Recreation & Park Department

Lake Merced Joint City Agency Project Updates

Thursday, February 17, 2022

Inspire, Connect, Play!
Introduction/
Meeting Purpose

1. To provide the public with joint Recreation & Parks Dept (RPD), Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA), Public Utilities Commission (PUC) project updates around Lake Merced.
2. To keep the community informed/engaged during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. To highlight the interdepartmental nature of our work.
Agenda:

1. **Introduction**
   A. Meeting Purpose
   B. Lake Merced Project Area/ Vicinity Map
   C. Agenda Overview

2. **Lake Merced (LM) Project Presentations (SFMTA, RPD, PUC)**
   A. SFMTA - Both presented by Thalia Leng, Senior Transportation Planner (MTA)
      1. *LM Community Based Pedestrian Safety Plan*
      2. *LM Quick Build Project*
   B. RPD
      3. *LM West EIR*, Jackie Suen, Property Mgr (RPD)
      4. *LM Boat Dock Replacement Project*, Noah Levy, Project Mgr (RPD)
      5. *LM Trail Improvements*, Steven Tucker, Project Mgr (RPD)
   C. PUC
         Obi Nzewi, Regulatory Specialist (PUC)

3. **Timeline Overview**

4. **Contacts & Links/ Q & A**
1. LM Community Based Pedestrian Safety Plan, Thalia Leng (MTA)
2. LM Quick Build Project, Thalia Leng (MTA)
3. LM West EIR, Jackie Suen (RPD)
4. LM Boat Dock Replacement Project, Noah Levy (RPD)
5. LM Trail Improvements, Steven Tucker (RPD)
The Lake Merced Pedestrian Safety Community Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) represents a collaborative planning process with community groups and other stakeholders to identify pedestrian challenges and solutions on Lake Merced Boulevard between Skyline Boulevard and John Muir Drive.

A community Steering Committee was formed in late 2020 and met monthly from January to June 2021 to:

- Establish baseline conditions
- Perform a community safety needs assessment
- Develop a prioritized list of pedestrian safety improvements for Lake Merced Boulevard
CBTP Corridor Recommendations

High Priority
- Improve transit*
  * Service for the 57 and 58 bus routes will resume August 14, 2021

Medium Priority
- Install signage
- Narrow travel lanes; Install bike facilities
- Install new pedestrian crossing
- Install lighting
Priority Level
- High Priority/Near-Term Improvements
- Medium Priority/Long-Term Improvement
- Low Priority/Long-Term Improvements

Recommendation
- Close slip lanes
- Install/improve pedestrian refuge islands
- Widen or add sidewalks
- Install lighting (pedestrian or street level)
- Upgrade traffic signal heads
- Additional walk time
- Install signage
- Upgrade crosswalks
The Quick Build project proposes improvements to increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists and to create an overall safer and more livable Lake Merced. The project will implement some of the high priority/near-term recommendations from the Pedestrian Study.

Scope may include:
- Striping and crosswalk upgrades
- Signal head and timing improvements
- New signage
- Road lane changes in combinations with new protected bike facilities

Process/Timeline:
- Preliminary Planning
- Public Outreach (Spring 2022)
- Implementation (TBD)
Lake Merced West Project Area
Lake Merced West Project Background

Pacific Rod and Gun Club
Operated at the site from 1934 to 2015

A cultural landscape
that appears eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historic Resources
Lake Merced West Project Background

Source: Denise Bradley Cultural Landscapes
Lake Merced West – Environmental Review Process

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

• The Environmental Planning division of the Planning Department implements CEQA in San Francisco

• Purposes of CEQA are to
  • Inform decision makers and the public of the project’s environmental effect
  • Engage the public in the environmental review process
  • Disclose potential project impacts on the environment
  • Avoid or reduce potential impacts of the project with alternatives and mitigation measures

• Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
  • Defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15161
  • The project at Lake Merced West may have a significant effect on the environment
    • EIR will analyze the project effects that would be significant and focus on historic resources
    • Initial study will be an appendix to the EIR and address the project effects that would be less than significant
CEQA review must consider both **project-specific** and **cumulative** effects.
Lake Merced West Project Description
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upcoming Key Dates</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publish draft EIR</td>
<td>February 23, 2022</td>
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<td>Public comment period</td>
<td>February 23-April 11, 2022</td>
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<td>Historic Preservation Commission meeting</td>
<td>March 16, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Commission meeting</td>
<td>March 31, 2022</td>
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<td>Publish final EIR</td>
<td>Estimated Fall 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public comment period</td>
<td>Estimated Fall 2022</td>
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Lake Merced Boat Dock Replacement Project
Lake Merced Boat Dock Replacement Existing Conditions 2020

[Images of existing conditions of the dock and surrounding area]
Key project features include:

- Removal of the old deteriorating dock.
- Replacement with a new accessible 80’ gangway and 140’ dock.
- Enhanced accessibility; dock, parking stall, circulation driveways and pathways.
- New site retaining walls, fencing, seating areas
- New storage units for California Dragon Boat Association recreation supplies.
- New lawn, shrubs, groundcover planting and irrigation
- New site lighting
Lake Merced Boat Dock Replacement Construction - 2020
Lake Merced Boat Dock Replacement Project
Lake Merced Boat Dock Replacement Project
Lake Merced Boat Dock Replacement Project
The Lake Merced Trail Improvements project proposes pedestrian scale improvements along Skyline Blvd, Lake Merced Blvd, and a small portion at John Muir Dr. The project will implement some of the recommendations from series of community meetings.

Scope includes:
- New Asphalt/Concrete + Trail Paving
- New Exercise Equipment + Site Furniture
- Water Fountain + Irrigation and Planting
- Grading and Drainage, Retaining Walls

Process/Timeline:
- Planning (Winter 2022)
- Construction (Fall 2022)
- Opening (Spring 2023)
Lake Merced Trail Improvements Existing Conditions

The Lake Merced Trail Improvements seeks to replace old exercise equipment that has been in place for over 20 years which includes the renewal of the existing hardscape paving and adjacent running trail, several benches, tables, and porta-potty.
Lake Merced Trail Improvements Existing Conditions
Lake Merced Trail Improvements

Scope includes:
- All-Inclusive Exercise Equipment
- New Exercise Equipment + Site Furniture
Lake Merced Trail Improvements
Stabilizing Water Levels

- The lake's only significant source of water is direct rainfall, and it has no natural outflows.
- Declining water levels negatively impact recreational, ecological, and emergency water supply uses.

Working with our stakeholders and partners, we have identified strategies that will stabilize the lake at a healthy level.

- Recycled water for surrounding area irrigation
- Diversion of stormwater Daly City's Vista Grande to the lake during rain events

Obiajulu Nzewi
Groundwater Program Manager
Water Quality

Lake Merced is rich in minerals and organic nutrients that promote proliferation of plant life including algae. Since 1997 we have conducted quarterly water sampling to monitor the condition of the lake, including harmful algal blooms (since 2020).

The Westside Enhanced Water Recycling Plant will provide treated water to safely irrigate Golden Gate Park, the San Francisco Zoo, and other parks and open space areas of the City. This water could also provide a year-round source of Lake Merced

- not dependent on rainfall
- would enable higher lake levels that support both habitat and recreational uses
- SFPUC conducting preliminary feasibility evaluations
Temporary Staging of Soil from Stern Grove Emergency Restoration Project

- February 15 - July 2022
- Hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday - Saturday
- No noise generating activity before 8 a.m.
- Comply with all City Noise Ordinances
- Necessary in order to start Stern Grove Concert Season on schedule.

Questions: 415-554-3233
nnegusse@sfwater.org
Timeline Overview

- **MAR 2020**: RPD Commission approves conceptual design for LM Boat Dock
- **SEPT 2021**: LM Boat Dock open to the public
- **FALL 2022**: LM Trails Improvement Project Construction Begins
- **FEB 23, 2022**: LMW DEIR Published
- **OCT 2021**: LM Ped Safety CBTB: SFMTA Board approval
- **FALL 2022**: LMW Final EIR Published
- **SUMMER 2022**: Quick Build SFMTA Board approval
- **FALL 2022**: LM Trails Improvement Project Construction Begins
- **SPRING 2023**: LM Trails Improvement Project Construction Opens
- **2023**: Construction to Begin on Vista Grande

*Lake Merced Water Quality Monitoring: Quarterly water sampling to monitor the condition of the lake since 1997*
Q&A / Contacts for Lake Merced Projects

**RPD Projects**
Lake Merced Trail Improvements  
Contact: Steven Tucker  
Steven.Tucker@sfgov.org

Lake Merced West Project  
Contact: Jackie Suen  
Jackie.Suen@sfgov.org

Lake Merced Boat Dock Replacement Project  
Contact: Noah Levy  
Noah.Levy@sfgov.org

**MTA Projects**
Lake Merced Quick-Build Project  
Lake Merced Pedestrian safety Project  
Contact: Thalia Leng  
Thalia.Leng@sfmta.com

**PUC Projects**
General Overview of Lake Merced Water  
https://sfpuc.org/learning/come-visit/lake-merced  
Contact: Obi Nzewi  
ONzewi@sfwater.org

Environmental documents are available online at: sfplanning.org/sfceqadocs, Search for “Lake Merced West”

You may submit written comments regarding the EIR to: CPC.LakeMercedWestEIR@sfgov.org

Rec Park’s website for Lake Merced West is: https://sfrecpark.org/1568/Lake-Merced-West

All information for the Lake Merced Pedestrian Safety CBTP can be found at: www.sfmta.com/LakeMercedWalk

For updates and information on the Lake Merced Quick Build project please visit: www.sfmta.com/LakeMercedQB
San Francisco Recreation & Park Department

Thank You

Inspire, Connect, Play!