

**Alameda Creek Watershed Center in Sunol & Grounds Restoration
Planning Meeting**

**Sunol Yard Conference Room
August 27, 2012**

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Robb Marshall
Mary Marshall
Irv Tiessen
Diane Tiessen
Bob Foster
Pat Stillman
Solveig Shearer
Connie DeGrange
Derek Johnson
Terri Bostater, EBRPD

Bryan Dessaure, SFPUC, Project Manager
Stanley So, SF Department of Public Works,
Architect of Sunol Yard
Carla Schultheis, Natural Resources and Land
Management
Tim Ramirez, Natural Resources and Land
Management
Betsy L. Rhodes, SFPUC Communications and
Public Outreach
Tim Koopmann, Natural Resources and Land
Management

I. Welcome and Introduction

The purpose of this meeting was for the planning committee to review and provide feedback on the following: preliminary layout for the Sunol Yard buildings and conceptual plan for interpretive elements of the proposed Alameda Creek Watershed Center in Sunol.

II. Overview of Preliminary Design Concept for Sunol Yard Buildings by: Stanley So.

Mr. So introduced the overall layout of the new yard buildings and the design of the administration building. The modern design is intended to match the look of the watershed center buildings previously reviewed by the committee. The fence and landscaping plans are not in place, yet. This is a very early draft.

Feedback:

- The buildings look too industrial.
- Soften the roofline and roof edge.
- Change the materials window and door frame finish from clear anodized aluminum to bronze anodized aluminum or other more dull and subtle finishes.

- Use softer colors, like the watershed center.
- Better blend the style with the watershed center buildings.
- Be sure landscaping softens the look further.
- Make sure the fence is attractive.
- Screen the four shop buildings.
- To that end, perhaps re-painting those buildings would make them more attractive. Lighter color at the top and darker at the bottom. Or Paint murals on the side of them...

Other questions.

What is difference between a flood way and flood plain?

- Flood way cannot be the location of any structures that would hamper the flow of a 100 year flood. All structures on that side are covered storage without walls. Flood Plain areas just

have to be elevated above possible flood waters. We plan to raise the building above [the potential flood level](#).

How will you construct the yard while people are working here?

In phases. We are working on the work sequence.

III. Update on Interpretive Elements and Concepts for Facilities and Ground , Carla Schultheis.

Ms. Schultheis first reviewed the major themes and subthemes developed to guide the watershed center interpretive elements that are a result of previous meetings. She then provided an overview of the broad interpretive outlines of the center, from the building entrance rotunda, to the creek-related exhibits to the lab and outdoor spaces. (please see handout on sfwater.org/sunolvalley).

Feedback:

- Pleased that this seems to directly reflect community feedback.
- Pleased that the picnic area will be refurbished and opened.
- Will there be a map of the [Hetch Hetchy Regional] water system as part of the center?
- Had you heard of Spring Preserve outside of Las Vegas? It is a wonderful representation of a water system story and is a good example. (<http://www.springspreserve.org>)
- You should see the aquatic exhibit through San Jose Parks near Los Gatos. [is this the Los Gatos Creek Trail? <http://www.sjpark.org/Trails/LosGatos/LosGatos.asp> . Staff can't find any reference to stream profiles here...]
- Perhaps maps on the floor would help with the small space?

Other questions:

How will you work around the Native American artifacts that are likely there?

We are working with our teams on this now. We are doing some explorations in the ground as well as outreach to Native American groups to be sensitive to what is there now.

Several properties in Sunol have found brick and mortar vestiges of what appears to be an underground water storage and conveyance system. Is this part of the original water system here?

We will look into it. Not sure.

IV. Next Steps

- Staff will pull together notes and run them by the group to ensure we have heard the group's direction properly.
- SFPUC will come back to the group with more detailed interpretive designs towards the end of 2012.
- Please give us feedback at any time on what you've seen at cschultheis@sfwater.org or blauppe@sfwater.org.

Visit sfwater.org/sunolvalley and click on the Watershed Center link to view and download these concepts