

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 05/22/03
Department Name: Flood Control/Public Works
Department No.: 054-04-03
Agenda Date: 06/17/03
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
Document Name: Brdjun17.carpmarshEIR.doc

TO: Board of Directors
Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

FROM: Phillip M. Demery
Public Works Director

STAFF CONTACT: Thomas Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director
Karl Treiberg, Engineering Environmental Planner, Ext. 3443

SUBJECT: **Set Hearing to Certify the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan (03-EIR-02), First Supervisorial District**

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Directors:

Set a hearing for July 15, 2003 on the Departmental Agenda to (ESTIMATED TIME: 45 minutes):

- A. Approve the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan; and,
- B. Certify the Final Environmental Impact Report (03-EIR-02) for the project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared for the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan (Plan). The Plan consists of a combined flood control and wetland restoration project. The flood control element of the Plan completes the final phase of the Carpinteria Valley Watershed Protection Program (CVWPP). The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is the federal lead agency for the project and the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District (District) is the primary local sponsor for the project. The California Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) has provided funding to the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County (LTSB) for certain elements of the wetland restoration component of the Plan. In addition, the Plan includes restoration actions to be carried out by the University of California Natural Reserve System (UCNRS). Eight alternatives were identified for the Plan, four of which were carried forward for detailed analysis. The Plan consists of three major components:

- 1) Channel Improvements,
- 2) Restoration, and
- 3) Berm Removal

The alternatives meet the combined objectives of the District, LTSB, and UCNRS. A Draft EIR was circulated for public review on February 3, 2003 for 45 days. Comments from the public and concerned agencies will be addressed and incorporated into the Final EIR as appropriate. The District requests that a hearing be set for July 15, 2003 to consider the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan for approval. The Final EIR will be made available to the public on June 11, 2003, and will be distributed to all commenters, regulatory agencies, and other interested parties.

Mandates and Service Levels:

This project will provide an increase in flood control protection and wetland restoration to the area.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This project was included in the Adopted 2002/03 Budget and costs were allocated in the Design Cost Center under the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-300 in the budget book. This project is also included in the Proposed 2003/04 Budget since costs for the project will continue into next fiscal year. Costs from this project will be paid from Dept: 054, Acct: 8700, Fund: 2610, Program: 3005. This project is also identified in the County's Capital Improvement Plan.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to publish notice of this hearing in the Santa Barbara News-Press as provided in Section 6061 of the Government Code (publish once at least 10 days before hearing).