SFPUC’s Floodwater Grant Program Webinar
Presented by Sarah Minick
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Top Questions

• How do I qualify for the Floodwater Grant Program?
• How do I get started?
• What types of projects can be done to flood-proof my house?
• What are the steps I will have to take to qualify and apply for the grant?
Poll Question

Please tell us how you heard about this webinar

• Postcard
• Email
• Social Media
• Newsletter (digital or print)
• SF District Supervisor’s Newsletter/Email
• Word of Mouth
• Somewhere else?
San Francisco’s Combined Sewer System
Level of Service Goals for Stormwater Management

• Integrate Green and Grey Infrastructure

• Controls and manage flows
  • Exp: A 5-year storm that lasts 3 hours with 1.3 inches of rain

• Let’s be realistic… no sewer system can be built to handle any and all storm intensities

Flood resilience is key!
How Flooding Can Occur

- Large storm (beyond collection system capacity)
- Natural topography
  - Historic waterways
  - Drainage basin size and features
- Land settlement
- System blockage
- High tides

https://www.coastal.ca.gov/kingtides/gallery.html
Achieving Flood Resilience

1. Operation & Maintenance
2. Capital Projects
3. Programmatic Efforts
We really want to know

Which neighborhood in San Francisco is your property? Please enter your answer in the chat.
Floodwater Grant Program
Floodwater Grant Program

• Available to **ALL** property owners in SF who meet eligibility requirements
• Grant funding up to $100k per property
• Payments in multiple installments
• Contractor & Engineer Resource List
• Financial Hardship Eligibility Form

sfpuc.org/floodwatergrant

Don’t know where to begin… we can help.
What is covered under the Grant?

- Designer fees
- Supplies, material and installation costs
- Permits and encroachment fees
- Restoration of the immediate work
- City cost share of project: 80%, 90% or 100%

We can walk you through each step!
Financial Hardship Eligibility Form

Grant Assistance for Floodwater Management
Optional Financial Hardship Eligibility Form

The Floodwater Management Grant Program allows property owners who have demonstrated they are experiencing financial hardship or small businesses and nonprofits with no more than 50 full-time employees to:

- Receive 100% of the eligible costs of flood risk reduction projects (up to $100,000 per property) to be reimbursed for property owners who occupy their residential property, do not have rental units that may generate rental income from the property, and face financial hardship.
- Receive an up-front payment prior to the start of work to use for deposit or start of work payment to the contractor. The SFPUC will disburse up to 10% of total project costs or $3,000, whichever is less.
- Receive all payments up to the full grant amount to be installment payments instead of reimbursements.

This Financial Hardship Eligibility form and associate documentation must accompany a completed Grant Application. If you are not eligible to participate in this optional program, you may still be eligible to participate in the Grant Program.

Financial Hardship Eligibility Form

Applicant Name: __________________________ Date: __________
Business or Non-profit Name (if applicable): __________________________
Email: __________________________
Phone Number: __________________________
Circle: Home/Mobile/Work

Check which applies:

☐ I am applying as the property owner of an owner-occupied residential property experiencing financial hardship.

☐ I am applying as non-profit or small business
  o I have no more than 50 full-time employees

Required Documentation

For owner-occupied residential property owners, in order to be approved for this program, the City must be able to determine your receipt of public benefits. [1] Applicants may provide the SFPUC with the option to look up their Federal income eligibility in Human Services Agency (HSA) and give permission to HSA to share the applicant’s income information or [2] they may provide proof of their hardship through their own supporting documentation.
Eligibility Requirements

How will your property be eligible?

Experienced a *prior storm-related event* and resulted in:

- **backflow event** where water from the sewer and stormwater combined collection system entered the property through plumbing fixtures
  - and/or -
- **flood event** when flood waters entered the property from an adjacent right-of-way
Eligibility Requirements

• Project design reduces risk of damage due to flooding

• Execute a Grant Agreement prior to constructing project
#1 Install a Backflow Preventer

A backwater valve should be installed by a licensed plumber who will dig into your basement floor and remove a short piece of the sewer lateral (the pipe that transports wastewater from your home and into the sewer) and replace it with a backwater valve.
Dry-Proofing Projects

Transform the Storm
Wet-proofing Projects
What to expect?

1. Fill out the Grant interest Form
2. Property Evaluation
3. Partner with a Contractor and design project
4. Submit Application
5. Sign Grant Agreement
6. Build Project & Receive Funding
Submit a Grant Interest Form
Proof of Flooding
• Photos
• Description of flooding issues
• Claims of property damage

Email us at: floodwatergrants@sfwater.org
Q & A

Transform the Storm
Storm Preparation & Response

- Treatment Plant Staffing
- Collections System Staffing
- Catch basin clearing
- Storm Watch
- Partnership with SF Public Works
- Sandbags

Transform the Storm

adoptadrain.org
Report Sewer Issues

When to contact 3-1-1:

• Flooding
• Backups
• Clogged Catch Basins
Flood Resilience: Capital

Noriega $1M

Wawona $45M

Folsom $291M

Lower Alemany $286M
What You Can Do To Prepare

San Francisco is Getting
RAIN READY
ARE YOU?

sfpuc.org/RainReadySF
Plan, Prepare & Protect

- Sign up for weather alerts
- Are you in the 100-year flood zone?
- Pickup sandbags
- Elevate belongings
- Help keep catch basins clean
- Call 311
- Adopt a drain
- Maintain sewer pipes/ laterals, roof drains and downspouts
- National Flood Insurance

For more information: 1-877-336-2627 or visit floodsmart.gov
Poll Question

With the information you learned today, how likely are you to apply for the Floodwater Grant

- Highly likely
- Highly unlikely
- Not sure yet
Thank You!

VISIT: sfpuc.org/FloodwaterGrant

CONTACT US: floodwatergrants@sfwater.org (415) 695-7326