

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - West

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From: Meg West <westforwater@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 3:42 PM
To: Flood Control Contact; sbcob; Joan Hartmann; Supervisor Das Williams
Subject: Feedback on the Montecito Flood Control Master Plan, Phase I
Attachments: Feedback on the Montecito Flood Control Master Plan.pdf

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Please find attached a letter to be shared with the Board for tomorrow's meeting. Thanks! - Meg

Dec 2, 2024

Subject: Feedback on the Montecito Flood Control Master Plan, Phase I

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I appreciate the effort that has gone into addressing the critical flood control needs in our community. However, I have some concerns and recommendations to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of this plan.

1. **Impact on Habitat:** While the plan acknowledges environmental values, widening creek channels and adding debris control structures could significantly impact local habitats. Have comprehensive environmental impact assessments been conducted to ensure minimal disruption to ecosystems, and are there mitigation strategies in place?
2. **Sustainability and Longevity:** The proposed solutions may not fully account for the increasing unpredictability of climate change. Approaches such as hardened channels and debris control might offer immediate relief but may not stand the test of time. Have alternative, nature-based flood control solutions like wetland restoration, floodplain reconnection, or bioswales been considered to provide both effective flood mitigation and ecological benefits?
3. **Exploration of Green Solutions:** While the plan mentions naturalized channel designs, I encourage deeper exploration into green infrastructure strategies. These approaches often offer dual benefits: reducing flood risks while enhancing biodiversity and community resilience. For instance, could upstream retention basins or constructed wetlands be integrated into the plan?

I applaud the engagement with the community thus far and urge continued transparency and collaboration as the plan progresses into Phase II. Sustainable and innovative solutions can ensure that this effort not only addresses current flood risks but also creates a model of resilience for the future.

Thank you for considering these points. I am happy to provide further input or collaborate on exploring green infrastructure options.

Sincerely,

Meg West
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