

**San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
Bay Division Pipeline Reliability Upgrade Project  
Public Information Meetings and Workshops**

**Meeting Summary- East Bay  
Newark, March 21, 2006  
Fremont, March 22, 2006**

**INTRODUCTION**

In March 2006, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) hosted a series of public information meetings and workshops in key communities impacted by the Bay Division Pipeline Reliability Upgrade Project.

The project seeks to build a fifth Bay Division Pipeline along the existing SFPUC right-of-way, and a tunnel underneath San Francisco Bay. This pipeline will allow the SFPUC to take other sections of pipelines, some of which were built in the 1920's and 1930's, out of service for repair and maintenance, and will provide a lifeline pipeline that is seismically designed to withstand earth movement. This pipeline will pass through the cities of Fremont, Newark, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Redwood City.

To explain the project and the proposed work to the general public, including the residents who live along the right-of-way, other property owners, business operators, government officials and city administrators, public meetings were held in Newark and Fremont. Approximately 61 members of the public attended these meetings.

Please note that the following is not a precise transcript of the meeting, but is intended to show the topics and issues of discussion.

**MEETING PRESENTATION**

Betsy Lauppe Rhodes of SFPUC Communications, Paul Mazza from SFPUC operations, and Joe Hill from project engineering made a presentation of the overall project including benefits, anticipated construction and the environmental review process. They explained how the water system transports glacial snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to 2.4 million people in four Bay Area counties. Four Bay Division Pipelines carry water to 2/3 of our customers, as well as replenish the water levels of local reservoirs in spring months in anticipation for summer when demand is high.

The cities of Newark and Fremont receive approximately 30% of their water from this system. SFPUC staff reviewed of the proposed project area with those in attendance and discussed possible pipeline construction techniques, the tunnel portion to go under San Francisco Bay and the function and appearance of 8 proposed valve vaults throughout the 21-mile alignment. SFPUC staff explained the correlation of these public meetings to the Environmental Review process and upcoming Scoping Meetings. Following the presentation from SFPUC staff, there was a brief question and answer period with the audience.

After the question and answer period, those in attendance went to various stations to view aerial and geographically defined maps showing the pipeline route and the SFPUC Right-of-Way in proximity to specific parcels. The comments asked at these

stations were answered by individual project team members and captured by note takers at each station.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

- 1) Q. In the presentation, it was stated that the construction will start in 2009. What is the anticipated duration?**

*A. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2009 and finish in 2013. However, due to the seasonal reservoir replenishment schedule, planned outages for construction and maintenance, and other projects' schedules, this timeline is subject to change. Even though construction is scheduled to span four years, this doesn't mean we will be in the same place for four years.*
- 2) Q. How long will you be in my neighborhood?**

*A. This type of construction moves fairly quickly. The construction team would be in one place - say behind someone's house - for a 2-week period to excavate, shore the trench, weld the pipe, coat the pipe, and back fill. However, if you live near a valve vault construction will take longer- up to a year.*
- 3) Q. Will you start at both ends at the same time or work from one end to the other? Do you know which end you're starting with?**

*A. At this point, it is too soon for the SFPUC staff to know. That will be determined during detailed design, which begins in June 2006. The construction schedule will be determined by shut down schedules and environmental factors, and we will look at other factors such as school schedules, shopping seasons, commute hours, etc. It is possible that pipeline work may not be linear in all places- we may work at several different sections at the same time.*
- 4) Q. When will project design start?**

*A. Detailed design is anticipated to begin in June 2006.*
- 5) Q. What is the timeline for the EIR? What is the full period and how will the public be notified?**

*A. The Planning Department, which is the Lead Agency for environmental review, will hold scoping meetings in spring or summer of 2006 where members of the public can learn more about the environmental review process and comment on the scope and focus of the Environmental Impact Report. If you signed in at this meeting, you will be added to our mailing list for scoping meetings. Notices will be sent by mail when scoping meetings are scheduled. In addition, the Planning Department will be publishing a Notice of Preparation, or "NOP," that will describe the proposed project and open a 30-day public-comment period during which time you may also submit your comments in writing to the SF Planning Department. If you would like to be on the NOP mailing list, please contact Timothy Johnston at the SF Planning Department at (415) 558-5978 or [timothy.johnston@sfgov.org](mailto:timothy.johnston@sfgov.org).*
- 6) Q. I encourage you to work closely with transit agencies and school districts to avoid construction impacts.**

*A. The SFPUC will coordinate with all transportation agencies with projects in the area and will evaluate school impacts in a separate category under CEQA. We will certainly be in touch with the Newark and Fremont School Districts regarding construction as the process moves forward.*

- 7) **Q. What are the construction hours? Are they regular work hours?**  
*A. Construction work is typically limited to weekdays. If work needs to occur on a weekend, neighbors will be notified in advance. Tunneling is typically an around the clock operation, but the work will be far enough from houses at the Newark Valve Lot that there should be no noticeable noise or dust. Truck traffic will be limited to specified hours.*
- 8) **Q. I understand that my fence juts out into your right of way, and that I may need to move it prior to construction. However, can I put it back up after construction is completed?**  
*A. We would have to look at the fence and the situation with you before we're able to respond.*
- 9) **Q. Where is the money for this project coming from? You say suburban users are going to be paying 2/3 of cost? Are SF users paying the same rate as suburban users?**  
*A. The Water System Improvement Program, or WSIP, is a voter-approved bond for financing capital improvements to repair, replace and upgrade the system's aging pipelines, dams and other infrastructure. The revenue bonds will be paid back through rate increases over the next 10 years. Our suburban customers are represented by the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, or BAWSCA, which adjusts its rates to pay back wholesale and construction fees.*
- 10) **Q. Where will you be working? Is it in private property? This easement abuts private property.**  
*A. The current plan is to construct this project adjacent to the existing Bay Division Pipelines 1 & 2 within land owned by the SFPUC in the East Bay, and mostly owned by the SFPUC on the Peninsula. The alignment is shown on the project aerials that we have brought with us tonight.*
- 11) **Q. Will construction in the right of way impact my view? The right of way passes behind my house.**  
*A. The environmental review process will look at details such as visual effects of the project. I encourage you to make this comment during environmental review scoping to ensure that it is addressed by the environmental review.*
- 12) **Q. How close are pipelines to each other?**  
*A. 15 feet, center to center.*
- 13) **Q. What is the diameter of the new pipeline?**  
*A. The new pipeline will be 72 inches (6 feet) in the East Bay, and 60 inches (5 feet) in the Peninsula.*
- 14) **Q. How will new pipes be affected by earthquakes?**  
*A. The new Bay Division Pipeline #5 will be seismically engineered to survive expected ground shaking and permanent ground deformation associated with a seismic event. This makes it safer than the existing pipes.*
- 15) **Q. What type of pipe material do you plan to use?**  
*A. The pipeline will be made of welded steel.*

**16) Q. Will you use a different type of pipe for the fault crossings?**  
**A.** *The pipe for the Hayward fault crossing will be designed by a seismic fault crossing specialist. At this point, we don't have any specific data as to the precise pipe type at the fault crossings.*

**17) Q. What would happen if the pipe breaks? I am concerned about flooding; my house is near the pipeline.**  
**A.** *That is why we install valve vaults along the pipeline, to isolate any potential ruptures and transfer the flow of water to non-damaged pipes so there will be no interruption of service. These vaults are designed to work remotely, so an operator can detect a potential leak and close the valves within half an hour to 45 minutes.*

**18) Will you hire local contractors to do the work here?**  
**A.** *SFPUC is currently working on plans and agreements to do just that. We can work language into our construction specifications that require a certain percentage of local hire, local training, or other projects that benefit the community*

*In March 2006 the Commission authorized SFPUC staff to proceed with negotiations of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for all WSIP construction. A PLA is intended to create a framework that will allow the SFPUC, contractors and construction unions to successfully complete the project. The Commission's resolution directed staff to ensure that the PLA contain provisions that would require local and area hire; and disadvantaged worker participation through existing training programs, including pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs. SFPUC will be working with local organizations, among others, to successfully comply with this directive.*

*Additionally, San Francisco is in the process of enacting a new Small and Micro Local Business program, which will expand the opportunity for participation to small contractors located within the service territory of Hetch Hetchy.*

**19) Q. Will you replace the black top (asphalt and concrete) in the parking lot of my church? It is under permit with you.**  
**A.** *We are uncertain as to the specific impacts of construction on that parking lot. We will be sure to bring this to the attention of our Real Estate Division, who will be in contact with those who hold leases on our right-of-way separately. We suggest people review a copy of their lease or permit agreement, which should give specific detail as to their responsibility to repair or replace improvements that may be disturbed by our projects.*

**20) Q. How will the SFPUC construction affect the grade separation project on Paseo Padre Parkway?**  
**A.** *SFPUC staff have been in contact with City of Fremont staff about the two projects.*

**21) Q. Regarding the Paseo Padre Parkway construction near Lake Elizabeth, where BART plans its extension, how will BART's construction process interact with yours? Will you, BART, and the City of Fremont be constructing at the same time?**  
**A.** *The SFPUC is currently in negotiations with Bart and the City of Fremont and we are attempting to reach an agreement that serves all the public agencies well. The current schedule for Bart and the City of Fremont projects is ahead of the SFPUC construction schedule.*

- 22) **Q. What is planned for the work at Paseo Padre Parkway? Will traffic be impacted by construction?**  
*A. It is difficult to say at this time how construction will precisely impact a specific intersection. We appreciate that Paseo Padre Parkway is a major intersection, and we will look into trenchless technologies as a possibility to minimize impacts to traffic. We will also create a traffic control plan for street crossings, and we will coordinate with the City of Fremont on these types of crossings.*
- 23) **Q. I live near the existing valve vault at Eugene and Rockett in Fremont. I am concerned that doors to this facility are left opened at night, and the light for the electrical shed isn't working. Will there be fences put up to keep motorcycles and off road vehicles off this land?**  
*A. The problems you describe are unacceptable. We will talk to our operations crew to determine what has been happening at this site. We're currently developing a protocol to address construction security. We're looking at putting up fences and other options, and we've hired a homeland security officer specifically to address these issues.*
- 24) **Q. From your maps it looks like the new pipe is on the north side of the existing pipes?**  
*A. Yes, according to current plans, the pipeline will be located on the north side of the existing two. However, that could change during detailed design.*
- 25) **Q. I watch most of the Fremont council meetings. People are complaining about a structure being built on Paseo Padre near Mission. Do you know what I'm talking about?**  
*A. The structure you are referring to is a an isolation/crossover facility located at the corner of Paseo Padre and Tissiack Way near where the Bay Division Pipelines 3 & 4 cross over three major traces of the Hayward earthquake fault. The vault will house crossover piping and isolation valves that will allow us to shut off the flow of water, much like a giant faucet, in the event that there is a pipeline rupture at the Hayward fault crossing. We are doing our very best to accommodate the wishes of the neighbors in this area as far as reducing visual impacts from the facility. What started out as a 15 foot tall, 70 feet long structure is now only 30 inches high. For them we completely redesigned the structure to eliminate the need for propane or diesel generators at this site and we've given neighbors the opportunity to vote on its color and other considerations. The fact is that is that these pipelines cross over a major earthquake fault near homes. This important facility has to be built somewhere for the safety of nearby residents in case of rupture as well as our 2.4 million customers. It has to go somewhere, even though some of these neighbors seem to tell us that they don't want it in their neighborhood. Construction of this valve vault will commence in fall of 2006.*
- 26) **Q. Does the City Council have any say in this?**  
*A. The SFPUC is a department of the City and County of San Francisco. The cities of Fremont and Newark staff will provide direction in the way of permits such as encroachment permits at road crossings. We will out of courtesy work with the local entities as we move forward with this project.*
- 27) **Q. Where are the two cut offs on either side of the Hayward fault?**  
*A. The two new crossover/isolation facilities will be located near the existing valve vaults in Fremont. The east fault crossing will be located on the east side of the existing valve vault off Paseo Padre Parkway. The west fault crossing will be across*

*the street from the existing facility near Grimmer Blvd. The new facility will be just west of Eugene Street.*

- 28) Q. How will construction affect Mission Creek? Mission Creek at Driscoll Rd. runs year round.**  
**A.** *We will investigate environmental effects of this project through the CEQA environmental review process. If the proposed project has any impacts on the creek, the EIR will address it.*
- 29) Q. What impact will there be to the Mission Community (related to the Irvington Project)?**  
**A.** *There will be some traffic impacts related to construction on and near Mission Boulevard for both the Irvington Tunnel Project and the Bay Division Pipeline Reliability Upgrade Project. We will work closely with the Mission San Jose Chamber Commerce to try to minimize construction impacts to local businesses as well as with the Fremont Unified School District to reduce impacts to Mission San Jose High School as well.*
- 30) Q. Will gardens be allowed after construction on the right of way? Are you granting any more permits after the pipeline is finished?**  
**A.** *A great deal will depend upon the particular construction in the area. The SFPUC as a rule prefers to enter into permits not with individual homeowners but homeowner associations or entities that use the right-of-way in a way that does not compromise the safety or integrity of the water system. You would have to apply for a permit with the SFPUC.*
- 31) Q. Will you remove legacy trees?**  
**A.** *Whether or not the SFPUC will have to remove a specific tree at a specific location is not known at this time. As we move further into detailed design we will know more about specific impacts to specific areas. If a tree is located on top of the pipelines or in the way of construction it likely would have to be removed.*
- 32) Q. Do you ever divest land? There is a lot next to our house we'd like to buy.**  
**A.** *If this lot is owned by the SFPUC and there are not specific appurtenances or other water structures on this property, it might be a possibility. Contact us at 1-800-571-6610 or [baydivision@sfgwater.org](mailto:baydivision@sfgwater.org) with your contact information and the address of the lot you are interested in, and we will get you in touch with our Real Estate Division.*
- 33) Q. Who is responsible for encroachments created by previous owners?**  
**A.** *Any encroachments should have been divulged to you during the sale of the house to you. If this was not made clear to you during the disclosure period, your real estate agent and the previous owners are liable. However, if this was disclosed to you at time of sale, then you are responsible.*
- 34) Q. Will there be outreach for the Irvington Project?**  
**A.** *Fact sheets for the Irvington Tunnel Project were made available at this public meeting. Information is also available at [sfgwater.org](http://sfgwater.org). There will be an extensive outreach process surrounding the Irvington Tunnel Project, which is on a different schedule than this project. If you are interested in being on the Irvington Tunnel mailing list, contact us at Bay Division – 1-800-571-6610 or [baydivision@sfgwater.org](mailto:baydivision@sfgwater.org) and ask to be placed on the Irvington Tunnel mailing list.*

**35) Q. What about Measure T—Fremont hillside ordinance regarding Irvington portal?**

**A.** *SFPUC will coordinate with the City of Fremont on whether or not this project would be affected by Measure T.*

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**Questions?**

*For more information about the Bay Division Pipeline Reliability Upgrade Project, contact Betsy Lauppe Rhodes or Christina Kerby at 1-800-571-6610 or [baydivision@sfgwater.org](mailto:baydivision@sfgwater.org). Visit us online at [www.sfgwater.org](http://www.sfgwater.org).*

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