



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: May 19, 2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: 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, (805) 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, (805) 568-3436

SUBJECT: Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for Approval of the Updated
Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan, First Supervisorial District

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 Directors:

- a) Adopt the Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report, SCH No. 2003021016, (Attachment 1) for the Updated Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan which 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 Subsequent Environmental Impact Report, SCH No. 2003021016, as well as information presented during the public hearing prior to the approval of the project, and adopt the CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations (Attachment 2);
- c) Approve the Updated Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan identified as the preferred alternative (Proposed Project) in the Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report, SCH No. 2003021016; and
- d) Adopt the preferred project description (Proposed Project) and associated mitigation measures, with their corresponding monitoring requirements, as the Mitigation Monitoring Program for this project; and make the required CEQA findings, including adoption of the Statement of Overriding Considerations identified in Attachment 2.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to approve the Updated Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan, adopt the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); make Findings under CEQA; and approve the preferred project alternative and associated mitigation measures as the Mitigation Monitoring Program for the Updated Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan. This project involves updating the Plan to include new areas to be dredged, discharge of dredge materials into the surf zone, stockpile area expansion, and maintenance of the Avenue Del Mar drainage system in the South Marsh.

The purpose of the proposed project is to maintain channel capacity by removing sediment on an as-needed basis, which would reduce the potential for flooding of adjacent properties. In addition, explicitly including hydraulic dredging and beach nourishment in the Updated Enhancement Plan would provide flexibility in management of the removed sediment.

The District has prepared a Final SEIR to update and expand the Final EIR (03-EIR-02) prepared for the Enhancement Plan in 2003 pursuant to Section 15162 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. Significant and unavoidable Noise impacts are anticipated due to the possibility of 24-hour dredging operations. Significant but mitigable impacts are anticipated in the following areas: Biological Resources, Geologic Processes, Water Quality, Noise and Hazardous Materials. This requires that the Board of Directors adopt Findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations should the Board decide to approve the project.

Public/Regulatory Outreach

The District released a Notice of Preparation on January 11, 2019, which started the State Clearing House 30-day public comment period and also corresponded with the 30-day local comment period. NOP was posted in the Santa Barbara News Press and Coastal View News, and sent to regulatory agencies and interested parties. The NOP comment period ended on February 11, 2019 and local review period ended on February 14, 2019. Four comment letters were received. Staff considered the comments when preparing the Draft SEIR.

The District released the Draft SEIR on November 25, 2019, which started the State Clearing House and local 45-day review period. Notices of document availability were posted in the Santa Barbara News Press and Coastal View News, and sent to regulatory agencies and interested parties. The State Clearing House review period ended on January 8, 2020 and local review period ended on January 10, 2020. Three comment letters were received. Staff considered the comments and the comment letters and responses are included as an appendix to the SEIR. Changes to the text of the Subsequent EIR are shown in underline (additions) and strike-out (deletions)

Background:

The Carpinteria Salt Marsh complex is a 230-acre estuary located in southern Santa Barbara County, adjacent to the City of Carpinteria. The original Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan EIR was certified by the Board of Supervisors on July 15, 2003 and consisted of flood control and wetland restoration projects that were the final phase of the Carpinteria Valley Watershed Protection Program, a comprehensive watershed program that was designed to reduce erosion and flooding in the Carpinteria

Valley. Since its approval, most of the projects identified in the Plan have been completed. The Updated Enhancement Plan includes ongoing and updated Flood Control maintenance and Marsh mouth management.

PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE ENHANCEMENT PLAN:

The Updated Enhancement Plan includes modification/expansion of routine creek maintenance and the following new components.

Changes in Routine Maintenance of Franklin and Santa Monica Creeks

The Subsequent EIR includes an updated analysis of both dragline and hydraulic dredging of upper Franklin and Santa Monica Creeks with beach deposition of the sediment. Hydraulic dredging will include discharge of material into the surf zone at the mouth of the salt marsh and dragline desilting will include trucking of material to Ash Avenue for beach placement.

The District also proposes to hydraulically dredge the lower portion of Franklin Creek extending from the terminus of the existing dredging area (approximately 1,500 feet downstream of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks) to the Marsh mouth (an increase of about 3,000 feet).

Franklin Creek Staging/Stockpile Area Expansion

The existing staging/stockpile area adjacent to the west bank of Franklin Creek will be expanded by approximately 0.5 acres to provide additional staging/stockpile area.

Avenue Del Mar Drainage

The Avenue Del Mar culvert system provides drainage of local runoff through a floodwall into tidal channels within the South Marsh. Maintenance of the drainage system is needed to reduce the potential for future flooding of Avenue Del Mar and the homes.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

Costs for this EIR were included in the FY 2019-20 budget in the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-305 budget book.

Special Instructions:

N/A

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Proposed Final SEIR (SCH No. 2003021016) including the following appendices:

- A. NOP, Distribution List and Responses to NOP
- B. Final 2003 EIR for Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan (SCH No. 2003021016)
- C. Comment Letters and Responses to Comments Received.

Attachment 2 - CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the Proposed Final SEIR

Authored by:

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