



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Department Name: Flood Control
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: April 14, 2015
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 Unit 2 Channel Improvements Project, Fifth Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Directors:

- A. Approve the project and Adopt the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) #14NGD-00000-00012 for the Unit 2 Channel Improvements Project that 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 #14NGD-00000-00012 and make the CEQA Findings; and
- C. Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring Plan included in the Final MND #14NGD-00000-00012 for this project.

Summary Text:

The Santa Barbara County Flood Control District and Water Conservation District (District) is planning capacity improvements along the Unit 2 Channel (Channel) located just west of the City of Santa Maria. The Channel serves to collect urban and agricultural runoff and conveys it to the Santa Maria River.

The project includes the following:

- right-of-way acquisition for widening and access,

- smoothing a series of sharp horizontal channel curves,
- increases channel capacity,
- replacing and extending an emergency overflow weir,
- replacing adjacent drainage pipes, and
- increases flow capacity through the Santa Maria River Levee.

By increasing the Unit 2 Channel capacity, the risk of overflow to adjacent land is reduced. In addition, the project helps increase groundwater recharge to the Santa Maria Groundwater basin by delivering more water to the Santa Maria River which offers excellent recharge capacity.

The project is located within an agriculturally developed area in the unincorporated County west of the City of Santa Maria. The Channel traverses south to north between West Main Street and the Santa Maria River Levee (Exhibit A).

Since the proposed Project includes acquisition of temporary construction easements (TCEs) and permanent right-of-ways (ROWs) to accomplish the needed access and widening, the District obtained Board authorization to proceed with right-of-way negotiations on May 13, 2008.

Following approval of the MND, staff will finalize plans, specifications, and easement acquisition in order to go out to bid. Staff will return to the Board with these actions.

Background:

According to the Unit 2 Channel Improvements and Phase 2 Storm Drain Design Alternative Report prepared by Penfield and Smith (P & S) Engineers, the existing Channel capacity is not adequate. This is caused by limited capacity of the Channel outfall structures, constricted Channel width, and the Channel offset located midway along the Channel. In order to increase Channel capacity and minimize the risk of bank overflows several design alternatives were identified and considered in the P&S study.

The District has prepared a MND pursuant to requirements of the CEQA and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. The MND prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts and associated mitigation measures that reduce all potential impacts to less than significant level and the monitoring requirements for identified subject areas. Incorporation of mitigation measures that have reduced an effect from a potentially significant impact to a less than significant impact occurs in the following subject areas: Agricultural Resources, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geologic, Hazardous Materials/Risk of Upset, Noise, Public Facilities, Transportation/Circulation, and Water Resources/Flooding.

Public/Regulatory Outreach:

On December 19, 2014, the Draft MND was released for a 30-day review period and sent to the State Clearing House, which started their 30-day review period on December 23, 2014.

The local review period ended on January 20, 2015 and the State Clearing House review period ended on January 21, 2015. One letter was received from the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District.

Staff considered the comments and the comments did not result in any text changes to the Final MND.

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>
Santa Maria FZ State Federal Fees			\$ 30,500.00
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,500.00

Narrative:

Costs for this MND was included in the Adopted FY 2014-15 budget in the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-226 in the budget book. The MND was completed at a cost of \$30,500.

This project is also included in the County’s Capital Improvements Program on page D-141. This project is scheduled to go out to bid for construction in 2016.

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: Seth Shank.

Attachments:

- Exhibit A – Vicinity Map
- Exhibit B – Photo of Existing Bend in Channel to be realigned
- Proposed Final MND (#14NGD-00000-00012) (Attachment No. 1)
- CEQA Findings (Attachment No. 2)

Authored by:

Seth Shank, Engineering Environmental Planner, 568-3443

Exhibit A - Vicinity Map

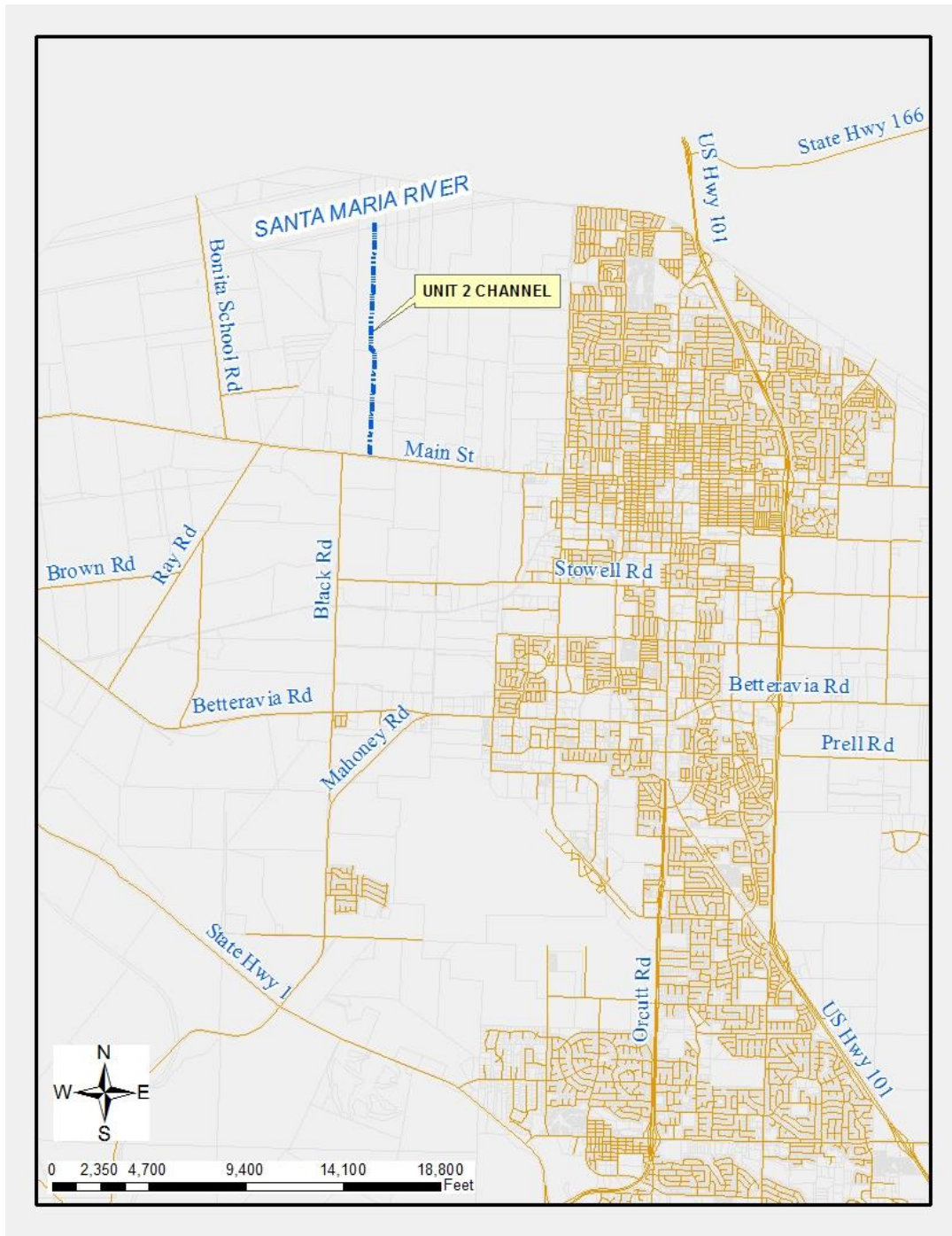


Exhibit B - Existing bend in channel to be realigned

