



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Flood Control
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: July 7, 2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Flood Control and Water Conservation District

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 805-568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 805-568-3436

SUBJECT: Annual Maintenance Plan, Fiscal Year 2020/21 - All Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Directors:

- a) Approve the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Annual Routine Maintenance Plan, including the individual maintenance projects described in the Plan; and
- b) For the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act:
 - i. Find that the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Annual Routine Maintenance Plan is within the scope of the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Updated Routine Maintenance Program [01-EIR-01; State Clearinghouse No. 2001031043] and subsequent annual addendums which adequately describes this activity for the purposes of CEQA;
 - ii. Find that pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15168(c)(2) and 15162(a), after considering the PEIR certified by the Board of Directors in November 2001, and subsequent annual addendums, that no subsequent EIR or Negative Declaration is required because: i) no substantial changes are proposed which require major revisions of the PEIR; ii) no substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which require major revisions of the PEIR; and iii) no new information of substantial importance concerning the project's significant effects or mitigation measures, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time that the PEIR was certified, has been received;

- iii. Find that the proposed actions described in the Exempt Facilities Section of the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Annual Routine Maintenance Plan are for the operation and maintenance of existing public structures, facilities or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that which presently exists and that the proposed actions are therefore exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 14 CCR 15301, and direct the Clerk of the Board to file the California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption for each exempt facility described in the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Annual Routine Maintenance Plan;
- iv. Determine that the Addenda to the previously certified Program Environmental Impact Report (01-EIR-01) contained within the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Annual Routine Maintenance Plan have been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and adopt the mitigation measures included for each project as the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan pursuant to the State's California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15168 (c)(3); and
- v. Adopt the California Environmental Quality Act Findings included in the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Annual Routine Maintenance Plan;

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order to approve the 2020/21 Annual Routine Maintenance Plan which consists of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exempt projects and projects defined within the scope of impacts identified by the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) requiring addenda for FY 2020/21.

The CEQA exempt projects are based on CEQA Section 15301, Existing Facilities. Projects that are exempt fall into one of the following five categories:

- Removal of rubbish or other unnatural material from riparian corridors,
- Maintenance activities in existing non-perennial, fully concrete-lined stream channels,
- Clearing, repair, and replacement of such flood control devices such as check structures, drop structures, levees, sediment basins, weirs, or stream flow measuring stations,
- Maintenance activities on access ways outside of estuaries and riparian corridors, and
- Maintenance activities on earthen channels, which have been developed to convey urban storm water agriculture storm water, or agriculture tail water and have little or no vegetation in them.

All projects are in areas where there are no impacts to any significant resource at the site, downstream, or adjacent to the site. The described FY 2020/21 exempt projects have been exempted in prior years with the Planning and Development Department's concurrence.

Projects within the scope of the PEIR are described in individual addenda to the PEIR and specific to the named drainage where they will occur within the Annual Plan. Each of the thirty-nine projects are presented as an addendum to the Program EIR utilizing appropriate maintenance practices described and analyzed in the Program EIR. The mitigation measures incorporated in each of these projects become the mitigation and monitoring program to ensure that impacts are mitigated to the fullest extent feasible.

Once the Board has approved projects described in the Annual Maintenance Plan, applications can be made to the appropriate regulatory agencies for notices to proceed on the approved projects.

Long Term Permits

The District has current long-term permits with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Background:

In December 2001, the Board of Directors adopted a revised Annual Routine Creek Maintenance Program which included: a) Maintenance Practices and Mitigation Measures; b) Associated Flood Control Policy Statements; and c) An annual planning and project approval process.

Development of the Annual Routine Maintenance Plan provides multiple benefits. The plan serves as a basis for demonstrating need, analyzing alternatives, proposing mitigation, and selecting the most effective and least environmentally damaging District maintenance practices. The plan also allows the District to prioritize maintenance efforts and expenditures which also helps in the management of individual projects.

The annual planning process, as adopted by the Board, requires that the District conduct a public workshop to hear the public and other agencies' input and concerns about the proposed Annual Plan.

Letters announcing the workshops and the availability of the summary were emailed on April 24th to individuals and organizations who have previously expressed an interest in this maintenance program. The District provided notice of workshops in the Santa Maria Times (May 21st), Lompoc Record (May 20th), and Santa Barbara News Press (May 22nd). A summary of the proposed Annual Plan was available in our office and was posted on the Water Resources website on May 6th.

The public workshop was held digitally via the Zoom app on May 26th, 2020. Two people requested, and were granted, access to the meeting, and one person attended. The other person communicated through email and had questions answered.

The Final Annual Routine Maintenance Plan has been posted on the District's website.

Mandates have been discussed in previous Board letters regarding the Revised Creek Maintenance Program. The District's authority under state law allows the District to undertake these projects for the public's benefit. Several projects constructed in cooperation with the federal government have mandated levels of maintenance associated with them. The District's projects are subject to compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

Performance Measure:

The Flood Control Annual Routine Maintenance Plan is crucial to perform the District's annual maintenance work and completing this work is a performance measure.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Funding Sources	Current FY Cost:	Annualized On-going Cost:	Total One-Time Project Cost
FC Funds - All Zones	\$ 5,946,300.00		
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 5,946,300.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

The costs associated with the work identified in the Annual Routine Maintenance Plan are included in the adopted FY 2020/2021 budget under the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown in the budget book on page D-332.

As in past years, prioritization and scope of maintenance projects are aligned with available funding. Those drainages that are most in need of work appear in each year’s Annual Maintenance Plan. Maintenance of facilities is not a mandated activity except for engineered or improved facilities including most federally funded projects that are now owned and maintained by the Flood Control District.

Generation of the FY 2020/2021 Annual Plan, as with each prior Annual Plan, provides a significant cost savings to the District through a single package of projects. Producing individual environmental documentation for each maintenance project is significantly more expensive. However, the greatest benefit derived from the Annual Plan is measured by the District's ability to streamline the state and federal environmental permit process which in turn allows the District to provide needed maintenance prior to the next storm season.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to post the attached CEQA NOE and to send a copy of the minute order of these actions along with a copy of the stamped NOE to the Flood Control District, Attn: Christina Lopez.

Attachments:

Attachment A: CEQA Notice of Exemption

Attachment B: 2020/2021 Annual Routine Maintenance Plan

Attachment C: 2001 Program EIR for the Updated Routine Maintenance Program

Authored by:

Andrew Raaf, Team Leader, Environmental Management, 805-568-3437