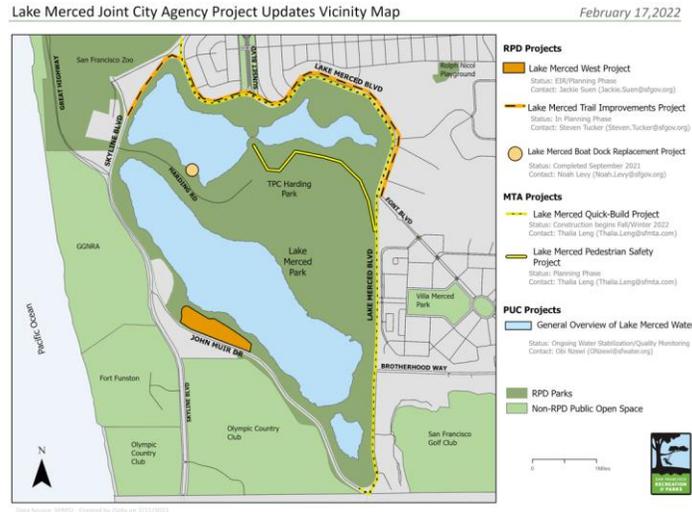


# FAQ's For Lake Merced Joint City Agency Project Updates Community Meeting Held on February 17, 2022



## San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)

### *Lake Merced Community Based Safety Plan (PM: Thalia Leng)*

#### **Who was involved in creating the Lake Merced Pedestrian Safety Community Based Transportation Plan (CBTP)?**

Project was directed by a Steering Committee of 10 members with diverse interests/backgrounds including WalkSF, Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood, Lakeshore Elementary, SFSU, Pomeroy Recreation and Rehabilitation Center, District 7 staff, residents, and regular commuters. The Steering Committee 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

#### **Where can I find the recommendations proposed in the Lake Merced Pedestrian Safety CBTP?**

All recommendations are discussed and prioritized in depth the in plan document, which can be found at this link: [https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2021/10/lake\\_merced\\_pedestrian\\_safety\\_cbtp.pdf](https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2021/10/lake_merced_pedestrian_safety_cbtp.pdf)

#### **Will the recommendations listed in the plan be implemented and when?**

The CBTP document details which recommendations are higher priority and discusses the feasibility of implementation. Most of the recommendations such as improving striping at intersections, adding signs, upgrading signal heads, narrowing traffic lanes and installing bike facilities will be implemented by the Lake Merced Quick Build project. The Lake Merced Quick Build project will likely start construction in late 2022.

## *Lake Merced Quick Build Project (PM: Thalia Leng)*

### **Why is the SFMTA pursuing this project?**

The Lake Merced Quick-Build Project will allow the SFMTA to quickly implement community identified and prioritized traffic safety improvements identified in the Lake Merced Pedestrian Safety Community Based Transportation Plan. More information can be accessed on the project website at [SFMTA.com/LakeMercedQB](https://sfmta.com/LakeMercedQB)

### **What is being proposed?**

The project elements will include a suite of multimodal improvements that promote traffic safety for all road users including new bike facilities and pedestrian intersection improvements.

### **Will there be opportunity for community feedback?**

Yes! The SFMTA is currently coordinating with District 7 Supervisor Melgar's Office to schedule a virtual town hall held over Zoom in spring 2022. At the town hall, you will meet the Lake Merced Quick-Build Project Team, learn more about the project, review the design, and provide feedback. Dates will be announced shortly; please sign up at the link below to be on our project email listserv and be notified of the meeting details:

<https://www.sfmta.com/signup-alerts?sfid=701t000000GACzAAO&destination=/projects/lake-merced-quick-build-project>.

The project team is also meeting with various community groups along Lake Merced Blvd including schools and residential communities. If you would like to schedule a meeting or have any questions/comments about the effort to improve traffic safety and pedestrian and bicycle connectivity along Lake Merced Blvd please contact the Lake Merced Quick Build Project Manager, Shayda Haghgoo, at [shayda.haghgoo@sfmta.com](mailto:shayda.haghgoo@sfmta.com)!

### **What is the timeline?**

The Lake Merced Quick-Build Project team will spend spring and summer 2022 conducting outreach, refining designs, and preparing for legislative approval. Our goal is to receive SFMTA Board Hearing approval by the end of summer 2022 and begin construction in late 2022.

## **Recreation and Parks Department (RPD)**

### *Lake Merced West Environmental Impact Report (PM: Jackie Suen)*

#### **What are the main phases of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) review process and how long does it take to complete?**

The upcoming milestones for the EIR are publication of the draft EIR, comment period for the draft EIR, development of the Responses to Comments document, and certification of the Final EIR, which is the draft EIR combined with the Response to Comments document and any appendices and supporting information. This process is estimated to be complete by Fall 2022. Certification of the Final EIR is by the San Francisco Planning Commission. After certification, the Recreation and Park Commission will adopt CEQA findings based on the Final EIR.

**When will the DRAFT and FINAL EIR be published and available for public review?**

The draft EIR was published on February 23, 2022. The Responses to Comments document is anticipated to be published roughly two weeks prior to the certification hearing in Fall 2022.

**What are the opportunities for public input on the EIR?**

The public has the opportunity to provide comments during the public comments period for the draft EIR (February 23-April 11) and at the Planning Commission hearing on March 31, 2022. Comments can also be provided at the EIR certification hearing which is estimated to be in Fall 2022, but will not be responded to in the EIR. Comments should be focused on the adequacy of the analysis of environmental effects in the EIR. Comments on the merits of the project are welcome, however they will not be addressed in the Response to Comments document.

**Why isn't the dock and boathouse in the EIR Project Description larger in size to provide greater capacity for the boating/rowing community?**

The EIR Project Description was developed in support of the project objectives, including a key objective to, "Provide a range of uses and facilities that encourages general public participation and serve visitors regardless of age, fitness level, experience, or ability to participate." As a result, the sizing of the various buildings (including the dock and boathouse) and variety of programmatic spaces were carefully considered in relation to funding considerations and to provide for the greatest range and balance of uses for EIR study purposes. The size of the dock and boathouse in the EIR does not preclude the Recreation & Park Department from pursuing a larger dock and boathouse in the future; however, it would likely trigger additional environmental review. Following the certification of the EIR and general project approval by the Rec & Park Commission, Rec Park will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development, management, and operation of the recreational facility. Respondents to the RFP will have the opportunity to present their project for the city's consideration.

**What does certification of the EIR mean?**

Certification of the EIR does not mean the project is approved. It satisfies the CEQA environmental review requirements for the proposed project. Project approval or rejection is a completely separate consideration from the adequacy of the EIR. The Rec & Park Commission will take the first approval action for the project. However, multiple permits and approvals for the project will be required from many different agencies including the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the California Coastal Commission.

**When is the EIR expected to be certified?**

Consideration and certification of the FEIR at the Planning Commission is anticipated to be in fall 2022. After Planning Commission certification, the Recreation and Park Commission will consider and adopt CEQA findings related to the FEIR and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) prior to the approval of a concept plan for the project. The specific development will be based on responses to a Request for Proposals issued after concept plan approval. It will be subject to approvals from several other regulatory agencies.

## *North Lake Merced Boat Dock Replacement Project (PM: Noah Levy)*

### **What improvements/design elements were included in the boat dock replacement project?**

The major scope of work for this project includes the following: Removal of the old deteriorating dock and replacement with a new accessible 80' gangway and 140' dock; Enhanced accessibility features including dock, parking stall, circulation driveways and pathways; New site retaining walls, fencing, seating areas; New storage units for recreation and boating supplies; New lawn area, shrubs, groundcover planting and irrigation; And new site lighting.

### **When will the boat dock be open to the public?**

The Boat Dock project is complete and was opened to the public in September 2021.

### **What are the hours of operation of the boat dock?**

Boat Dock hours of operation are sunrise to sunset.

### **Who operates the boat dock and how can the public use it?**

The Boat Dock is operated by SF Recreation and Parks Department. The dock and adjacent boat ramp are available for public use. All rules and regulations are posted on site and must be followed.

### **Is a permit required to use the boat dock?**

Permits are not required to use the Boat Dock.

### **Are Boat or Kayak rentals available at the Boat Dock?**

Currently, we do not have boat or kayak rentals available at the Lake Merced Dock. However, from March to October we will have one day kayak classes on alternating Saturdays. Please see RPD Program Activities web page for more details. Petal boats are always available for rent at Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park.

### **Are motorized boats allowed at Lake Merced?**

There are no motorized boats allowed in either lake. The only exception to this rule is the pace boat for the rowers on the South Lake.

### **Are Remote Control Vehicles allowed at Lake Merced?**

RC vehicles are not allowed on either North or South Lake due to disruption of wildlife.

### **Are drones allowed at Lake Merced?**

Drones are not allowed at Lake Merced.

## *Lake Merced Trail Improvements (PM: Steven Tucker)*

### **How long will the trail improvement construction last and will it result in trail segment closures?**

The construction timeline is set for about 6 months and will result in some trail segment closures but not total closure.

### **What design elements are included in the trail improvement?**

Grading and drainage, paving, parking striping, retaining walls, exercise equipment, site furnishings, signage, irrigation and planting.

**What amount of trail is being improved at this time and will all remaining trails be improved in the future?**

Along Skyline Blvd from Harding Rd to Lake Merced Blvd, Along Lake Merced Blvd to Middlefield Dr, and a small portion at John Muir Drive at the Lake Merced Concrete Bridge

**How was the trails project funded?**

The project was funded with a combination of 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond funds and a State Grant.

## **San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)**

*General Overview of Lake Merced Water Stabilization/Water Quality Monitoring*  
(PM: Obi Nzewi)

**How will the SFPUC's groundwater pumping plan affect Lake Merced water levels?**

Groundwater pumping will not impact Lake Merced water levels. One requirement of the SFPUC's groundwater program, one requirement is that we cannot have any adverse impacts on Lake Merced levels. Our goal is to supply a total of 4 million gallons of water per day of groundwater. We are phasing it in very slowly to make sure we understand how the basin reacts to pumping. We will continue to carefully monitor lake levels and should we detect any potential impacts from groundwater pumping beyond the normal Lake Level fluctuations we would cut back on pumping.

**Could you build windmills to improve oxygen levels at the lake?**

In 2018 we did a demonstration aeration project in the lake. We implemented it to evaluate raising oxygen levels in the lake. It did help the oxygen levels to some degree. However, on a larger scale the most important piece of this would be to do something about Lake Levels, which will help with dissolved oxygen. We will still continue to look at aeration across entire lake if needed.

**What is the current water quality at the lake? Is Lake Merced safe for recreation?**

We sample Lake Merced on a quarterly basis. The water quality at the Lake is similar to what it has been historically. Early in fall 2021 we did post notifications about algal blooms. Fortunately, the rains in December 2021 really helped. At our last testing, algal levels were half of what they had been previously. However, we continue to monitor for any water quality impacts in the lake, and post up to date information here: <https://sfpuc.org/learning/come-visit/lake-merced>

**If using recycled water works, is the plan to use it to increase lake levels?**

We plan on moving forward with the Vista Grande Canal project to divert stormwater into Lake Merced. Of course, that is rain dependent. The advantage of using recycled water in addition to diverted stormwater is that it would be a more stable source of supply over the long term. We hope to be able to use both options.