



October 4, 2010

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**CITY MANAGER**

Daniel Singer

The Honorable Janet Wolf, Board Chair  
and Members of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 E. Anapamu St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Agenda Item No. 054: Cooperative Agreement for Construction  
of Improvements on San Jose Creek with City of Goleta

Dear Members of the Board,

The City of Goleta is extremely appreciative of the proposed \$5 million dollar Flood Control District contribution towards the construction of the San Jose Creek Capacity and Fish Passage Project. Given the long list of Flood Control projects and limited funding available, the recommended level of funding support is valued and recognized by the City Council and City staff.

Much has changed since this item was last before the Board in 2008. As requested by Supervisor Wolff, the project was redesigned to accommodate a Steelhead Fish passage component throughout the entire length of the project. After several design iterations to meet the requirements for 100-year flood capacity, structural stability, and fish passage during low flow events, we are excited to now have a project that will meet all project objectives. The improved design completely removes and replaces the existing flood control channel with a new larger 100-year capacity channel. Completion of this project not only removes hundreds of developed commercial and residential properties from flood hazards, it also allows for the reinvestment and redevelopment that is envisioned in the Goleta Old Town Revitalization Plan. An analysis of the full economic benefit of this project to not only the City but the County and Flood Control District has yet to be completed.

We have been working closely with Flood Control Staff and are confident that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) identifying the

roles and responsibilities of each agency in the construction and future maintenance of the new channel can be developed in short order. We hope to begin construction on this much anticipated capital improvement project next spring in order to take advantage of the current low construction cost climate.

We fully support the recommendation that the District Director be authorized to negotiate such an agreement. We would also request that the \$5 million contribution not be capped as an absolute figure as we believe that limiting the District's financial contribution at this time is premature without full analysis of the project costs and future economic benefits.

The City of Goleta very much looks forward to working with County staff on the development and construction on this all-important project and we would ask that you direct staff to continue to develop the MOU with the \$5 million support levels also allowing for future revisiting of the budget and commitment levels should that become necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Onnen", written in a cursive style.

Eric Onnen  
Mayor

cc: Goleta City Council