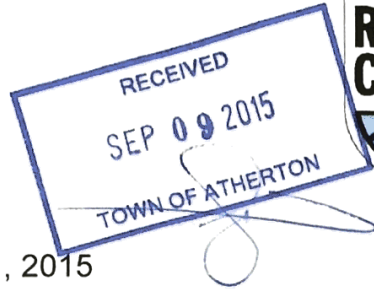


Mayor Jeffrey Gee
Vice Mayor Rosanne S. Foust

Council Members
Alicia C. Aguirre
Ian Bain
Diane Howard
Barbara Pierce
John D. Seybert



1017 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD
Redwood City, California 94063
Telephone (650) 780-7220
FAX (650) 261-9102
www.redwoodcity.org



September 1, 2015

Honorable Mayor
Rick DeGolia
Town of Atherton
91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027
(sent also via email to:
rdegolia@ci.atherton.ca.us)

*George's see
Did you see
this?*

RE: South Bay Salt Pond Restoration

Dear Honorable Mayor DeGolia:

On behalf of the City Council and our community, I am writing to request your support of Alternative "D" of The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report for Phase 2 Alternative Plans at the Alviso and Ravenswood ponds.

For many years, the Friendly Acres neighborhood and the mobile home parks along East Bayshore Blvd. have flooded during the rainy season. The primary reason for flooding in this area is the combination of a high tide and a wet rain. The drainage watershed places these neighborhoods at the "bottom of the bathtub." Storm runoff collects in these areas, and then drains into the Bayfront Canal. When a high tide occurs, the flood gate closes where the canal reaches the bay, and there is no place for the storm runoff to go - except into the mobile home parks and into our neighborhoods. During a very heavy rain, and a high tide, it is not unusual to have streets closed with 3-4 feet of standing water.

Alternative "D" in the EIS was developed collaboratively between Redwood City, and the State Conservancy. Two salt ponds in Menlo Park will not be restored to wetlands due to their proximity to the urban edge. This provides an opportunity to use these salt ponds as a retention basin for stormwater runoff from the Bayfront Canal. Stormwater retained in the salt ponds will then be released to the bay at low tide.

Extensive testing of water runoff and hydrology engineering has been conducted by the City. This solution will reduce the opportunity for flooding in these neighborhoods – most likely the 30-year flood. This improvement will not address flooding that may occur at a 50-year, or 100-year event. In addition, a "super El Nino," as predicted for this winter, and the combination of a high tide may likely result in extensive flooding.

A more long-term, and substantive solution to these types of floods will require broad collaboration between the County, and the cities of Menlo Park, Atherton and others as most of the storm runoff comes from outside of Redwood City. However, as our residents are the most affected, the Redwood City Council and staff have worked hard to find solutions to improve the current situation.

The City has set aside \$5 million in our CIP for pump station improvements. In addition, we have obtained \$3 million in grants, and have identified some other funds to help us implement Alternative "D." However, the City is actively seeking additional funds for construction.

Once the EIS is certified, staff estimates at least one year is required for permitting, and another year for construction.

In the meantime, staff is working with property owners to prepare for this year's storm season. We are working to make sure that the Bayfront Canal is clear of debris and vegetation, and that property owners have taken measures to ensure that their pumps are maintained, repaired and in good working condition.

More information about the environmental document is on the Project website at <http://www.southbayrestoration.org/planning/phase2/>.

The deadline for letters of support and comments is September 22, 2015, and may be sent to:

South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project
Att: Ms. Brenda Buxton, Project Manager
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

If you have any additional questions, please contact Mr. Aaron Aknin, Interim City Manager at 650-780-7301.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Gee", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeff Gee, Mayor
City of Redwood City

C: City Council, Redwood City
Mr. Aknin, Interim City Manager