

From: [Katherine Causey](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Annual Retreat: Community Safety
Date: Saturday, January 28, 2023 8:28:25 AM

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Hello Palo Alto City Council!

In 2022 one of the priorities was community safety, I saw on the annual community survey that many residents reported not feeling safe - I wanted to just give the feedback that I do feel safe in Palo Alto.

I really appreciate that the city has invested in mental health professionals responding to mental health crises rather than police officers, and I would love to see the city continue to invest in mental health professionals. As someone who has to leave work late at night and walk home, having more frequent public transit is extremely helpful and I'm very excited for the upcoming free on demand shuttle service. Walking at night near dense housing where there's local business lots of pedestrian traffic and things are well lit is very helpful and I would love to see more protected bike lanes and more streets made pedestrian only (would love University Avenue to be pedestrian only) - and even if on days like Halloween closing a lot of streets to be pedestrian only I think would really improve our safety.

Thank you!

From: [Nancy Coupal](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Topic of concern
Date: Saturday, January 28, 2023 6:48:50 AM

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To our Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council of Palo Alto,

First I would like to welcome the new members of the City Council and I am looking forward to working with everyone in the quest for economic development for our City. We all know that businesses and Palo Alto, like other cities, have suffered economically over the last 3 years due to the pandemic and more recently with the climate effects caused by the series of storms.

While I know that the Council is meeting today, Saturday, January 28th, to set the 2023 priorities for the Council, I am writing specifically about the Parklet issue requiring a Letter of Consent from the neighboring Landlord in the event of utilizing the parking space(s) in front of the neighboring property. I am sure all of you are aware that this topic has gone through various outcomes with the Council and last November it was changed from the prior direction to Staff to require consent. This decision will cause economic harm to those of us who built Parklets during the pandemic at a very high cost by having to tear them down, loose the outdoor seating that the community has grown to love, and bring in less sales tax to the City as well as less rent that the City plans to charge for use of public property where the Parklets are built. The bottom line is that the street is public property belonging to the City and this is where parklets are built. I urge you to bring this topic back to the table before the Consent issue changes the landscape of Palo Alto and reduces sales for restaurants and consequently sales tax for the City. It is also imperative that the Council reflect on the differences between Landlords, some reasonable and others not, that will impact the final decision given to them for property belonging to the City.

Finally, we will be living with the effects of Covid and reinfections with new variants for a long time and the community will prefer to dine outdoors whenever possible. We need to consider that if the objective of Parklets is to help bring back vibrancy to our City then, let's not hinder this by requiring consent from Landlords of neighboring buildings who will more than likely always negate this consent. I gave a document with a list of problems related to requiring Consent to Steven Guagliardo and Jonathan Lait following the November 2022 Council decision related to this topic outlining a series of issues that will and have occurred by requiring Consent. I urge you to discuss this list with them and I am available to participate in any conversations that may move this topic towards a more beneficial outcome for our community.

Thank you for your time,
Nancy Coupal
Founder & CEO of Coupa Cafe

From: [Suzanne Redfern-West](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Flood control
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:40:44 PM

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Dear Members of the Palo Alto City Council,

As 16-year residents of Forest Avenue, we urge you to make flood control in our area a top priority. We are 80-ish, less hale and hardy than we once were, and during the recent flood scare found ourselves forced to do things that proved to be dangerous to our physical well-being. Things like filling dozens of sand bags, dragging them to the car, loading and unloading them, then dragging them up against the house, where we wrapped them with clear plastic sheeting and taped them to the wall. All of which activity left us exhausted and sore as well as deeply worried about possible damage to our property.

The solutions to the Pope-Chaucer clearance problems are clear and obtainable. After being discussed and debated by all affected agencies for nearly 25 years, we all know what must be done. Please take the lead in seeing that they are taken care of with all due speed. We're confident that you are aware that your top priority must be to protect the safety of your citizens, including those of us who long to return all those sandbags to the Santa Clara Valley Water District and once again breathe freely when we hear the sound of rainfall.

Respectfully yours,
Suzanne and Robert Redfern-West
1350 Forest Avenue
Palo Alto

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Stephen Tull](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: PARA and City Council
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:39:41 PM

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1/27/23

This note is in response to Palo Alto Renters Association:

Monday night the question was raised of how renters in Palo Alto participate in and value Palo Alto. It would be really helpful if renters wrote in or showed up to answer that question.

Hello City Council,

My name is Steve. I always say I grew up in Palo Alto. In truth, my family history here goes back before to when my grandparents were raising my mom here. Because it's basically home, that is why I live in Palo Alto. In that, I do value living in Palo Alto. I now rent near University Ave.

While I've lived on the Peninsula, I've wondered and worried about the sense of community here. I would be curious to ask anyone else, the average citizen, "do you feel a sense of community in Palo Alto?" There should be one, but I often wonder this, because there is a wonderful mix of people. About the people, I have observed this and know it.

I have little hope of buying a home in this area although I am employed full time and receive some assistance from the VA: I am a Veteran. For the priority list in 2023, why not address some affordable housing for someone like me? Sunnyvale has it, Santa Clara has it. Campbell has it.

Without referring to specific topics on the priority list, these are my suggestions to the city council for 2023:

I can say that from reading in the local news about the President Hotel debacle that there might be a loss of trust. I think 77 long time renters were displaced.

Additionally, the roads along El Camino need to be repaved.

With homelessness, there were times this year walking around downtown University Ave that in the early morning hours that the only people around I saw around were homeless. I found this unusual at this specific part of Palo Alto, so I think homelessness might be creeping up.

Lastly crime seems to be increasing. From all the smash- and- grabs at Stanford Shopping Center it is clear this area is a target for thieves, and for good reason. If people felt safer then there might be better community.

Thanks for your time,

Steve

Palo Alto resident

From: [Nate Saal](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: City Council 2023 Priorities
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:36:57 PM

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Dear City Council:

I am writing to request that you please make flood protection a priority for 2023.

Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority:

- Newell Bridge replacement
- Support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek
- Clearing debris before flood season

I live in the flood zone and we had water running down our street in December. Improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being.

Thank you,

Nate Saal
1381 Forest Ave

From: [Matt B](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: City Priority - Flood Control
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 1:23:19 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mbuch2938@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council,

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023. Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season. I live in the flood zone and improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being. Thank you.

Matt Buchwitz
1216 Forest Avenue

From: [Dashiell Leeds](#)
To: [Council, City](#); [Kou, Lydia](#); [Burt, Patrick](#); [Lythcott-Haims, Julie](#); [Lauing, Ed](#); [Tanaka, Greg](#); [Stone, Greer](#); [Veenker, Vicki](#); [Clerk, City](#)
Cc: [James Eggers](#); [Mike Ferreira](#); [Gladwyn D'Souza](#); [Barbara Kelsey](#); [Jennifer Hetterly](#)
Subject: Sierra Club Letter to Palo Alto Regarding 2023 Priorities
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 12:33:18 PM
Attachments: [SCLP letter to PA 2023 priorities.pdf](#)

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Dear Mayor Kou and Palo Alto City Councilmembers,

Humanity is experiencing two major existential threats: the rapid loss of biodiversity and an accelerating climate crisis. To protect Palo Alto residents and ecosystems, both crises must be addressed simultaneously. Fortunately, protecting nature and reducing emissions have interconnected and mutually beneficial solutions.

Please consider the attached letter, which contains the Loma Prieta Chapter's recommendations for Palo Alto's 2023 priorities.

Sincerely,
Dashiell Leeds
Conservation Organizer
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter



SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

Palo Alto City Hall
250 Hamilton Ave
Palo Alto, CA, 94301

RE: City Council 2023 Retreat

Dear Mayor Kou and Palo Alto City Councilmembers,

Humanity is experiencing two major existential threats: the rapid loss of biodiversity and an accelerating climate crisis. To protect Palo Alto residents and ecosystems, both crises must be addressed simultaneously. Fortunately, protecting nature and reducing emissions have interconnected and mutually beneficial solutions. Protecting and restoring local habitats bolsters community and ecological health and resiliency to the effects of climate change while also reducing emissions. The emissions we reduce now can limit the severity of the impacts of climate change such as flooding and sea level rise.

The Natural Environment and Climate Action were both highly prioritized by residents in the Annual Community Feedback Survey. According to the survey results, "4 in 5 residents rated it essential or very important to focus on the overall quality of the natural environment in Palo Alto". "When asked to rate how important it is for Palo Alto to focus on reducing community greenhouse gas emissions in the coming two years, 7 in 10 residents indicated it to be essential or very important." The voices of Palo Alto residents, ecologists, and climate activists are clear; we must protect nature and reduce emissions. We hope that Palo Alto's priorities reflect this sentiment. Please consider the following provisions during the annual Council retreat.

1) Establish a City priority of "Natural Environment and Climate Change"

Within that umbrella, please consider the following actions:

- a) Invest in the restoration of natural habitats, protection of open space and biodiversity, and expansion of parkland resources.**
 - b) Allow and encourage the onsite reuse of stormwater and recycled water to enhance water supply.**
 - c) Continue to support, fund, and accelerate Palo Alto's progress towards the equitable electrification of existing buildings and reduction of emissions from transportation.**
 - d) Consider public microgrids to address resilience and decarbonization as well as power disruptions and extreme weather events.**
- 2) Within the "Community Health and Safety" category, please include biosafety protections to ensure that community members and local ecosystems are protected from the potential impacts of biolabs.**

We look forward to further collaboration with the City Council in support of local nature and climate action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dashiell Leeds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dashiell Leeds
Conservation Organizer
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

From: [Marie-Jo Fremont](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Annual retreat City Council
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023 8:58:07 PM

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City Council Members,

I won't be able to join the retreat meeting on Saturday because of a prior commitment.

I would like to thank all Council Members and City Management for their efforts and continued commitment on the airplane noise problem that residents experience.

I do hope that reducing airplane noise will continue to be an important goal for our City in the future as it continues to impact many residents across our City.

Thank you for your continued support.

Marie-Jo Fremont

Please Contact the Clerk's Office
to View Additional Pages,
Attachments, or Images Related

From: [dick held](#)
To: [Margaret Bruce](#)
Cc: reisenberg@valleywater.org; [Council, City](#); [dick held](#)
Subject: Fwd: Flood video
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023 5:58:37 PM
Attachments: [Video.mov](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rwheld@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Ms. Bruce, I previously furnished you this film of the San Francisquito Creek overflow into our yard on Desoto Drive on December 31. Since I associate myself with the requests for urgent action to replace the Chaucer Street Bridge made by Mr. Gu and Ms. Hammer I also want to make it available to Ms. Eisenberg and the Palo Alto City Council.

Twenty five years ago in 1998 we were forced to evacuate our house for over two months while extensive repairs were made due to flood water damage to our house from overflow at the same bridge.

Today you went to great lengths to compliment the response of responsible parties to the December 31 flooding. I, too, appreciate their assistance. I must remind you, however, that had corrective action been taken in the last twenty five years their most helpful efforts would not have been necessary.

No corrective action for twenty five years is an unacceptable response by government at all levels. We need no more time spent on process, studies, or more business as usual. Please be an aggressive force for seeing the Chaucer Street Bridge is promptly removed.

Sincerely,
Dick Held

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bri King <briheldking@gmail.com>
Subject: Flood video
Date: January 1, 2023 at 7:42:11 PM PST
To: dick held <rwheld@gmail.com>

From: [neva yarkin](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: from neva, ideas for City Council Retreat
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:48:10 PM

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Jan. 25, 2023

For the city council retreat on Jan. 28, 2023.

I would like to see more crime prevention – more police hired. Why should I feel afraid of going into the Apple Store or Stanford Shopping Center? What about the Midtown area or Charleston Shopping Area.

My concerns are as follows:

- 1) Robberies at the Apple store on University Ave.– more patrols around University Ave.
- 2) Robberies at Stanford Shopping Center – more patrols around the area
- 3) Home burglars at dinner time
- 4) Midtown area - 7 Eleven store, Safeway, and Baskin Robbins Ice Cream.
- 5) More traffic police hired – speeding at 60mph on Alma
- 6) People going through stop signs on Thursday night after Paly games.
- 7) Elderly having purses/wallets stolen or being targeted.
- 8) More police presence around town (visibility).

Thank you.

From: [Carole Mallowney](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: San Franciscoquito Creek Flooding
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 4:08:26 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from carole.mallowney@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear City Council,

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023 and beyond. Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Franciscoquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season.

I live in the flood zone and improved flood prevention and protection of my home from flooding is imperative for my family's safety and well being.

Thank you,
Carole Mallowney
1291 Pitman Avenue

From: [caroline hicks](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: FLOOD PROTECTION CRUCIAL REMEDIATION IN 2023
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 6:18:47 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cyhicksmail@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council.

Please make flood protection a priority in 2023. We live in the flood zone and saw knee deep flooded streets at the nearby Duveneck Elementary school during these recent storms.

I am grateful that our storm drains worked so well on our street. However it is imperative that we prioritize the following projects for 2023:

1. The Newell Bridge replacement
2. full support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek
3. clearing debris before flood season.

Thank you!

Respectfully yours,

Caroline Hicks
Bert Fingerhut
195 Heather Lane
Palo Alto, CA 94303

From: [Jane Millman](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Speed up flood protection PLEASE
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 3:09:09 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jane.millman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council,

My name is Jane Millman and I live on De Soto Drive in Palo Alto. I was flooded in 1998 and subsequently went to 5 years of JPA meetings following that traumatic event. In 2003 I realized that nothing was going to be done to help me....it was ALL talk, studies, money concerns, more studies, etc. 25 years later, on Dec 31, the creek overflowed again and my street filled contaminated water. My husband and I both had covid at the time so were isolating per the protocol. Fortunately the water did not enter our house, but we were inches away from that happening.

Please, please, please please make flood protection a priority for 2023. Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season. Living in the flood zone, improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being.

Thank you.

Jane & Paul Millman

From: [William Reller](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Cc: [William Reller](#)
Subject: Flood Control-2023 Priority
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 2:39:50 PM

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Dear City Council,

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023.

As a long time Palo Alto resident, my home and neighborhood were greatly affected by the recent storms and associated flooding.

Specifically, please renew the city's priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023.

This year, please add the following projects under this priority:

- Newell Bridge replacement
- Explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek
- Clearing debris before flood season.

Improved flood prevention and protection of our homes from future flooding is an imperative for all.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Bill Reller

From: [Steve Bisset](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Please add Newell Bridge replacement to 2023 Climate Adaptation Priority
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 11:35:44 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from steve@bisset.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council,

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023. Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season.

I live in the flood zone. We were flooded in 1998. Improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being.

Some of you on the Council may be newer to the flooding history, and perhaps unaware that the City of Palo Alto created the flood risk in 1949 and is solely liable for flood damage due to the Pope-Chaucer Bridge - not Menlo Park or Caltrans or anyone else.

Therefore, flood prevention is also critical to the financial security of the City.

Attached is a photo of the original 1907 Pope-Chaucer Bridge, a perfectly satisfactory bridge. Also attached is the 1946 City of Palo Alto drawing of the roadway design for the current bridge. Apparently the City made quite a large investment to replace a bridge with a culvert so that cars could speed across it and zoom onto Woodland Avenue without stopping! Incredible.

Sincerely,
Steve Bisset
1051 Fife Avenue, Palo Alto

From: [Tom Glenwright](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Flood protection priority for 2023
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 9:18:35 AM

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Dear City Council,

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023. Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season. I live in the flood zone and improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being. Thank you.

Tom Glenwright
261 Iris Way

From: [Henry Fang](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Request setting flood control as a 2023 priority
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 9:20:06 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from henryfang@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council,

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023. Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season.

I live in the flood zone, improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being.

Thank you,
Henry Fang

From: [Fernando Pereira](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: 2023 Climate Protection & Adaptation Priorities
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 8:10:50 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from fernando.pereira@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To the Palo Alto City Council,

As Downtown North homeowners at the edge of the historical San Francisquito Creek flood zone, as shown in the [city's own 1998 flood map](#), we are very concerned with the lack of progress in flood control measures, especially with respect to the Newell and Chaucer bridges.

The urgency of this critical climate adaptation work was made clear by the recent atmospheric river close call, which was just an early warning of the [growing California climate instability](#) that has been [investigated in depth](#) by UCLA/NCAR/Nature Conservancy scientist Daniel Swain.

We very much hope and expect that the City Council and its Finance Committee impart all the required urgency and funding priority to these climate adaptation public works that will protect our homes and civic infrastructure from unfortunately inevitable increases in flood risk.

Thank you for your service to our community

Fernando Pereira and Ana Carvalho
335 Webster St, Palo Alto, CA 94301
650-262-4372

From: [Mitch Gevelber](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Please prioritize flood planning/ prevention
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 7:12:14 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from docmitch63@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council,

First:

Thank you for working so hard to make Palo Alto such a great place to live!

Second:

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023. Our street, Kings Lane, was really flooded on New Years eve and I'm worried about our street.

Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season.

Clearly our street is in the flood zone and improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being.

Thank you.

Mitch Gevelber

From: [Susan Mittmann](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Prioritize flood protection, Newell and Chaucer Bridges
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 6:16:53 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mittfamily@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council,

My home was flooded in 1998 because the Chaucer Bridge wasn't safe. My daughter, who was turning two and had been looking forward to moving to a bed rather than a crib, decided to stay in her crib until summer because everything touching the floor soaked up dirty flood water and was ruined.

That daughter graduated from college five years ago, and Palo Alto still hasn't fixed Chaucer Bridge. The same creek overtopped on New Year's Eve. My daughter called to check if we were safe. Twenty-five years is a ridiculous delay in fixing a hazard that traumatized a generation of children and families, not to mention other costs to the city and residents.

Please make flood protection a city priority for 2023 and each following year until the Chaucer Bridge is fixed.

In particular, please add the following projects under priorities for Climate Change and Adaptation: the Newell Bridge replacement, the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek, clearing debris before flood season, and the Chaucer Bridge replacement.

Thank you,
Susan Mittmann
2377 Saint Francis Dr.
Palo Alto, CA 94303

From: [Charles Munger](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Flood Control on San Francisquito Creek is an urgent priority
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 3:53:36 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from charlestmungerjr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Honorable Members of the City Council:

25 years ago in 1998 my wife and I were roused by our neighbors in the dead of night to haul carpets and furniture upstairs as the muddy overflow from San Francisquito creek filled the street, rose over our lawn, topped the step up to our front door, and then mercifully subsided, having however totaled the minivan we used to take our 3 children (ages 2, 5, and 7) to school and about. We were assured that the replacement of the Pope/Chaucer bridge, the principal chokepoint for the creek because of its low arch, would be a matter of urgent priority.

Our children are grown and out, and this year neighbors sent us video of the muddy overflow from the creek rising half over our lawn, before mercifully subsiding. This time. Our neighbor across the street had her basement flood. She is from China, and I doubt she views with admiration a modern nation that can't accomplish a modest bit of civil engineering in 25 years---even accounting for the various projects downstream that must also have been improved to handle more flow down the creek. This is a *creek* we are trying to handle, not the Mississippi river.

We now have proof that flooding from San Francisquito creek is not a once-in-a-century-or-two sort of problem. It is a two-or-three-times-in-your-lifetime problem. I wish to escape #3.

Yes, the city needs to maintain all the standard services: police and fire, water and power, and the rest. But otherwise replacing this bridge and allowing for more safe flow down the creek is *the* single project that will most improve residents' quality of life, here in Palo Alto and across the creek.

Residents can't do it. Residents can address shortfalls in many other places: in the funding of the libraries; we can clean up and maintain parks; we can pick up trash on the streets. We residents *can't* do civil engineering on a volunteer basis; we can't even make the creek better by ourselves hiring people to help, as we could with other problems. Getting that bridge and creek fixed is something only our government---of which the Palo Alto City Council is a part---can do. Please make your first priority what we residents cannot do for ourselves.

Sincerely yours,
Charles T. Munger, Jr.
1423 Hamilton Avenue

From: [Pamela Haki Economos](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Cc: [Economos Evan](#)
Subject: Flood protection now
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 3:49:40 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pamhaki@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council, Please make flood protection a priority for 2023.

I live on De Soto Drive. In 1998, we woke up in the middle of the night to find one foot of water in our home, which rapidly increased to two feet as sewage spilled out of our toilets and bathtubs. We were out of our home for 8 months, and lost both our cars, furniture and many possessions.

Imagine our worry as we saw De Soto Drive flood once again on New Year's Eve. Fortunately water did not enter our home this time, but one block away, the garages on Alester were flooded. It's hard to believe that after 25 years the bridges at Newell and Chaucer still put our homes at risk of flooding.

It is imperative that the city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023 is renewed. In addition add the following projects under this priority:

the Newell Bridge replacement
Explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek
Clearing debris BEFORE flood season.

Improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being. Thank you.

Pamela Economos
753 De Soto Drive
Palo Alto CA. 94303

From: [m.l](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Flood protection in 2023
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 3:09:17 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sjmarylee@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council, Please make flood protection a priority for 2023. Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023.

This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season. I live in the flood zone and improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being.

Thank you,
Mary Lee

From: [V.K. Rajaram](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Please Make Flood Protection A Priority For 2023
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 2:25:09 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from vkrajaram@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council,

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023. Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season. I live in the flood zone and improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being.

Thank you,

VK Rajaram
Heather Lane Resident

From: [Ted Davids](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: 2023 Priorities for the Council and its Finance Committee
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 2:17:27 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council,

Please include Flood Protection under the Climate Protection & Adaptation Goal for 2023. Last year no flood protection projects were officially included under the Climate Protection & Adaptation Goal.

I am concerned that Palo Alto's basic sources and uses of cash do not address the risks highlighted by the recent rains and flooding. Specifically, please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season, especially cleaning channel debris BEFORE flood season.

Late last year Mr Neilson Buchanan suggested to the Finance Committee to clarify its concepts of financial issues. The list of issues was a great step forward. However, I continue to feel that the list of issues was incomplete. It did not communicate the inherent risks associated with each issue. A list of issues is passive A list of risks communicates urgency.

Now is the time to delegate two risks to the Finance Committee in the context of Climate Protection and Adaption. First, full commitment for the San Francisquito Creek flood zone's staged remedies. This means full and regular disclosure of funding and timelines.

Second, greater disclosure of Palo Alto's commitment to the system of levee protections around SF Bay. I could be mistaken but this risk has received minimal public attention.

Construction on the Newell Bridge was originally scheduled to start in 2021 but construction is now scheduled for the summer of 2024 due to various delays (e.g. lawsuits now dismissed). Please make it a priority to ensure there are no further delays, that the city is doing everything it can to complete this project and support full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek including channel widening and Chaucer bridge as fast as possible.

Thousands of homes are in the San Francisquito Creek flood zone and over the floor flooding means the home becomes inhabitable for 9 months to a year, like 400 homes were in the 1998 flood during an El Nino season. Next winter is predicted to be an El Nino winter so statistically higher risk.

The benefits of replacing Newell Bridge go far beyond flood control. This 113 year old bridge, was designated as functionally obsolete by CalTrans. It is a substandard narrow bridge with no traffic lights, no sidewalk and no bike path. Many parents from East Palo Alto push their baby carriages and walk small children across this bridge on their way to Eleanor Parde Park. The bridge is also used by many to commute to work from East Palo Alto. The new bridge will provide safe sidewalks for pedestrians, safe bike paths and improved car safety.

Thank you again for all the hard work you have done to move the Newell Bridge replacement

project so far and please prioritize bringing it over the finish line as funded infrastructure win for the city.

Sincerely,
Ted Davids
475 Everett Avenue
Palo Alto

From: [Christy Telch](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Top Priority- Flood Prevention and Protection
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 11:35:40 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from gforman806@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council Members,

I urge you to make Flood Prevention and Protection, specifically FIX the Pope-Chaucer Bridge!, the City's top priority in 2023! Our home at 1130 Hamilton Ave between Lincoln and Chaucer was flooded in 1998 and after 25 years we should not have to suffer that disaster again! It took us a year and significant financial costs to repair the damage to our home and property and much longer to recover from the emotional stress! Watching the muddy creek water roar down Hamilton Ave and head up our driveway, yards and sidewalk again this past New Year's Eve day was a nightmare! This could have been prevented and should not have happened again!

Your first priority and responsibility is the protection of the safety and well being of residents and their property. Therefore, I urge you to immediately implement whatever actions are necessary to prevent another flooding event. Make this your absolute top priority until the safety and well being of residents and their property is insured.

Respectfully,
Christy Telch

From: [Harry Dennis](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Flood protection for Crescent Park.
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 11:26:13 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from hledennis@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello,

Having had more than 2 feet of water in our basement in 1998, we were better prepared this winter with beefier sump pumps and a small Honda generator. Still, it IS frustrating that 24 years later I was back to filling sandbags a few weeks ago. Thankfully, our home on Pitman Avenue has so far not been flooded this year. I AM impressed with the city's work clearing streets and drains, and making sand and bags available to us. But please, don't let work on the Newell and Chaucer bridges get further delayed. Make flood protection and climate adaptation as high a priority as possible.

Thank you,

Harry Dennis
1274 Pitman Ave.
Palo Alto

P.S. - as an infant, in early 1955, I was evacuated from my family's home on Desoto Drive, too! This has been a known problem for WAY too long.

From: [Lisa Gevelber](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Flood protection priority
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 11:25:31 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lisagevelber@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council,

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023. Our street, Kings Lane, was really flooded on New Years eve and I'm worried about our street.

Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season.

Clearly our street is in the flood zone and improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being.

Thank you.

Lisa Gevelber

From: [Phyllis Smith](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Cc: [Horrigan-Taylor, Meghan](#)
Subject: Chaucer Street Bridge Flooding
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 10:17:17 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from binkyblu920@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I am asking you please to start work in 2023 on the Chaucer Street Bridge. We had flooding in '98 but not as bad as some people. My son lives with me and in '98 we went to get sand bags and he called in friends and spent several hours filling and delivering sand bags for people who had NO idea what was involved. No shovel. To week to carry the bag to their cars.

Again this year, we went to get a few sandbags and, again, he and friend stayed several hours to help fill and load into cars for people who could not do it.

This neighborhood is getting older and people don't have the ability to do everything for themselves.

PLEASE start the work on the Chaucer Street Bridge before the next El Nino year, which is coming.

Thank you

Phyllis Smith
920 Boyce Avenue
Palo Alto, CA. 94301

650]823-1292

From: [Carol Kenyon](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: January flooding in Palo alto
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 8:22:13 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from carolskenyon@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To The Palo Alto City Council,

I hope you as a City council are as concerned as I am about the flooding we have been living with this month. This issue must be a priority for our City as we continue to confront climate change in many areas.

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023. Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season. I live in the flood zone and improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our neighborhood safety and well being. Thank you.

I appreciate you giving this issue your immediate attention.

Carol Kenyon

From: [Larry Jones](#)
To: [Pat Jones](#); [Council, City](#)
Subject: Flood control
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 10:13:55 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from john.x.wyclif@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Palo Alto is in the center of Silicon Valley. So why can't the city do anything about flood control? I'm from Florida where the whole state is prepared for hurricanes: emergency food, water, shelters, evacuation routes, etc. what's wrong with Palo Alto?

Larry Jones
1407 Hamilton Ave.

From: [Patricia Jones](#)
To: [Council, City](#); [City Mgr](#)
Subject: Priorities for 2023
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 10:13:35 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pkjones1000@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council and City Manager,

As you determine the priorities for 2023, I propose that at the top of your list of 2023 priorities, you commit to the following under the Newell Bridge replacement: (1) complete support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito creek and (2) clearing debris from the creek before flood season.

I understand that we face the risk of another El Niño next year, just as we did in 1998. Please, please find a way NOW to mitigate the possibility of the flooding that occurred in 1998 and partially occurred 12/31/22. Flood damage is absolutely devastating to those affected and completely unnecessary because it can be avoided.

To this end, I ask that you set measurable goals, such as “reduce the risk of local 100-year flooding from the San Francisquito Creek by 50% in 12 months and 100% in 24 months.”

Achieving such goals would give those of us living under the constant threat of flooding much needed peace of mind.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**Patricia Jones
1407 Hamilton Avenue**

Patricia Jones
www.pkjones.com
pkjones1000@icloud.com

From: [Mel Kronick](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Cc: [Mel Kronick](#); [Karen Kronick](#)
Subject: Flood Control as a City of Palo Alto Priority
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 7:55:54 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from melkronick@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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We have lived in Palo Alto on Forest Avenue since 1976. We suffered modest damage in the horrible 1998 flood. We came close to damage again this year. We appreciate that the issue is complicated and that 6 different governmental agencies (Palo Alto, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, the County of Santa Clara, the County of San Mateo, and the Army Corps of Engineers) are all involved. It is, nevertheless, shameful that the Chaucer Street bridge and solving the whole issue once and for all is still years away. My wife and I VERY strongly request setting flood control as a top 2023 priority by the City Council.

Mel and Karen Kronick

From: [Bev Benson](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Creek Flooding
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 4:34:57 PM

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I'm writing to encourage you to fix the possibility of the San Francisquito creek to overflow.

I was flooded in 1998. Although I had flood insurance, it was very difficult getting the house restored to a live able condition.

My partner and I had to stay at the Residence Inn for a month with our 2 cats. We were both working at management level jobs.

We were lucky that our neighbor who was also flooded had a contractor already working for her and he helped rebuild our houses.

All the appliances were ruined. The floors and the bathroom had to be completely rebuilt. My partner's car was totaled.

Partner is now deceased and I am in my 70's. By myself I tried to move all my furniture above the level of the '98 level flood.

This was very scary.

I commend how well the city responded to the weather. Pulling debris out of the stream and posting lots of updates. Good Job!

Thank you for reading my email and seriously considering your next steps.

Bev

From: [betty tse](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: 2023 priority of Palo Alto - flood protection
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 3:23:32 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from btse04@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council,

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023. Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season. I live in the flood zone and improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being.

Thank you.

betty tse and gabe kralik

From: [Phyllis Sherlock](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Climate Chante and Adaptation for 2023.
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 12:36:50 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from phyllissherlock2@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I lost four months of my life after the flood of 1998. And my partner was hospitalized overnight after a stint in cleaning out our basement that was flooded. With five feet of water.

Please replace the Newell Bridge THIS YEAR, CLEAR DEBRIS before the flood season,.and hasten the replacement of the Chaucer bridge.

Thank you. Phyllis Sherlock, PhD. 12 75 Dana Av. P.A.

From: [Margot Lockwood-Stein](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Fw: Please Make Flood Protection for Crescent Park, Duveneck/St. Francis & Greer Park a priority
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 12:18:35 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mommylockwood_stein@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council,

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023. Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season. I live in the flood zone and improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being. Thank you.

Thank you,
Margot Lockwood-Stein
Duveneck/St. Francis neighborhood

From: [Richard Almond](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: flood prevention
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 11:31:46 AM

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To the Council:

I had damages in the '98 flood, and this year, at 85, I was out in the rain moving sand bags against the rising brown waters of University Ave River.

Given the slowness of the planning project we are faced with several years more risk. I urge facilitation of the Newell Bridge replacement, and exploration of **present** removal of the Chaucer Bridge. There are other ways to cross the Creek.

your sincerely,

Richard Almond, MD
1520 University Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Opinion pieces and other recommendations may not always be responded to quickly, due to time constraints, but they are appreciated.

From: [Euginia Merken](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Newell Bridge (and flood control) must be a city Priority
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 11:23:42 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from euginia.merken@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please add flooding protection projects under our city's Climate Change and Adaptation goal for 2023. The city has already spent too much time and energy considering the bridges' impacts on the immediate neighborhoods to the detriment of the greater good.

Improving mass transportation should also be added to the Climate Change and Adaptation goal. Driving the Caltrain underground is unrealistic and delaying improvement to our rail system will accelerate global warming. Accelerating and streamlining public transportation will make it easier for workers in regions with more affordable housing to travel to their jobs, and expensive communities will benefit from an increase in labor. The Bay Area's mass transit system is a splintered mess, with many different agencies that seem to do little to coordinate with each other. We already have much of the infrastructure in place, but with little coordination among the agencies, getting from one city to another is untenable.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Euginia Merken
707 De Soto Drive

From: [Mehmetf](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Flood priority
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 10:13:52 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mehmetf@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council,

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023. Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season.

I live in the flood zone (Oregon Ave) and improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being. Thank you.

From: [Pat Kinney](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Please make flood control a priority for 2023
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 9:54:39 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pkinney48235@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council,

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023. Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season. I live in the flood zone and improved flood prevention and protection of our home from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being. We were not impacted as much this year as we were in 1998, but we still carry memories of that flood.

I understand that the Newell Bridge project is constrained to only working in the creek for four months each year, but are there other roadside improvements that could start in 2023 that could speed up the overall project?

Thank you.
Patricia Kinney
Willdwood Lane

From: [Barbara Riper](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Flood protection
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 9:42:54 AM

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As a resident in the flood zone, I ask that you renew your City priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. Please add these projects under that priority:

- Newell Bridge replacement
- Clear support for the complete Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquiro Creek
- Pre-flood season clearing of debris from the creek

We narrowly missed a much worse outcome recently. Let's not waste time before the next one.

Sincerely,

Barbara Riper

From: [Hamilton Hitchings](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Please include Flood Protection under the Climate Protection & Adaptation Goal for 2023
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 9:40:32 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council,

Please include Flood Protection under the Climate Protection & Adaptation Goal for 2023. Last year no flood protection projects were officially included under the Climate Protection & Adaptation Goal. Specifically, please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season.

Construction on the Newell Bridge was originally scheduled to start in 2021 but construction is now scheduled for the summer of 2024 due to various delays (e.g. lawsuits now dismissed). Please make it a priority to ensure there are no further delays, that the city is doing everything it can to complete this project and support full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek including channel widening and Chaucer bridge as fast as possible.

Thousands of homes are in the San Francisquito Creek flood zone and over the floor flooding means the home becomes inhabitable for 9 months to a year, like 400 homes were in the 1998 flood during an El Nino season. Next winter is predicted to be an El Nino winter so statistically higher risk.

The benefits of replacing Newell Bridge go far beyond flood control. This 113 year old bridge, was designated as functionally obsolete by CalTrans. It is a substandard narrow bridge with no traffic lights, no sidewalk and no bike path. Many parents from East Palo Alto push their baby carriages and walk small children across this bridge on their way to Eleanor Parde Park. The bridge is also used by many to commute to work from East Palo Alto. The new bridge will provide safe sidewalks for pedestrians, safe bike paths and improved car safety.

Thank you again for all the hard work you have done to move the Newell Bridge replacement project so far and please prioritize bringing it over the finish line as another infrastructure win for the city.

Hamilton Hitchings

From: [Nadine Terman](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: City Priorities
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 9:19:10 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from nadineterman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council,

Please make flood protection a priority for 2023.

We have lived near the Creek since 2008 and remain confused and frustrated over the lack of progress from our leaders.

Specifically, please renew your city priority of Climate Change and Adaptation for 2023. This year please add the following projects under this priority: the Newell Bridge replacement, explicit support for the full Reach 2 upgrade of San Francisquito Creek and clearing debris before flood season. The city was not prepared and only was removing debris when it was too late—a baffling situation for a known issue.

I live in the flood zone and suffered flooding from the New Year's flood of the Pope Chaucer Bridge. Improved flood prevention and protection of our home and streets from flooding is an imperative for our family's safety and well being.

If you choose not to be proactive on the above initiatives, then please (i) find a way to clean sidewalks so that people do not slip (or be forced to walk in the streets and dodge cars) and (ii) also set aside funds to reimburse us for our damage while we wait and for doing your job in cleaning up the neighborhood. You probably noticed that most of us were cleaning up our neighborhoods...while inspiring as a neighborhood, it is representative of the shortcomings of the council.

Thank you,

Nadine