

Storm-related Issues and Implications*

*Dec. 30, 2022 – Jan. 16, 2023

Gregg Dieguez
January 18, 2023

What Happened...

- 1. Stormwater flooding (*e.g. Moonridge & implications for Cypress Point*)
- 2. Sewer system failures and damage; overflow pollution
- 3. Trees falling, and threatening to fall
- 4. Loss of electricity (wind, trees)
- 5. Loss of internet (power, wind, trees, rain)
- 6. Road closures and damage (*e.g. Hwy 92, Hwy 1 near airport and near tunnel*)

Almost-annual Pacifica Hillside



Near Quarry Park



Hwy 1 at Airport 12/30 2pm

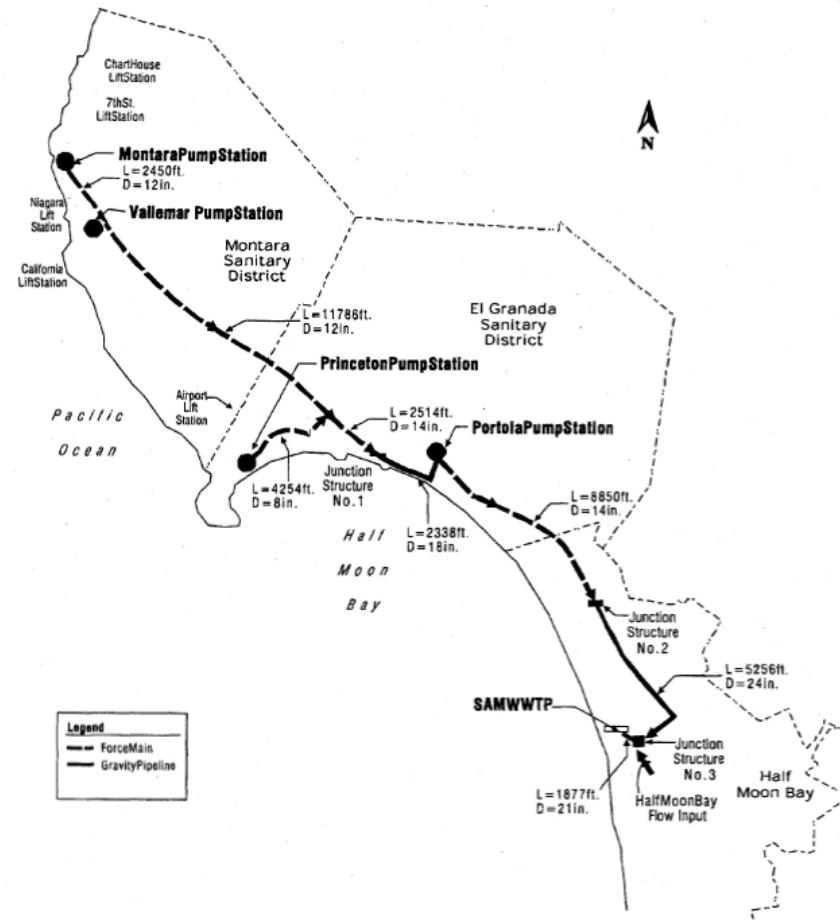


Lake S.A.M.



The S.A.M. system...

- The IPS is the subject of the HMB lawsuit vs. MWSD and GCSD
- The SAM plant overflowed on Dec. 13-14, 2021
- No explanation has been provided regarding the excess flows which occurred then.



SEWER AUTHORITY MID-COASTSIDE (SAM)

Over a Year without Action...

MWSD 12/15/22 minutes where I AGAIN requested the report:

https://mwsd.montara.org/assets/docs/board/collateral/252/Consent_1.pdf

“Gregg Dieguez reminded everyone it is the anniversary of the sewer overflow at the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (SAM), which nearly flooded the electrical building. He is inquiring if the Montara Water and Sanitary District (MWSD) has made any progress in identifying and/or repairing the source of the 12 million gallons per day which did not come from the IPS and/or progress in obtaining the analysis of the Half Moon Bay’s report for peer review. Half Moon Bay contends that it could not come from them, leaving 5 million gallons per day unexplained. He is requested this be put on the agenda at MWSD and/or SAM until it is revised and somebody does something before there is another more serious overflow.

General Manager Clemens Heldmaier commented he asked for the document that was mentioned at the last board meeting at the Managers meeting at the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (SAM), and the Half Moon Bay City engineer said they would look for the document and send a copy. He wants to give their partner a chance to respond to their request for the document before putting it on the agenda. Gregg Dieguez replied that said document was produced last April”

What happened?

From MWSD agenda Jan 19th:

https://mwsd.montara.org/assets/docs/board/collateral/252/New_Business_4.pdf

“The recent continuous rains affected the MWSD and SAM sewer systems and resulted in sanitary sewer overflows. Due to additional water releases from Stone Pine Dam into the Pilarcitos Watershed the December 31 Storm resulted in a flash flood that resulted in water intrusion into the SAM plant. Additionally, Half Moon Bay’s flows exceeded cannot be turned off (*sic*) and exceeded plant capacity. As a result, the Portola and Montara SAM Pump Stations were turned off and overflowed. Other Sanitary Sewer System Overflows in Half Moon Bay, GCSD and MWSD were related to the treatment plant malfunctioning.”

What Happened...

7. Stormwater Infrastructure Deficit:

- No County DPW stormwater manager;
- No stormwater capacity assessment;
- Insufficient: funding? spending?

8. Fractionated reporting and coverage:

- whom to call for what?
- 211 inefficient? (e.g. VM); misuse of 911; better venue?

9. No ability to track the reported issues by MCC, by others?

10. Unknown ability to monitor: issue resolution, costs thereof, decisions on scope of response, adequacy of coverage, adequacy of response time, evaluation of peak resource requirements, and cost tradeoffs, etc.



Khoa Vo <dvo1@smcgov.org>

to me ▾

Gregg –

Tue, Dec 6, 2022, 7:44 PM



My responses are in red below.

1. Who at DPW is the person to whom such issues should be addressed?

You could continue to contact me or if you prefer, our Director, Ann Stillman. When we have a new Deputy Director – Engineering & Resources Protection Division, that person will be your new contact regarding new storm drainage systems.

2. (when I find the right person) What ever happened to the undone project mentioned in the 2018 memo from Jim Porter (attached)?

The project was completed in December 2018.

3. (when I find the right person) What assessment exists of stormwater handling adequacy, and what projects are on the table to improve it?

There is no stormwater assessment that I'm aware of. Storm drainage needs assessment is usually something the developer would conduct when a subdivision is considered for development. In unincorporated County, there usually is no stormwater study since every parcel is built individually and often times, no SD system is considered or developed.

There is currently one drainage project in the planning/design stage (Ferdinand Ave between Ave Alhambra and The Alameda). Funding for SD system comes from developer impacts fee and it does take some time for fees to accumulate large enough for a project (e.g. road reconstruction or storm drainage improvement).

Thanks,
Khoa.

So What? - Implications

- We have inadequate infrastructure in several dimensions
- We need an assessment of critical infrastructure requirements
- We need those requirements priced
- We need those requirements funded

Discussion Outline

1. What did I miss?
2. What are community priorities?
3. Whom to report what to?
4. Whom to write requesting what?
 - a. - Supervisors
 - b. - Planning Commission and Planning Dept.
 - c. - CCC (Coastal Commission)
 - d. - RWQCB
 - e. - Dept. of Emergency Response re improved procedures
 - f. - others?

Now What?...

1. Further analysis of the sewer plant failures, costs & fines, and remedies (*which I've been requesting since Dec. 2021...*)
2. Stormwater capacity assessment (and assignment)
3. Better planning of new projects, including infrastructure impacts, and fiscally sustainable funding BEFORE impacts
4. Accountability for impacts, so residents don't fund growth, or errors.
5. Improved emergency communications & tracking
 - Walkie-talkies for MCC?
6. More from community input...

Questions and Comments?

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