

Agenda Item 7. Upstream Planning Application

Pope-Chaucer Bridge



Photo from Palo Alto Online

Project Objectives

- ▶ Protect life, property, and infrastructure from creek flooding up to 7,500 cubic feet per second (cfs)
- ▶ Enhance habitat in the project area
- ▶ Create new recreational opportunities
- ▶ Minimize operational and maintenance requirements; and
- ▶ Not limit future actions to bring cumulative flood protection up to a 100-year flow event.

Project Description

- ▶ Replace the Pope-Chaucer bridge,
- ▶ Widen the creek channel at four locations,
- ▶ Add between 1 and 4 feet of creek bank elevation at two Palo Alto properties,
- ▶ Remove a concrete structure on the East Palo Alto side of the creek and replace it with a more natural creek bank,
- ▶ Replace a temporary wooden parapet.

Replacing the Pope-Chaucer Bridge

- ▶ The existing bridge is a large concrete culvert with a maximum flow capacity of ~ 5,800 cubic feet per second (cfs).
- ▶ The new bridge will have a flow capacity of ~ 7,500 cfs.
- ▶ The proposed new bridge design restores the natural creek bed.
- ▶ The proposed design minimizes impacts to residents and local roads.
- ▶ There will be short term effects during construction which will be mitigated.

The proposed bridge design will reduce the risk of creek flooding without requiring changes at local residences or to the adjoining intersections at Pope and Chaucer Streets.

Pope-Chaucer Bridge Conceptual Rendering



Pope-Chaucer Bridge Conceptual Rendering



Arborists Preliminary Report

SFCJPA design criteria to minimize tree removals

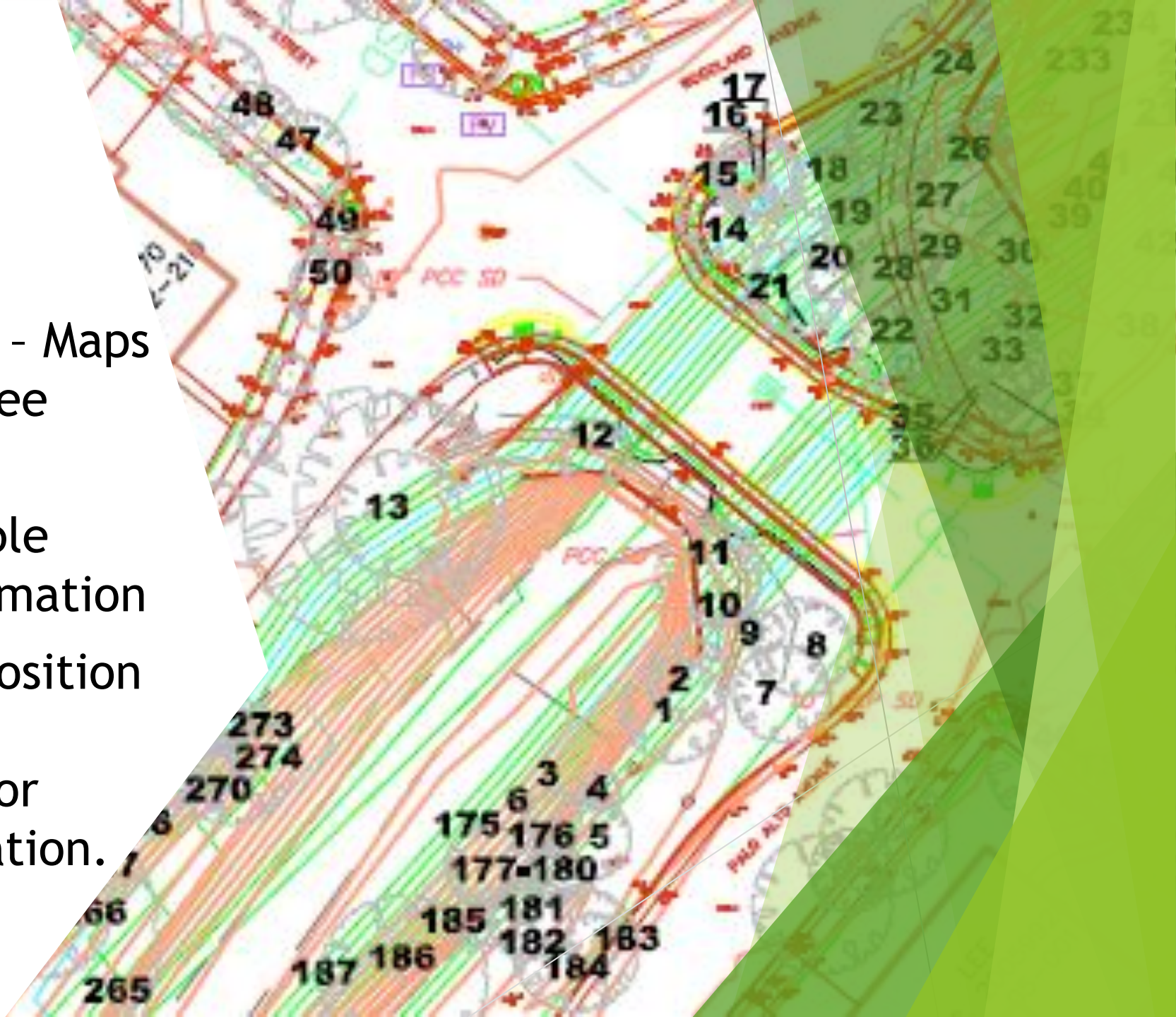
- ▶ Assessed trees measuring 4 inches +
- ▶ 535 Trees were surveyed, representing 52 species
- ▶ Evaluated each tree's health, structure, suitability for preservation and protected status in and adjacent to the project area.
- ▶ Provided preliminary guidelines for tree preservation through all project phases.

Arborists Preliminary Report

- ▶ Considered tree health, age and structural condition, and its potential to remain an asset to the site for years to come.
- ▶ Rated the suitability for preservation as “high”, “moderate” or “low” based on health, age, structure.
- ▶ 51 trees had high suitability for preservation.
- ▶ 189 had moderate suitability for preservation.
- ▶ 293 had low suitability for preservation.

Arborists Preliminary Report

- ▶ Tree Assessment Plan - Maps showing numbered tree locations
- ▶ Tree Assessment - Table summarizing all information
- ▶ Preliminary Tree Disposition - Proposed/potential assessment of trees for removal and preservation.



Transplanting Trees

- ▶ SFCJPA is working with Menlo Park to transplant some oaks growing on the culvert.
- ▶ We know these trees must be removed.
- ▶ We would like to find locations for transplantation. Please recommend (or volunteer) locations.



Timeline and Process

- ▶ Submitted to all three cities on August 31.
- ▶ Palo Alto Planning will review, proposal will be heard at Architectural Review Board (ARB) in ~ 6 weeks. Then will be presented to City Council.
- ▶ Menlo Park - will be considered by the Planning Commission, then by City Council.
- ▶ East Palo Alto - will be considered by the Public Works and Transportation Commission, then by City Council.
- ▶ Aiming to conclude this process by the end of the year.