

Please Join us for an update on Watershed Center/ Sunol Yard Upgrade on Monday, July 11th at 10 a.m. at our Sunol Yard Conference Room, 505 Paloma Way. Please read more below.

Dear Sunol Neighbors,

I hope you are having a great summer. I want to take a moment to update you on the Sunol Long-Term Improvements Project, which includes construction of the Alameda Creek Watershed Center and the upgrades to our Sunol Corporation Yard. At our previous meeting in February, the SFPUC was preparing to release the Request for Qualifications and Request for Proposals for construction, with the anticipation of starting construction in late summer.

Unfortunately, the competitive bid process resulted in fewer than anticipated responses and in the end no eligible contractors. Therefore, we have done some research and work on our end to increase the pool of qualified bidders as part of our next effort.

In order to improve our chances of receiving more competitive bids for construction, we made the decision to repackage the projects. The construction of the Sunol Yard will be bid separately from the Watershed Center. By grouping the buildings with similar features into two smaller projects, we hope to make each of the projects more desirable to contractors who specialize in certain types of buildings. This hopefully will result in increasing the number of qualified bids we receive which in-turn would decrease overall project construction costs.

The revised package for construction of the Sunol Yard is was released this week. The Watershed Center will go through a value-engineering review (just like the Sunol Yard did) this summer to identify cost savings while maintaining the facility design integrity and quality. The revised package will be scheduled for readvertisement before the end of this calendar year.

In the meantime, we are starting some long-term activities in preparation of construction of the Sunol Yard and the Watershed Center. As mentioned in previous meetings, we will need to grow all of the nursery stock from seed for the Sunol Yard and Watershed Discovery Trail landscaping. We have already gathered most of the seed stock, and will begin construction of a temporary nursery early next year. In addition, we have started the archaeological excavations at the site of the Watershed Center. This work is not dependent upon the construction contractor to perform, so we will continue to move forward with the program over the upcoming months.

We are about to begin work on an Education Master Plan for the Watershed Center and site. With the help of Jenny Rigby we will create a framework that will guide the development of curriculum and programming for the Watershed Center and the AgPark. We anticipate that the planning process will take approximately 11 months.

Lastly, we are preparing to move many of our staff out from the Sunol Yard to a temporary location on the property previously leased as the Sunol Valley Golf Course.

We would like to invite you to sit down with us to discuss this further, and to answer any questions you might have on Monday, July 11th at 10 a.m. at our Sunol Yard Conference Room, 505 Paloma Way. We hope you can join us.

Thank you,

Tim Ramirez