SOLUTIONS NOT SANDBAGS

Bringing awareness to SF's failing sewer system

www.SolutionsNotSandbags.org
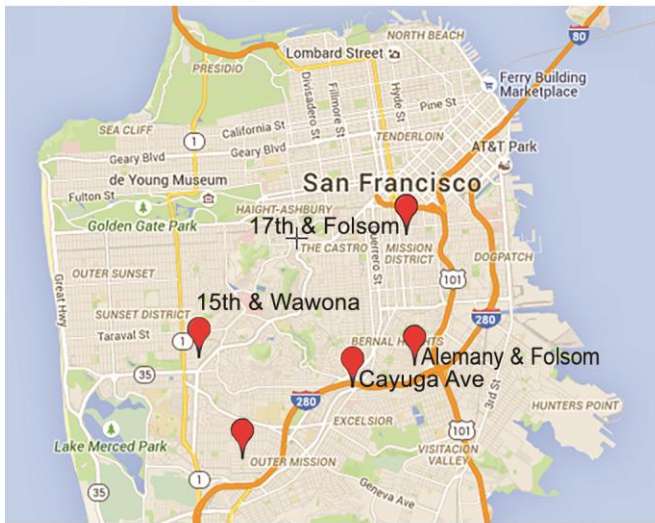
Some of the worst hit sewer-flooding locations

Santa Rosa Ave & San Jose Ave
December 2014

- The sewer-flooding has been happening for decades.

- SFPUC is in clear violation of CA Health and Safety Code Section 5411, which states that "No person shall discharge sewage…which will result in contamination, pollution or a nuisance."

- It happens all over town but especially District 8, District 9, and District 11.

- This is an engineering failure and NOT Mother Nature's fault.

- 1964: After the Sewer Bond Measure the City had plans drawn to fix the sewers. The work was never done.

- 1990: Sacramento citizens had the same sewer-flooding problem with their combined sewer system. It wasn't fixed until the State Water Board forced Sacramento to stop the illegal discharge of sanitary waste into homes.

- Sacramento's Cease and Desist order requires "no sewer discharge to the street in the 10 year storm and none into structures in the 100 year storm." We demand at least this level of service from the City of San Francisco.

- 2004: We had such horrific sewer-flooding that our neighbors were forced to sue the City for damages.

- 2010: The SFPUC had $750 million earmarked to fix the Alemany / Ingleside flood control Phase I projects -- why was this never done?

- 2012: The Sewer System Master Plan transforms into the Sewer System Improvement Project and the Alemany / Ingleside projects disappear from the plans.

- 2014: Two disastrous sewer-floods within one week devastate our neighbors' homes. They had no other choice but to sue the City again. This time for personal and property damages in addition to demanding that they fix the sewers to meet health and safety codes.

- 2015: The SFPUC is spending the bulk of its budget on the Biosolid Digester Facility, the Southeast Plant, and the Oceanside Plant. According to the PUC "they can't build a perfect system." Even if it creates a health and safety issue?

- 2015: Meanwhile the City may approve plans to develop the open space at 203 Cotter which can only worsen the problem.
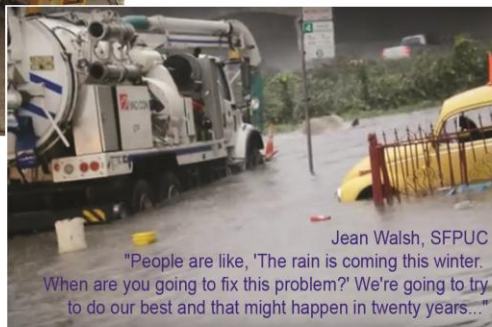
Why?

Hans Art, business owner at 17th and Mission

"We're not asking you to protect us from flooding. We're asking you to fix your sewer system so it won't overflow."

Victoria Sanchez, Cayuga resident

"They [city officials] say, 'Oh, it's an act of God'.. No. It's the plumbing. It has nothing to do with God."

Jean Walsh, SFPUC
"People are like, 'The rain is coming this winter. When are you going to fix this problem?' We're going to try to do our best and that might happen in twenty years..."