



SPN SURVEYOR

Published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District

Winter 2023

Vol. 11, Issue 1



District kicks off construction

A look back at South SF Bay Shoreline Project and other top stories in 2022



Also inside this issue . . .

Commander's Column, page 2

Napa, San Rafael channels dredged, page 2

Year in Photos: A look back at 2022, page 4

IA team supports hurricane response, page 6

District's strategic plan released, page 8

COMMANDER'S CORNER

District sets course on long-range strategic initiatives

By Lt. Col. Kevin P. Arnett
San Francisco District Commander

2022 was a banner year for the San Francisco District as our staff worked to deliver vital engineering solutions to communities across our AOR, while also cementing a long-term strategic vision and plan for the next 20 years.

In FY22, SPN had another impactful year in terms of execution. We started off with a staggering \$260 million in federal funds to obligate, which was an increase of \$45M from the prior year. We had a record breaking \$181.6M in new FY22 allocations, and our staff executed \$123M, an increase of \$15M above last year. It's worth highlighting that our Contracting and Construction teams executed 244 total actions for \$67.4M. Over 63 percent of our actions (156) and dollars (\$43.9M) for the year were awarded to small business contractors. Hats off to our staff as your public service in pursuit of the nation's prosperity remains a sterling example for all.

In this issue of SPN Surveyor, take a walk down memory lane in pages 4 and



5 for a recap of the multitude of District events and project milestones achieved in 2022. This issue also includes a feature story capturing the Corps' Infrastructure Assessment Mission in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian in Florida. This was the largest IA mission the Corps has received from FEMA, and the first mission as a San

Francisco District Planning and Response Team since Hurricane Katrina. Our cadre of professionals did an amazing job and received commendations for their efforts.

Lastly, 2022 is the year we put a bow on our District's long-range Strategic Plan, which paves the way for how this District intends to build trust, talent and capability in order to make meaningful impact in the communities we serve. To all of the staff who helped shape ideas and drove conversations, I say thank you. We have a lot of exciting work ahead of us. The plan (*available on our District website*) outlines how we, as a world-class engineering agency, will develop our team, partnerships and portfolio to meet future needs and lead regional climate adaptation. It spells out new mission and vision statements and lays out seven specific goals that build on our legacy by developing bold solutions. I'm excited to see the plan take off and bear fruit.

With such a dedicated workforce as I have found in San Francisco, I believe we are well positioned for continued success, and I look forward to exciting things to come in 2023. Essayons! Engineers at the Golden Gate!

SPN SURVEYOR

SPN Surveyor is an unofficial publication published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District, its diverse workforce and stakeholders. SPN Surveyor is a quarterly publication distributed via e-mail and made available at www.spn.usace.army.mil.

District Commander

Lt. Col. Kevin P. Arnett

Deputy Commander

Lt. Col. Andrew S. Boggs

Editor

Brandon Beach
brandon.a.beach@usace.army.mil

Staff Writers

Tammy Reed
tammy.l.reed@usace.army.mil

Isabel Nieman
isabel.l.nieman@usace.army.mil

SPN dredges Napa, San Rafael channels

By Tammy Reed
District Public Affairs

The San Francisco District moved mud, literally. In October of 2022, the District kicked off dredging work at two shallow draft channels — Napa River and San Rafael Creek.

In San Rafael, city leaders marked the occasion with a press conference at the Marin Yacht Club Oct. 13. Congressman Jared Huffman and San Francisco District Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Arnett were on hand to provide remarks. Arnett thanked the congressman and numerous community members for their support and full court press in order to secure the funding necessary to move the project forward. Dredging work was centered on an area of San Rafael Creek from Grand



In Napa, the dredge platform "Horton" works around-the-clock in the upper section of the river. (Photo by Nieman)

Avenue Bridge to Pickleweed Park and an additional two miles plus across-the-flats to San Francisco Bay. At Napa, Pacific Dredge

Continued page 8

Winter 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

District News: SPN staff participate in flood fight training in Marin City, part of larger interagency emergency action plan **3**

Photo Timeline: A look back at San Francisco District events and milestones in 2022 **4**

Feature Story: District's new Infrastructure Assessment Team joins 2022 hurricane response effort **6**

Closer Look: District publishes 2022-2042 Strategic Plan **8**

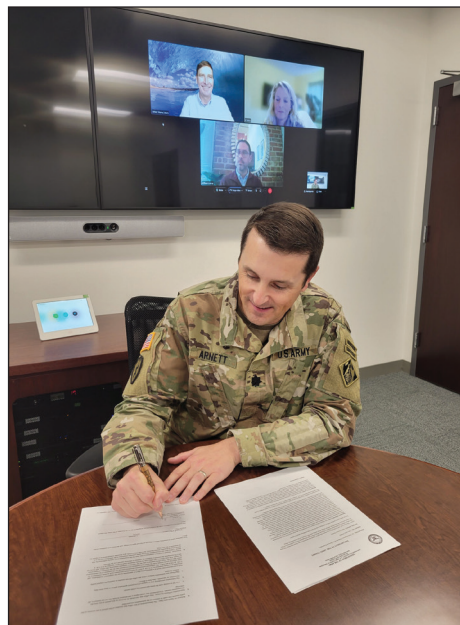
Klamath Dam removal permit signed

By Brandon Beach
District Public Affairs

San Francisco District Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Arnett signed a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit Nov. 22 clearing the way for the removal of four dams in the Klamath River Basin. Klamath River Renewal Corporation, a non-profit established to oversee the dam removal and river restoration project, was the applicant.

The first of the four dams, Copco 2, is set to be removed in the summer of 2023, and the drawdown of water and sediment in the rivers (the Corps' portion of approval under the 404 permit) will begin in early 2024. Dam removal for the other three dams will start in spring of 2024.

Several members of the District's Regulatory Division who were involved in finalizing the 404 permit attended the signing ceremony virtually. They were (pictured l-r) Jim Mazza, SPN Regulatory Division chief, Will Connor, SPN Regulatory North Branch chief, and Kasey Sirkin, SPN Regulatory Eureka Office project manager, who led the 404 process. Sirkin also worked closely with members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on



District Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Arnett signs a permit Nov. 22 clearing the way for the removal of four dams in the Klamath River Basin.

the final Environmental Impact Statement document for the project released earlier last year.

District News

SPN staff participate in flood fight training in Marin City



Participants fill sandbags during a flood fighting training Nov. 2 in Marin City.

By Brandon Beach
District Public Affairs

The California Department of Water Resources conducted a flood fighting training Nov. 2 with the Marin City Community Services District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District.

The full-day training took place in Marin City and taught participants how to establish and manage sandbag staging areas, assign roles to volunteers and build a variety of sandbag flood diversion walls.

"During an emergency, we are trying to be as efficient as possible with time and materials," said Alberto DeLeon, a DWR flood fight specialist and the course instructor.

"The workshop was coordinated as part of a larger Interagency Flood Emergency Action Planning effort led by USACE and Marin City CSD," said Jessica Ludy, SPN senior project manager. "The Marin City Emergency Action Planning and Resilience Project has convened a number of local, county and state partners in workshops over the last year to establish and exercise flood emergency response protocols, roles and responsibilities in Marin City."

This Emergency Action Plan will enhance environmental health and safety of Marin City residents immediately before, during and after a flood, added Ludy.

On the cover

In FY22, SPN started construction of the \$545 million South SF Bay Shoreline Project in Alviso, Calif. During this first phase of construction, crews are working to build a levee to help reduce coastal flood risk for approximately 5,500 residents, commuters and businesses. The project will also protect a wastewater facility and advanced water purification center in the area. (Photos by Beach)

Winter 2023

YEAR IN

A brief look back at San Francisco

JANUARY

An abandoned tugboat left in the waters of Seven Mile Slough in the Sacramento River posed a navigational hazard until crew members from the USACE Drift Collector John A. B. Dillard, Jr., retrieved and towed it away Jan. 16. The five-man crew of this San Francisco District emergency response vessel traveled roughly 110 nautical miles to complete the round-trip voyage from the Sausalito Base Yard to an area near Rio Vista, Calif.



MARCH

The Bay Model Visitor Center welcomed 32 students from the Cal Academy of Sciences for an educational meet-and-greet and tour March 5. The students are part of the museum's Careers in Science program for San Francisco-based youth in grades 9-12 who come from communities underrepresented in STEM fields.



APRIL

The San Francisco District, along with local leaders from the City and County of San Jose, celebrated the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project with a groundbreaking ceremony April 22 to commemorate the start of construction. SPN is partnering with Valley Water, California Coastal Conservancy and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on the construction of this flood risk reduction and ecosystem restoration project.



MAY

Two USACE Districts and the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management partnered with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to demolish a building and remove a reactor to make room for new facilities on the lab's one-square-mile footprint in Livermore, Calif. B280 housed the Livermore Pool Type Reactor, a neutron-producing machine used for fundamental research and to measure and calibrate instruments. San Francisco and Kansas City Districts, in an inter-agency agreement with EM, completed removal of the reactor from within the building. The project was a collaboration of SPN (PM/construction/contracting/safety/legal) and NWK (technical reach back/environmental MATOC contracting tool) teams.



JUNE

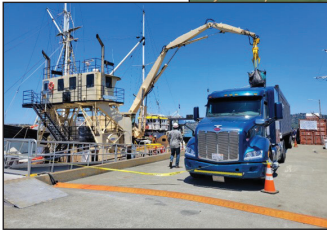
USACE Commanding General Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon visited the San Francisco Bay Area June 13, where he met with project managers, plan formulators and environmental managers overseeing several of the District's key projects across the region. One of the stops was to San Jose, Calif., to tour the Upper Guadalupe River, where the District is proposing a project that utilizes bypass channels, flood walls and channel widening to achieve flood risk reduction while restoring protected salmonid species habitat. Later that day, he traveled to Oakland to meet with port leadership and discuss the Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Feasibility Study.



PHOTOS

District events, milestones in 2022

JULY



On July 26, the sail cargo ship KWAI docked just outside the Bay Model Visitor Center. KWAI is owned by the Marshall Islands and worked with the Sausalito-based Ocean Voyages Institute on an internationally chartered/funded environmental cleanup effort by several Pacific Island nations and international groups to remove plastics from our oceans, concentrating on the North Pacific Sub-Tropical Convergence Zone of the Great Pacific Garbage Gyre. The trip lasted over 40 days, and KWAI crewmembers offloaded more than 100 tons of waste plastic materials including fishing nets, floats, bottles, ropes, and even furniture for disposal. Crewmembers from the San Francisco District's M/V Raccoon assisted with crane operations during the entire offloading mission, which lasted several days.

AUGUST



The San Francisco District and its non-federal partner Sonoma Water celebrated the Dry Creek Ecosystem Restoration Phase 1 Project at a groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 16. Construction crews installed several of the project's habitat restoration features such as stream side channels and alcoves designed to slow the speed of water and create a refuge for young fish. The features were constructed using natural materials such as logs, root wads and rocks. "The construction team is here on site, along with our contractors, and we're handing it off to you guys now," said Lt. Col. Kevin Arnett, SPN commander. "I know we are in good hands, and I'm excited to see us deliver."

SEPTEMBER



The District honored its most recent Leadership Development Program 2 Class with a Sept. 14 graduation ceremony. Diplomas were handed out virtually to the five graduates who represented a wide range of divisions including Jason Chambers (Regulatory), Kristen Chan (P3MD), Seongjun Kim (E&C), Erica Miller (Contracting) and Carla Robinson (O&R). The team presented their final project, which looked at implementing an annual voluntary District-wide Career Information Event and a virtual professional development toolbox.

OCTOBER



SPN Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Arnett joined the Pajaro Valley's congressional and state legislative delegations and leaders from the Biden administration to celebrate the efforts to reduce flood risk for the historically underserved and disadvantaged communities of Watsonville and Pajaro. The multi-benefit project will provide up to 100-year flood protection by improving levees along the lower Pajaro River and its tributaries.

DECEMBER

SPN employees rang in the new year at the Bay Model Visitor Center during the district's annual Holiday Luncheon Dec. 15.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

District's new IA Team joins 2022 hurricane response effort

Story by Isabel Nieman
District Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dispatches hundreds of personnel each year to respond to disasters all around the world as part of the federal government's coordinated national response to emergencies and disasters.

When it comes to emergency response and disaster recovery, USACE has three top priorities: support immediate lifesaving and life-safety emergency response priorities, sustain lives with critical temporary emergency power and other needs, and initiate recovery efforts by assessing and restoring critical infrastructure.

According to the USACE Headquarters Emergency Operations webpage, "In the United States, USACE serves as the principal agency providing public works and engineering-related emergency support to the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency. Debris management, the delivery of goods, temporary housing, temporary roofing, emergency electricity, infrastructure evaluation, and assistance with urban search and rescue are among the missions that FEMA allocates to the USACE."

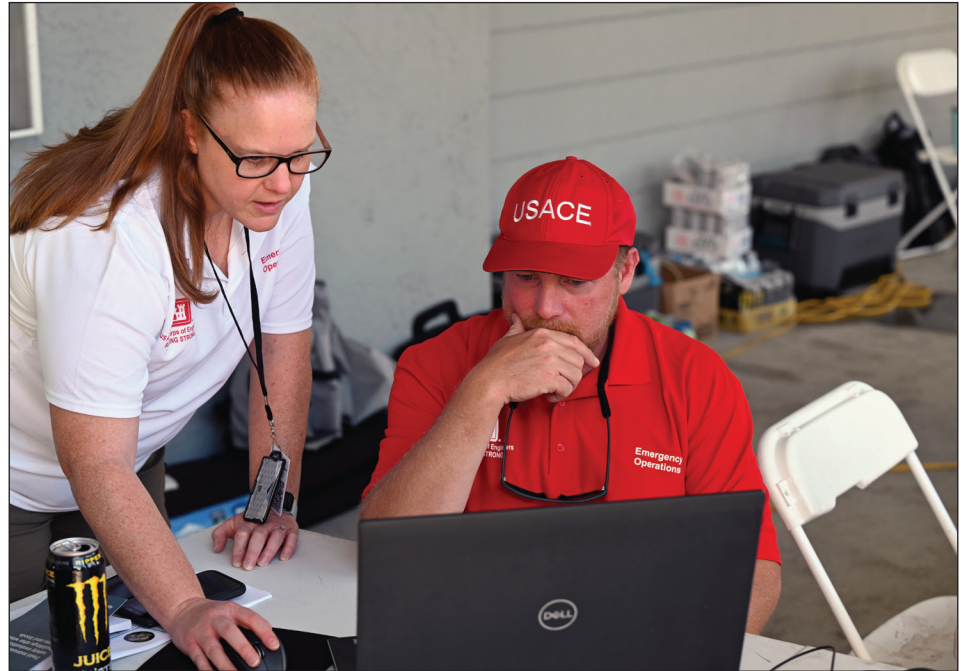


Costa

In instances where the destruction and debris exceed local and state capabilities, FEMA will assign a mission to USACE that provides debris management assistance, which supports the National Response Framework.

"USACE is designated as the principal agency for Emergency Support Function #3 (Public Works and Engineering) under the National Response Framework. In order to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and/or recover from domestic incidents, the Corps works with the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA to coordinate federal public works and engineering-related support as well as to offer technical assistance, engineering expertise, and construction management."

"Additionally, under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, we have Infrastructure Assessment Planning and Response Teams (IA PRT)—full of volunteers from the Corps," noted Holly Costa, San Francisco District's emergency management chief. "After a hurricane, flood, earthquake or other natural



photos by Patrick Moes, USACE

Molly Holt, USACE infrastructure assessment team civil engineer and Jacksonville District employee, left, and Brian Becker, USACE infrastructure team specialist and San Francisco District employee, discuss infrastructure assessments at a morning briefing on Sanibel Island, Florida, Oct. 25. USACE officials, along with local county officials, supported the state of Florida and FEMA by assessing buildings to ensure they were safe following Hurricane Ian.

A majority of the team was deployed for over 30 days, supporting the largest IA mission the Corps has had since Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the first mission for SPN.

Holly Costa
SPN Emergency Management Chief

disaster that impacts infrastructure within a state and a state doesn't have proper resources to assess all of the damaged buildings, they (the state) will call upon FEMA to create a mission and those missions will provide information about the number of buildings, precise location, and why they need to be assessed."

Costa works to ensure SPN is prepared for any hazards or disasters that would be-

fall this specific region and the nation. Costa confirms that Standard Operating Procedures and Project Assessments are held accountable and will report up the chain of command for the message to be received that support is needed.

After a busy hurricane season, USACE SPN has seen the completion of two substantial missions with Hurricane Ian in Florida and Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico. Hurricane Ian had extensive efforts coming from SPN's Infrastructure Assessment Planning and Response Team.

A majority of the team was deployed for over 30 days, supporting the largest IA mission the Corps has had since Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the first mission for the SPN PRT.

The USACE IA Team has two primary tasks: (1) Under FEMA Mission Assignment, the IA PRT augments local public works Applied Technology Council-20 (ATC-20) Post-Earthquake (or ATC-45 Post-Flood) rapid structural assessment capabilities (primarily residential).

These inspections function solely to

Continued page 7

Winter 2023

IA continued

determine the habitability of the structure—i.e. assessments apply a safety rating (red, yellow, green placards) to each structure inspected.

(2) The IA PRT can also provide a management cell for a wide array of FEMA Technical Assistance/ad hoc missions (that do not otherwise have a PRT). Missions can include electrical, mechanical, geo-technical, structural engineering assessments; urban search & rescue support; and water/wastewater infrastructure assessments and repairs.

The core of an IA PRT generally includes six individuals—an Emergency Support Function #3 Action Officer, Mission Manager, Mission Specialist, Mission Data Manager, ATC-20/45 Training Officer and a Supervisory Inspection Team Leader.

With that said, every mission is unique and with Hurricane Ian the team consisted of Action Officer Arye Janoff, Mission Specialist Aubrey Patts, Mission Specialist Nik Cimaglio, Subject Matter Expert Son Ha, Inspection Team Leader Chuck Hadley, Inspector Brian Becker, with reach back support from Timekeeper Elvie Romabiles and Budget Analyst Karen Holloway.

According to reporting, Hurricane Ian formed Sept. 23, 2022, and lasted until Oct. 2, 2022, with winds reaching 155 mph. Unfortunately, with the massive amounts of damage and destruction this category 4 hurricane caused, our nation lost over 120 people, making this the deadliest hurricane on record in Florida since the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935.

SPN's Infrastructure Assessment Team completed all 347 assigned assessments in



Chuck Hadley, USACE infrastructure team specialist and San Francisco District employee, looks for roof damage during a detailed evaluation safety assessment on Fort Myers Beach, Florida, Nov. 1.

Florida which included projects like temporary roofing and temporary generator assessments and installations. The team also completed 9,566 safety evaluations of commercial buildings and multi-family housing under ATC 45 (Safety Evaluation of Buildings after Windstorms and Floods).

Initial landfall was Sept. 28, 2022, and it was exciting to see that all personnel deployed, which included 150 civilians, one military, and over 200 contractors, returned home safely, with the last of the SPN team members redeploying the week of Nov. 17.

Although there was no IA PRT team included, SPN also wants to note the success that came out of the Hurricane Fiona mission in Puerto Rico. Team member Tony Candotti, a SPN supervisory civil engineer, deployed as a subject matter expert for 16 days, supporting FEMA before, during and after the hurricane made landfall.

“We were thankful that Hurricane Fiona was not as bad as predicted when it came to damage of infrastructure. I spent a lot of my time writing documents that summarized the power and infrastructure dilemma; and answering many questions internally and externally,” Candotti stated.

“Being deployed is incredibly rewarding. It is challenging, but it feels good to help people out when they are going through a hard time, and it is a success that everyone was able to redeploy safely.”

Nik Cimaglio, USACE mission specialist and San Francisco District employee, discusses infrastructure assessments at a morning briefing on Sanibel Island, Florida, Oct. 25.

Join the IA Team

If you or someone you know wants to get involved and join the San Francisco District IA Team, please reach out to the Emergency Operations Center at cespn-eoc@usace.army.mil and look out for messages throughout the year concerning the need for volunteers. Talk with your supervisor to discuss the logistics of joining the team.

Being a part of an IA team will require your availability and mutual aid—and be sure you have the correct PPE, especially steel toed boots, because safety is most important. Helping out through disaster relief, quality control, assessing infrastructure, and more is great for leadership experience, means a great deal to the Corps and the Emergency Management community and can be ideal for resume building. Individuals will be provided with the proper training, and District “Lunch and Learns” are a perfect place to find out more information.

“Congratulations and thank you to the team for a successful effort and for answering the call to support our fellow citizens. I sincerely applaud your tremendous spirit of public service. To all who deployed, those who stood/stand ready, and to the team that helped train and support our IA PRT, this is truly impactful,” said San Francisco District Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Arnett.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Corporate Board members sign long-term 2042 vision

Story & photo by Brandon Beach
District Public Affairs Office

Members of the San Francisco District Corporate Board gathered for an all-day offsite meeting Sept. 7 to finalize and ultimately sign the District's new 2022-2042 Strategic Plan.

The two-page document outlines how the District, as a world-class engineering agency, will "develop our team, partnerships and portfolio to meet future needs and lead regional climate adaptation."

The plan spells out new mission and vision statements and lays out seven strategic goals that "build on our legacy by developing bold solutions."

"We, as an agency, have the potential to make a big impact," said District Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Arnett. "I consider this [Strategic Plan] to be a Swiss Army knife of talking points. Every word has value in it and gets us somewhere meaningful down the road."



Plan focuses on seven strategic goals

By Alev Bilginsoy
SPN Outreach Coordinator

Essayons is the motto of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It translates to "Let us try!" in French. But "try" for Army Corps is not a half-hearted "try." Trying means bringing all of our skills, talents, resources and gusto to bear on a challenge. It means

that we will try, and we will try until we succeed.

That is the spirit the San Francisco District brings to its mission of delivering navigation, flood risk management, ecosystem restoration and government facilities solutions in the Bay Area and the coastal watersheds of Northern California. That is the spirit we bring to addressing the nation's toughest

challenge yet: climate change.

Sea level rise, extreme weather patterns and other climate impacts threaten our communities, critical infrastructure and habitats. It is our duty to be an engaged and collaborative partner in developing bold and innovative solutions that help the region adapt to this accelerating crisis. The new 2022-2042 San Francisco District Strategic Plan identifies seven new strategic goals that guide how we will contribute to regional climate adaptation efforts.

Read the full plan at:
www.spn.usace.army.mil/About/Mission-and-Vision

Mission

Deliver safe and innovative navigation, flood risk, ecosystem restoration and government facilities solutions and support for the nation.

Vision

Trusted, talented, and capable District efficiently, sustainably and equitably delivering our mission portfolio for the nation's prosperity.



Dredging continued

and Construction, LLC., had its dredge platform "Horton" working around-the-clock in an upper section of the river since Sept. 26, with oversight by the District Construction Branch. Material that the clamshell dredge removed was offloaded at the nearby Coombs disposal site, then transported to another site to be re-purposed.