



SPN SURVEYOR

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Restoring Fish Habitat

District, water agency complete Dry Creek construction

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

District set to break ground with projects in 2019

By Lt. Col. Travis J. Rayfield
San Francisco District Commander

Happy New Year and welcome back from what has certainly been the most wonderful time of the year for those of us who have been working at 1455 Market Street. And you probably thought I was referring to the holiday season. No, let's be glad that our office move is now behind us.

We're beginning 2019 with much more on our plate than a District our size has had, as demonstrated by a budget that for this fiscal year is the largest in the District's history. Sure, it's challenging, but it's a testament to the great work we do for the nation every day as well as a vote of confidence in all of you, not only from me, but from headquarters, our stakeholders and Congress which has chosen to fund some ground-breaking (no pun intended) projects. Suffice it to say that the nation knows it can count on us for results (or to Move Dirt!).

This year we expect to break ground on a project that is likely to benefit more people in the Bay Area than any other in recent District history: protecting the low-lying, densely-populated South Bay region from rising seas and storm surges. It's a mission that Senator Dianne Feinstein, among others,



has championed and we are now set to begin the real work of reconstructing levees and restoring habitat and recreational areas in the Alviso area of San Jose. Similarly, we're working with the city of San Francisco on ways to shore up the city's faltering sea wall, at risk of collapse during a major flood or earthquake and a cause of coastal storm damage. Both are high profile projects set to protect hundreds of thousands of Bay Area residents, and some of the world's most

valuable companies. In addition, we've also received the go-ahead from the Department of Veterans Affairs to construct what will be a state of the art research laboratory at the San Francisco VA campus. The project, what will be a 113,000 square-foot, four-story facility overlooking the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, is already gaining traction as we issued the advertisement to the marketplace Jan. 23 with the aim of awarding this fiscal year. We are excited by this opportunity and prepared to deliver this VA mission critical facility in FY19. This will be the largest and most complex procurement in the last 10 years for the District! It's these kinds of vital public engineering projects that underscore the integral role we play in strengthening our nation's security, energizing the economy and reducing risks from disasters and allow us to carry out our mandate of "Building Strong."

So as we head back to work with a lot on our plate, know that each of you are performing an integral mission in delivering engineering and environmental solutions to some of the nation's toughest challenges. And as I approach the one-and-a-half year mark of my command of the San Francisco District, I remain proud to lead a team of dedicated professionals who are making a difference in the lives of millions of people in the Bay Area and beyond every day!

SPN SURVEYOR

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Dillard joins regatta for veterans

By Brandon Beach
District Public Affairs

Dozens of ships from across the San Francisco Bay Area, including the district's own M/V Dillard, participated in the 22nd annual Margo Brown Wheelchair Regatta at the Encinal Yacht Club in Oakland, Calif., Sept. 29.

With assistance from local firefighters, more than one hundred veterans, many of them in wheelchairs, boarded the fleet of ships for a mid-morning outing around the Bay. The large catamaran M/V Dillard was able to host over 40 veterans.

Rixon Meyer, Dillard captain, said he and his crew are honored to be part of this event year after year and welcome so many local veterans onto a boat named after a



Firefighters lift a Marine veteran onboard the M/V Dillard.

man who died in Vietnam, Maj. Gen. John A.B., Dillard Jr., former SPD Commander and Chief of the Engineer Command.

-- Read more Operations & Readiness Division news on page 8.

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2018 San Francisco Fleet Week with the Blue Angels



Beach

On the cover

Construction crews work to drive a log into the ground at the Dry Creek Restoration Project site near Healdsburg, Calif. The ecosystem restoration project will help restore habitat for endangered salmon and other fish native to the lower Dry Creek watershed. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District has partnered with Sonoma Water on the project. (Photo by Brandon Beach)

Winter 2019

Project News

'Milestone' achieved for Shoreline Project



Quintana

California Senator Dianne Feinstein and San Francisco District Commander Lt. Col. Travis Rayfield greet at an Aug. 10 event in Alviso, Calif.

By Nick Simeone
District Public Affairs

A wealthy region of the Bay Area that is home to the world's most profitable companies yet on the frontline of threatened sea level rise has been given reassurance by the Army Corps of Engineers and California's senior senator that help is on the way.

Ten years in the making, the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project is moving forward now that the federal government has approved more than \$177 million in assistance to bolster dikes and restore habitat in an area that is partly below sea level and prone to flooding. With that assistance now assured, the Corps' San Francisco District will begin work on providing flood protection for a densely populated region along the South San Francisco Bay while embarking on what will be the largest wetland restoration project west of the Mississippi. Partnering with the Corps are the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the California Coastal Conservancy as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"What we have achieved here is the beginning of a very meaningful team, and teams accomplish things," said

Continued next page

SPN partners with water agency to restore Dry Creek

By **Nick Simeone**
District Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District is nearing completion of an ecosystem restoration project intended to help restore endangered salmon and other fish native to the lower Dry Creek watershed in Sonoma County near the city of Healdsburg.

The quicker flow of water into Dry Creek created by the construction of Warm Springs Dam has made it harder for native salmon and other fish to swim upstream and spawn, further endangering what had already been a species listed as threatened. In short, the creek's current became faster than the fish were able to swim and conditions had to be created for that to change, according to an order issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

So in June of 2018, the Corps, in conjunction with Sonoma Water, formerly the Sonoma County Water Agency, embarked on a project that in essence slowed the flow of the creek, thereby allowing fish to once again swim upstream. The project was completed in early December with a system in place to monitor the progress of the salmon.

The Corps built Warm Springs Dam in Sonoma County in 1983 to provide flood control, water storage and recreation. The flow and velocity of water released from Lake Sonoma into Dry Creek and the Russian River change depending on the season and flood risk management assessments.



Chuck Ingraham

Alcoves, such as the one shown above at Dry Creek near Healdsburg, Calif., help slow creek flows for migrating salmon. Engineers utilize logs and root wads to create areas for fish to safely spawn. San Francisco District Civil Engineer Andrew Smith, below, provides a project briefing.



Beach



Beach

Shoreline continued

Senator Dianne Feinstein at an Aug. 10 event in Alviso, Calif., to mark what everyone involved described as a milestone for flood protection in the region. "The Army Corps of Engineers is diligent, and they're very good at what they do."

When complete, the project will safeguard homes and businesses along the South Bay by restoring four miles of levees as well as some 2,800 acres of tidal marsh along with creating improved access for recreation. The region's flood

"To a region at risk of tidal flooding exacerbated by the scenario of sea level rise, this investment is an important step."

Lt. Col. Travis Rayfield
San Francisco District Commander

risk has been compounded by threats of sea level rise which has become an increasingly urgent environmental issue for the Bay Area including in San

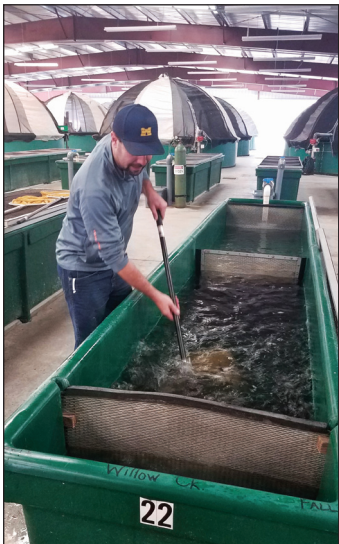
Francisco to the north, where efforts are focused on rebuilding the city's deteriorating seawall, an issue that the Corps and the city are now studying.

"To a region at risk of tidal flooding exacerbated by the scenario of sea level rise, this investment is an important step," the Corps' San Francisco District Commander Lt. Col. Travis Rayfield told those gathered to mark the milestone. Some predict that sea levels in the affected region could rise by as much as three feet over the next half century. With the South Bay being "one of the biggest engines of the nation's economy," Rayfield called the federal investment in flood protection "a wise investment of taxpayer money."



From Hatchery to Creek

Inside the District's Coho Salmon Recovery Program



By Brandon Beach
District Public Affairs

In November of 2018, fish biologists from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District spent two rain-filled days releasing juvenile Coho salmon into the nooks and crannies along Willow Creek near Jenner, Calif. The fish were raised in tanks at the Mike Dillabough Russian River Coho Salmon Conservation Hatchery at Lake Sonoma. The biologists hiked the salmon in backpack coolers releasing 4,000 one day and 4,000 the next. Twenty percent of the release population was PIT-tagged by seasonal technicians from Sonoma Water, "so we can monitor them leaving the creek system and eventually returning as adults," said Ben White, a SPN fisheries biologist who led the release efforts.



AROUND THE DISTRICT

District repairs storm-damaged levees in Pleasanton

By Nick Simeone
District Public Affairs

Having just completed repairs to damaged levees caused by winter storms along the Pajaro River and Salsipuedes Creek in Santa Cruz County, the San Francisco District began work in Pleasanton, Calif., to repair levees from the same 2017 storms.

The work, in conjunction with Alameda County, took place September through October, breaking for the rainy season, and will resume in April. The emergency project is expected to be completed later this year.

The work is similar to the emergency repairs that were carried out at Pajaro and Salsipuedes, although Emil Capati, the Corps' quality assurance representative on site says the damage caused by the storms in Pleasanton was much worse.

The levee repairs fall under a rehabilitation program that provides for the inspection and rehabilitation of both federal and non-federal flood risk management projects damaged or



Repairs are underway by the Corps' San Francisco District to a levee damaged by winter storms in Pleasanton.

destroyed by floods and coastal storms. All projects must meet certain standards in order to be eligible for federal aid.

The Pleasanton project is noteworthy for another reason. In June, Alameda County Zone

7 Public Works Director Joe Seto personally delivered a \$3 million check to San Francisco District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Kevin McCormick, an amount representing the county's share of the cost of

the project, as an expression of gratitude for the Corps' work.

More information on the emergency repair program can be found at: usace.army.mil/media/fact-sheets



ASA(CW) tours district projects

Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) R.D. James visited the San Francisco Bay Area on Nov. 27, where he got a bird's-eye view of several of the District's key projects across the region. The tour began at the Capital Jet Center in Sacramento, Calif., where the group boarded a Black Hawk helicopter for a flyover tour of the region, to include the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project, a \$177M flood risk management project in Santa Clara County (including "Silicon Valley") that will reduce risk due to tidal flooding, sea level rise and with the potential for ecosystem restoration for up to 2,900 acres. The tour also included flyovers of the Military Ocean Terminal Concord, Port of Oakland and Port of Redwood City.

Joining the James from USACE was Brig. Gen. Kimberly Colleton, South Pacific Division commander, Lt. Col. Travis Rayfield, San Francisco District commander, Stu Townsley, SPN deputy district engineer for Program Management, and Michael Mercado, SPN project manager.

(Reporting by Brandon Beach, District Public Affairs Office)



EMPLOYEE PROFILE

SPN project manager, husband craft wines in Napa

By Nick Simeone
District Public Affairs

Among the benefits of working in the San Francisco District is being able to enjoy one of the world's best wine producing regions. But what may come as a surprise is to learn that a District employee is also making some of those wines and has a global following.

For the past decade, Project Manager Terry Marks and her husband, former District employee Dan Schaaf have been spending several days a week in wine country producing hundreds of cases of their varietals annually. They're not in the big league and they don't want to be.

Instead, "it's a hobby that's self-sustaining," said Marks on a recent stunningly gorgeous Napa afternoon during which she and her husband along with some hired help were bottling one of their varietals, a sparkling Albarino, in an off-the-beaten-path industrial park where they ferment and bottle everything from pinot noirs to Grenaches. It's not the kind of setting that a trip to wine country normally brings to mind: there's no plush tasting room or visits by tour buses, and it's



San Francisco District Project Manager Terry Marks and her husband, Dan Schaaf, crush grapes at their warehouse facility in Napa, Calif.

"We're making enough bucks to keep it going from year to year."

Terry Marks
SPN Program Manager

more hobby than profession. "We're making enough bucks to keep it going from year to year," said Marks, a hydrologic engineer by training who works

for the District part time.

Bottled under the name Deux Punx or "two punks" a reference to her husband's taste for punk rock, it all began in 2008 in what was then a home grown effort to try their hands at wine making -- but kept growing with word of mouth. "We went up to Humboldt (County) and bought a thousand pounds of pinot noir grapes and drove them back," said Schaaf. "We were home wine makers at that point and said let's figure out how to

make wine. Every year, it kind of escalated in volume or different varietals." With no advertising apart from social media postings, the brand can now be found in stores from California to Belgium and has generated positive reviews, especially the 2015 Pinot from Humboldt. "These wines will be sold at specialty wine shops where people who are more into buying a unique bottle will shop," said Schaaf. Locally, the wine can be found at Arlequin Wine Merchant in Hayes Valley.

While you can describe them as wine connoisseurs, they don't expect to be quitting their day jobs any time soon. As Schaaf makes clear, they aren't setting out to be the next Mondavis. "The saying in the wine industry is 'do you know how to make a small fortune in wine? Start with a large fortune.'"



Schaaf loads wine cases into a delivery truck, while Marks, right, shows off a bottle of Deux Punx.





An eagle is spotted perched atop a tree branch along the Lake Sonoma shoreline Jan. 10. Corps officials from the San Francisco District and South Pacific Division conducted their annual midwinter bald eagle survey at the Corps-managed property. A similar survey was done at Lake Mendocino.

Lake Sonoma joins nationwide bald eagle survey

By Brandon Beach

District Public Affairs Office

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials conducted their annual midwinter bald eagle survey at Lake Sonoma, Calif., Jan. 10. This year, officials tallied two juvenile and two adult bald eagles residing along the lake’s shoreline.

This year’s eagle count was completed by Wade Eakle, an ecologist with the Corps’ South Pacific Division, and Joe Lishka, a San Francisco District park ranger.

Data from the survey is collected by the Corps during a two-week window in January and used for statistical trend analysis of eagle populations in the lower 48 states. Various wildlife agencies and other private observers also participate



Wade Eakle, an ecologist with the Corps’ South Pacific Division, scans the shoreline at Lake Sonoma Jan. 10 for bald eagles and other raptors.

in the midwinter count. The 25-year (1986-2010) analysis was published in 2015.

The survey was first held in 1979 by the National Wildlife Federation. Back then, bald

eagles were in a fight to stay alive, declared an endangered species in 1967. In 1995, it was reclassified to the less-severe “threatened” list as its numbers began to rebound, and, in 2007,

it was completely delisted.

Wildlife experts estimate that up to 9,800 nesting pairs of bald eagles live in the continental U.S. today.

At Lake Sonoma, park rangers are aware of one nesting pair of adult eagles that have been residents of the 2,700-acre lake since at least 2001, the year they were first discovered. Other eagles migrate seasonally to Lake Sonoma, some traveling as far as the northwestern-most province of Canada.

With plentiful food options like fish and small mammals, Lake Sonoma and its surrounding forest areas provide “important habitat for eagles,” said Eakle. “With its lakes and parks, [USACE] has always played a key role in the recovery and conservation of bald eagles across the U.S.”