



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: October 4, 2011
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
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, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

SUBJECT: **Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Las Vegas-San Pedro Creeks Capacity Improvement Project, Third Supervisorial District**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Directors:

- A. Certify that the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), #11-NGD-00000-00008, (Attachment 1) for the Las Vegas-San Pedro Creeks Capacity Improvement Project has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);
- B. Certify that the Board has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final MND #11-NGD-00000-00008, as well as information presented during the public hearing, prior to the approval of the project, and adopt the CEQA Findings (Attachment 2); and
- C. Adopt the project description (Proposed Project) and mitigation measures, with their corresponding monitoring requirements, as the Mitigation Monitoring Program for this project.

Summary Text:

On February 13, 2007, the Board approved an agreement with Dudek and HDR to prepare an MND for the San Pedro / Las Vegas Project. The project is a multijurisdictional project with the Flood Control District, Caltrans, the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), the City of Goleta, and the City of Santa Barbara.

The project proposes hydraulic capacity improvements along Las Vegas and San Pedro Creeks under Calle Real, US 101, and the UPRR. The proposed project would increase the hydraulic capacity of the two creek systems (culvert and channel improvements) from approximately a 10-year to approximately a 25-year flood event. Additional benefits of the project include the removal of several barriers to steelhead migration.

The project area is located in the Cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara north of Hollister Avenue between Fairview Avenue and Los Carneros Road. Both Las Vegas Creek and San Pedro Creek run north to south and pass under the local City of Goleta Street Calle Real, US 101, and the UPRR. The creeks originate in the Santa Ynez Mountains and extend across the Goleta Valley to discharge into the Goleta Slough.

Several storm events over the past several years have exceeded the existing hydraulic capacity of the Las Vegas and San Pedro Creek systems and has resulted in regional flooding. Improvements are proposed for Las Vegas and San Pedro Creeks starting at Calle Real within the City of Goleta, Route 101 within Caltrans right-of-way (ROW), the UPRR within the UPRR ROW, and the City of Santa Barbara Airport properties downstream of the UPRR.

To facilitate the project's development, the District agreed to coordinate and prepare the necessary CEQA documentation for the entire project for all agencies involved. The project includes several improvements to existing culverts under City Streets, US 101 (Caltrans), UPRR bridges, and channel improvements. Caltrans will implement and fund the improvements at US 101 and Calle Real, while UPRR improvements will be delivered through a combination of District funds, grant funds, and UPRR support. Channel improvements downstream of UPRR will be pursued by the District.

Following approval of the MND, staff will negotiate a follow up contract with a specialized consulting firm for detailed design of the UPRR bridges. Staff will return to the Board later this fall with this action. Completion of this work will facilitate seeking grant funds and discussions with UPRR for construction of these key bridges.

Background:

San Pedro and Las Vegas Creeks, in the City of Goleta, have experienced episodic flooding during major storm events since the 1990's. Flooding has typically occurred at the HWY 101 and Calle Real crossings for both creeks. Several businesses and residences as well as HWY 101 became inundated during these events. The project will increase capacity of these drainage facilities and significantly reduce flooding to the area. The District has worked with a multi-jurisdictional team with various jurisdictional authorities over the proposed project components. The other agencies involved in the project are Caltrans, UPRR, and the Cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara.

Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA and acting as lead agency under CEQA, the District has prepared a MND to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed capacity improvement along San Pedro and Las Vegas Creeks. Potentially significant impacts in the areas of Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geologic Resources, Hazardous Materials, Noise, Transportation/Circulation, and Water Resources will be reduced to less than significant with mitigation. To mitigate potential significant impacts, measures such as, but not limited to, development of a Mitigation Planting Plan, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, Phase 3 Data Recovery Plan, seasonal and daily construction timing restrictions, pre-construction biological surveys and ongoing environmental

monitoring during construction would be employed. With the implementation of these and other measures included in the MND, residual impacts would be less than significant.

Public/Regulatory Outreach:

On May 20th, 2011, the Draft MND was released for a 30-day review period. On June 13 and June 20, 2011 environmental hearings were held in Goleta. No one attended the first environmental hearing, 4 people attended the second environmental hearing and 2 people commented on the environmental document at that hearing.

On June 29, 2011, the public comment period concluded. Three letters were received from the following: California Department of Fish and Game, Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District and Mr. Robert Wignot. Mr. Wignot also attended the environmental hearing where he had provided a summary of his letter comments.

Staff considered the comments and modified the MND accordingly.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes **Fiscal Analysis:**

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
South Coast FZ			\$ 383,478.00
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 383,478.00

Narrative:

The work on this environmental document began in 2007 and has been ongoing and budgeted in each fiscal year since then. This environmental document is now complete at a total cost of \$383,478. Costs for this year were included in the 2011-12 Adopted Budget under the Design cost center of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-352 in the budget book.

This project is also included in the County’s Capital Improvements Program on page B-163.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of these actions to the Flood Control District office, Attn: Maureen Spencer.

Attachments:

1. Proposed Final MND (#11-NGD-00000-00008)
2. CEQA Findings

Authored by: Maureen Spencer, Operations & Environmental Manager, 568-3437



February 1998 Storm - Calle Real @ Fairview