud



Beach

**USACE and East Bay Municipal Utility District leaders signed a milestone project partnership agreement Jan. 26, 2024, paving the way for construction of the first recycled water pipeline to serve Alameda.**

to partner once again with EBMUD," said Maj. Shantel Glass, USACE San Francisco District deputy district commander, who, alongside EBMUD Board President Lesa

McIntosh, signed the agreement during an official ceremony on Jan. 26, 2024, at Bohol Circle Immigrant Park in Alameda. "We all know how critical these recycled water proj-

ects are to local communities as they look to modernize their infrastructure in the face of climate change."

*continued back page*

### Tolowa continued

housing and worship.

While most of the infrastructure on the property has considerable deferred maintenance issues, this project is a priority for the Nation as the current wastewater system is an outdated lagoon system that does not meet current environmental regulatory standards and poses considerable health and safety concerns. The lagoon is a quarter mile from the Smith River Estuary and is an environmental risk and hazard. Without funds for system replacement, the current system could fail, leaving 150 households without wastewater disposal

and could harm the environment.

The estimated cost of the project, which consists of wastewater collection replacement and wastewater treatment plant expansion, is approximately \$25 million. The project is included as part of the Water Resources Development Act, passed by Congress in 2023. The partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers is hoped to provide 75 percent of the funding needed for the project. The Nation is seeking \$6 to \$7 million in additional funding from the state of California to complete the project.

Replacement of the outdated wastewater system has been a long-term goal of California's North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board which, in 2018,

funded a \$500,000 preliminary engineering study to determine the best option for replacing the collection and treatment systems. This study determined the best option was to replace the existing collection systems and lift stations that carry wastewater 1.1 miles north to the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, owned and operated by the Nation. This would roughly double the capacity of the plant, a modern, membrane bio-reactor treatment plant that has been operating for 12-plus years with certified operators. The project is fully designed and permitted (including NEPA), and the Coastal Development Permit has been approved.





*Staff Sgt. Todd Pate, above left and right, works alongside SF District Civil Engineer Brian Becker to conduct a side scan survey near the Port Chicago Disaster site, while onboard the M/V Sounder.*



## Army divers survey Port Chicago

Story & photos by Brandon Beach  
District Public Affairs

The 511th Engineer Dive Detachment, based at Fort Eustis, VA, teamed up with hydrographic surveyors from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District May 21 to conduct sonar survey operations in Suisun Bay, Calif. The four-Soldier team deployed an underwater towfish from the deck of the District's M/V Sounder to complete side scans of the harbor at Military Ocean Terminal Concord. The site is where the deadly Port Chicago Disaster happened on July 17, 1944, in which a massive explosion took the lives of 320 sailors and civilians. It was the worst home front disaster the Nation faced during World War II. The survey operations will help inform the District about the presence of underwater objects in advance of future dredging work done in the area.



*District Small Craft Operator Fran Fitzpatrick maneuvers the M/V Sounder, while Sgt. A.J. Benavidez, top left, deploys the towfish.*

### Agreement continued

The project aims to repurpose a half mile of 1940s-era cast iron potable water pipeline below the Oakland-Alameda Estuary that EBMUD replaced in April 2023. With that new earthquake-resistant waterline now in service, USACE and EBMUD will begin work to repurpose the old pipe to deliver 500,000 gallons daily of recycled water to Alameda for irrigation and industrial uses; a housing development at Bohol Circle Immigration Park already is plumbed with tell-tale purple meter boxes to receive recycled water.

"This project provides a phenomenal opportunity for local and federal government to provide a creative solution that supports sustainable water supplies in California," said EBMUD Board

President Lesa McIntosh. "As climate change disrupts historic weather patterns, we must use every drop of the natural water cycle. Recycled water lets us use this natural resource three times: first as natural rainfall, second when we drink the water we've captured, and third as recycled water for our landscapes and industries."

This is an important expansion to EBMUD's 16-year-old East Bayshore Recycled Water Project at the EBMUD Wastewater Treatment Plant near the foot of the Bay Bridge, which serves approximately 200,000 gallons daily to parts of Oakland and Emeryville.

"This is an exciting moment for the residents and businesses in the City of Alameda," said EBMUD Director Doug Linney. "This new access to recycled water puts Alameda in a position to lead the fight against climate change by reducing its

water consumption footprint, on top of receiving a new potable water pipeline last year to ensure reliable service in the future. I'd say it's a great day to live on this island by the bay."

This is the second time USACE and EBMUD have partnered on a Section 219-funded project. In 2010, the two agencies wrapped up construction of a new pump station and pipeline along Bollinger Canyon Road in San Ramon. The project was part of the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program, which supplies recycled water to more than 60 EBMUD customer sites, including parks, greenbelts, schools, common area landscapes and golf courses.

In total, EBMUD customers use 9 million gallons daily (MGD) of recycled water with the goal of reaching 20 MGD by 2040.