



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Board of Supervisors



Date: November 11, 2014

Board Meeting Date: January 27, 2015

Special Notice / Hearing: None

Vote Required: 4/5th

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Don Horsley

Subject: Flooding on Pescadero Creek Road

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing an appropriation transfer request in the amount of \$150,000 from Non-Departmental ERAF Reserves (80120) to Engineering Services for specific projects to address the flooding of Pescadero Creek Road.

BACKGROUND:

On December 11, 2012, the Board of Supervisors approved funding to address the problem of frequent flooding of Pescadero Creek Road (Road) at Butano Creek (Creek). Work was done both to determine the potential effectiveness of dredging to minimize flooding and to develop a long-term, integrated solution to the flooding. The County contracted with the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) to expand the *Solutions to Flooding on Pescadero Creek Road (Flooding Solutions)* initiative that they were commencing. The *Flooding Solutions* initiative was completed this fall and is the basis for moving forward with projects to solve the flooding.

Two projects were identified through this analysis. They are: 1) dredging the Creek within the Road right-of-way and 2) conducting a feasibility study to analyze construction of a causeway on the Road at the Creek.

DISCUSSION:

As stated in the *Flooding Solutions* project report the goals of the project were “to identify a feasible long-term solution to the flooding of the road while maximizing opportunities to enhance or restore wetlands and floodplain habitats, fish passage, as well as create more natural sediment dynamics upstream, downstream and near the road, to restore the creek system and reduce the frequency and extent of future

management intervention.” The project provides the County, various regulatory agencies, and the community with the analysis necessary to take action to solve the frequent flooding on the Road.

The study concluded that an integrated solution that both reduces the frequent Road flooding and improves habitat must include action at the Road, upstream from the Road and downstream from the Road. The County’s responsibility in this integrated solution is the creation of additional flow capacity at the Road. I am recommending that we move forward two projects - dredging within the Road right of way and the evaluation of the construction of a causeway.

Dredging alone is *not* a long term solution; however, analysis shows that dredging temporarily reduces the frequency of Road flooding until the channel at the Road and bridge fills in again with sediment. Public Works has initiated the permitting process for this work with a goal, if we can get the permits, to dredge next summer. We know that we will need to dredge more than once, so we plan to apply for a five year maintenance dredging project. Public Works hopes that the permit requests will be ready to submit to the agencies by the beginning of February.

We must also look at a *long term* solution. The analysis indicates that a causeway is the *only* solution at Pescadero Creek Road that provides long term relief from the frequent flooding. The data is hopeful – but the analysis completed to date is at a conceptual level and analyzes only the impact of a causeway on the flooding. I am recommending that we take the causeway to the next phase of feasibility analysis. We need to develop alternatives that are structurally sound – and work with the adjacent property owners and the community in the process.

Four elements will make up the feasibility study: 1) the development of causeway design alternatives including analysis of environmental impact of design alternatives, 2) modeling of sediment and water transport for the causeway designs and integrated floodplain enhancements including projections of future conditions based on climate change models and an assessment of the anticipated altered conditions, 3) a public engagement process, including advisory committee meetings and meetings with neighboring property owners, and 4) a final feasibility study report including modeling assessment of causeway design alternatives that have incorporated community input.

This work will be initiated following the submission of dredging permit requests, likely in March.

Funding Requests for current fiscal year:

Public Works estimates that cost for the development of permit applications and payment of permit fees for dredging will be approximately \$150,000. The request for funding for the FY 14/15 is \$65,000. This reflects the application of funds remaining from the prior authorization.

Public Works estimates that costs for initiating the causeway feasibility study in the FY 14/15 will be \$85,000. Costs for FY 14/15 included staff time for Public Works and consulting time for the RCD during the development of a Request for Proposal process and scope of work.

Cost for implementation of the dredging and the feasibility study will be developed for the FY15/16 and FY16/17 budget process.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Appropriation Transfer Request will transfer \$150,000 from Non-Departmental ERAF Reserves to Engineering Services for specific project to address the flooding of Pescadero Creek Road. This is a one time transfer.

SHARED VISION 2025:

Approval of this request contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Collaborative Community by supporting a regional solution to flooding and habitat enhancement in the Butano Creek watershed