



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: September 11, 2018
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 15 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors, 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: Short-Term Sediment and Debris Management, First, Second, and Third Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Directors:

- a) Authorize the Flood Control District to haul sediment removed from the Carpinteria Salt Marsh to a temporary stockpile site on County-owned property located at 4400 Cathedral Oaks Road APN Number 059-120-003;
- b) Direct the Flood Control District and General Services to return to the Board of Directors for an update on the acquisition process of securing a long-term South Coast Disposal Site for emergency and routine maintenance sediment and debris;
- c) Find that the temporary disposal site is being used to prevent or mitigate an emergency and that the proposed action is therefore exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 14

CCR 15269(c), and direct the Clerk of the Board to file a California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption; and

- d) Waive the Notice of Exemption 6-day posting requirement for good cause pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section V.D.2.

Summary Text:

This item is on the Agenda to authorize the listed actions in preparation for this coming winter including placement of materials left over from last winter and preparation for this coming winter.

Following last winter's storms, in particular the 1-9 Debris Flow, the ability to locate disposal sites has been a huge challenge. The coming winter poses to be equally as challenging and potentially costly to find locations for sediment and debris removed from basins and channels.

Following storms this past March, the Flood Control District ceased emergency operations, including beach placement, and addressed remaining sediment in Carpinteria Salt Marsh this fall under the existing Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan and routine permits. Carpinteria Salt Marsh Routine Maintenance permits allow for upland disposal but do not include beach placement of sediment.

While the County General Services Department continues to look for long-term disposal properties to address this problem, the need for short-term disposal locations is critical in preparation for the high probability of increased runoff and large volumes of sediment and debris this winter. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting a 70% chance of El Nino conditions for the upcoming winter. Therefore, the temporary use of County owned properties on the South Coast are critical to complete necessary dredging in the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. While other options were considered, such as locations in Fillmore and Buellton, the costs to take materials there would be 3 times as costly (see Attachment A).

Both County owned sites, the closed Foothill Landfill (adjacent to the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station) and the vacant County property west of the County Emergency Operations Center (Cathedral Oaks Campus), have been used for stockpiling efforts in past emergencies. Foothill Landfill has been used for routine projects as well. However, since the Foothill site has a contract pending to reconfigure the site following the 1-9 Debris Flow event, Flood Control recommends using the Cathedral Oaks Campus property. The Foothill Landfill is expected to be ready for this winter. If authorized to use the Cathedral Oaks Campus, Flood Control will confirm whether any permits from other agencies are necessary to use the Cathedral Oaks Campus as a temporary stockpile site and if so, obtain the necessary permits.

Once the dredged material is stockpiled on the Cathedral Oaks Campus, Flood Control intends to give away/sell the sediment to local contractors as fill material. Flood Control has been successful doing so in the past and does not anticipate a need for the District to remove the dredged material from the Cathedral Oaks Campus or move it to another permanent stockpile site.

While there are significant short-term needs, the County General Services Department is working on finding locations for a more permanent site to provide a stable location to sort, recycle and dispose of materials for the long-term. Staff from General Services and the Flood Control District will return to your Board with an update on those efforts in the future.

Background:

The Carpinteria Salt Marsh Routine Maintenance Program is an element of the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan approved in 2003. An Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") was prepared for the

Maintenance Program and the Board of Directors certified the EIR on July 15, 2003. The EIR did not discuss particular upland disposal sites of dredged material and stated that “Land-based disposal options, if needed, would be determined at the time of sediment removal and most likely would include use by local farmers.” Flood Control proposes using the CEQA emergency exemption for this particular action related to the Cathedral Oaks Campus because: 1) the sediment in the Carpinteria Salt Marsh that must be removed was deposited this past winter after the debris flow and subsequent storms; and 2) the sediment must be removed because there continues to be an extremely high probability of increased runoff and large volumes of sediment and debris this coming winter that can cause flooding and threaten the public health and safety of the citizens of the South Coast.

The Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan is a collaboration between the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, UCSB Reserve System, Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, and the City of Carpinteria. Franklin and Santa Monica Creeks drain through the Marsh. Sediment from these two drainages is removed under routine maintenance on an as-needed basis using dragline cranes.

The Thomas Fire and subsequent storms during the winter of 2018 delivered incredible volumes of sediment through most of burned watersheds, including this system. During emergency operations, the District removed approximately 48,000 cubic yards of sediment from the salt marsh channels using dragline cranes and a hydraulic dredge. Storms in March of 2018 delivered additional sediment into the channels, both within the Marsh and upstream within the concrete-lined channels through downtown Carpinteria. The District ceased emergency operations in March and removed sediment within Franklin and Santa Monica Creeks under the existing routine maintenance program and permits. The existing routine permits do not include ocean disposal of sediment. The Flood Control District worked with the regulatory agencies to begin desilting operations in August instead of waiting until September. This is because of the large volume of sediment needing to be removed and the importance of completing the work prior to any rain events since the watersheds are likely to deliver sediment earlier in the season with much less rainfall.

District personnel evaluated several disposal options including trucking sediment to Buellton, Fillmore and Santa Paula. Increased costs associated with the more distant sites favor the use of the stockpile sites on County-owned property located to the west of the County Emergency Operation Center at 4400 Cathedral Oaks Road.

The watersheds between Carpinteria and Montecito were burned less than a year ago and remain at risk of delivering large volumes of sediment and debris, especially in light of the NOAA prediction of a 70% chance of El Nino conditions for the upcoming winter. It is extremely important that drainages are prepared for the upcoming winter and available stockpile sites are identified in order to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Funding Sources	Current FY Cost:	Annualized On-going Cost:	Total One-Time Project Cost
South Coast FZ	\$ 100,000.00		
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Costs for this sediment removal were included in the adopted FY 2018-19 budget in the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page 309 in the budget book.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to post the attached CEQA NOE (Attachment B) 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: Cost of Disposal Options

Attachment B: Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Maureen Spencer, Operations and Environmental Manager, X3437