



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Board of Supervisors



Date: November 7, 2012
Board Meeting Date: December 11, 2012
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: 4/5ths

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Don Horsley

Subject: Funding for projects addressing infrastructure challenges in Pescadero

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve an Appropriation Transfer Request in the amount of \$542,500 from Non-Departmental Services ERAF Reserves to Engineering Services in the amount of \$392,500 and CSA 11 in the amount of \$150,000 in the Department of Public Works and Parks for specific projects to address the flooding of Pescadero Creek Road and the town's water system.

BACKGROUND:

My highest priorities are to find solutions for key infrastructure challenges faced by our Pescadero constituents. The annual flooding of Pescadero Creek Road is a serious public safety issue facing our constituents on increasingly frequent occasions. In a May 23, 2012, Board Members memo, I provided background on the history, causes, and impact of this problem. I also outlined the approach I am taking to work toward a solution.

The short-term goal is to improve public safety when flood events impact the road. My staff has been working in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Parks (DPWP), the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council (PMAC) to determine what specific projects would increase road safety on Pescadero Creek Road. The mid-term goal is to determine the potential effectiveness of dredging to minimize flooding. DPWP is in the process of developing the scope of work for the engineering study needed to complete our mid-term goal. The long-term solution is to collaborate on an integrated solution to the flooding. The first steps of addressing the long-term goal are being taken by the San Mateo County

Resource Conservation District (RCD) with funding through from Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP).

The town's water supply is at risk. The town relies on a single well, operated by DPWP as Community Service Area 11 (CSA 11), for its drinking supply. A hydrologic study conducted in 2002 determined that the aquifer that supplies water for the town would run out between 2010 and 2017. The County needs to proactively address this, completing a series of projects that would extend the life of the water system for several decades.

DISCUSSION:

The following summarizes work in progress and funding needed to move these steps forward during the current fiscal year.

Flooding Short-term

We are pursuing two projects, short-term. The first project would remove the culverts and grade the ditches on both sides of Pescadero Creek Road. While these culverts have no role in preventing flooding, we believe that if they are removed, they can aid in draining water off the road more quickly as flooding recedes. This project will be initiated as soon as the permitting process allows.

Funding request: DPWP estimates that design, permitting and installation will cost up to \$132,500.

The second project is to improve road safety during flooding events. Stakeholder meetings with DPWP, OES and PMAC delegates resulted in a focus on three areas: lighting at the site of the flooding, portable warning signs to divert traffic before it gets to the flood site, and the use of the SMC alert system. Only the lighting project (installing two fixtures on existing telephone poles) requires additional funding. This project will be initiated as soon the permitting process allows.

Funding request: PG&E, Planning and Building Department, and Department of Public Works and Parks estimate that permitting, installation, and operation of the lights for one year will cost up to \$10,000.

Flooding Mid-term

An engineering analysis will be conducted that will evaluate the effectiveness of dredging Butano Creek (Creek) within the Pescadero Creek Road right-of-way and will look upstream and downstream of the road right-of-way to determine how much of the Creek would need to be dredged to be an effective interim solution to the flooding. This analysis will also provide cost estimates for both scopes of dredging scenarios. A computer model needs to be developed, based on existing conditions and field survey data. The County believes that the best approach to build this model is to collaborate with other interested parties to build a single model of the Creek. Survey data is

currently being collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) within specific areas of the Creek and marsh. The RCD also has funding for limited surveying activities. We hope to collaborate with these efforts; DPWP is in the process of assessing whether this approach will provide the County with the data needed to build the model for our analysis. This model used to answer this mid-term question may also be the basis for a more holistic long-term solution to flooding. This study will be initiated as soon as the scope of work can be finalized and the contract awarded.

Funding request: DPWP has estimated a range of costs for this engineering study to be \$150,000 to \$250,000, which is dependent upon the extent of collaboration.

Flooding Long-term

Any long-term solution must be an integrated solution to the flooding that addresses the environmental concerns of the multitude of permitting agencies. The RCD is taking a lead role in developing a long term integrated solution. They have funding, albeit limited to hold stakeholder meetings, hire an expert consultant who can answer technical question related to the Creek and marsh and develop 10% design solutions. DPWP employees will participate in the community advisory group, attend stakeholder meetings and provide technical insight, as needed. This project will begin during FY 12/13. These meetings are underway.

Funding request: DPWP estimates that staff costs during FY 12/13 will be \$25,000 and will depend upon the process the RCD defines.

Town's Water System

The County has the opportunity to receive significant funding to complete a series of projects that would extend the life of the water system for several decades. The County is seeking \$700,000 from the Water and Resource Control Board's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) funding to drill a new well, construct a water tank, and implement a water conservation program. In order to be eligible for the funds requested, the project design needs to be 75% completed, permitting process needs to be started, and the hydrologic study from 2002 needs to be updated by March 2013. IRWMP funding policy states that 10% of available funds must be reserved for Disadvantaged Communities. Currently, the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) is in the process of preparing a survey to determine if the community of Pescadero is a Disadvantaged Community. If it is determined that Pescadero is a Disadvantaged Community, they will be the only community of this kind applying for funding in the Bay Area. Assuming the work outlined above is completed by the March 2013 deadline, the County would expect to receive the \$700,000 requested.

Funding request: DPWP estimates that the work required to be prepared to apply for IRWMP funding in March of 2013 is \$150,000.

Staff Support

DPWP has seen a significant increase in workload based on the need to address some of the intractable problems on the south coast. The flooding in Pescadero is the most difficult of these. DPWP staff is also working diligently to address the concerns of the dwindling water supply for CSA 11 and to put a plan together. DPWP has identified both Engineering and Utilities as impacted Sections. I am recommending hiring an additional staff, for the period of these projects, to ensure that these projects move forward on a timely basis. Funding request is for FY12/13 only, but assumes continued staffing until these problems have been solved.

Funding request: DPWP estimates that staff cost during FY 12/13 will be \$75,000.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Appropriation Transfer Request will transfer \$542,500 from Non-Departmental Services ERAF Reserves to Engineering Services in the amount of \$392,500 and CSA 11 in the amount of \$150,000 in the Department of Public Works and Parks for specific projects to address the flooding of Pescadero Creek Road and the town's water system.