



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: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: 12/11/07
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Flood Control and Water Conservation District
FROM: Department Scott McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436
SUBJECT: Authorization to Proceed; Negotiations for Purchase of Easements and fee for the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project, First & Second Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

Authorize the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to proceed with right-of-way negotiations for the potential purchase of property in fee or easement for use by Flood Control to construct improvements associated with the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project, Project Number SC8042 (herein the "Project").

Summary Text:

The Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project is located along Mission Creek from Canon Perdido Street to Cabrillo Boulevard in the City of Santa Barbara. The project will reduce flooding and property damage to the surrounding area by improving and widening various channel locations to increase channel capacity.

Authorization to negotiate from the Board of Directors will allow the Flood Control District to proceed with right-of-way negotiations with impacted property owners and order appraisals as needed. If negotiations result in an owner agreeing to sell, Real Property will return to your Board with a request for execution of a Real Property Purchase Contract and Escrow Instructions with supporting documents.

After the Purchase Contract is executed escrow will be opened. Once all research, title and survey work is complete, and the seller has executed a grant deed, Real Property will return to your Board for acceptance of said grant deed. Recordation of the grant deed with the Board's Acceptance and a legal description of the area covered by the grant deed, will consummate the transaction.

Background:

Mission Creek has been modified, encroached upon, realigned, and improved over the years as development has occurred. In its current configuration the creek can only contain the flow from a 5 or 8 year storm event. Consequently, during larger flood events the creek overflows and inundates many developed properties adjacent to the creek downstream of Canon Perdido Street. That area has suffered flood damage several times in the last 30 years, most recently during the 1995 and 1998 winter storms.

The project will widen the creek channel in order to increase flood flow capacity to 3,400 Cubic Feet per Second, (approximately a 20-year storm event) thus reducing flooding and property damage to the surrounding areas. In addition, widening the channel will allow for the replacement of old concrete walls. Non-native invasive plants will be replaced with native riparian species, and natural creek bed improvements will be made to enhance the endangered species habitat for the steelhead Trout and the Tidewater Goby.

The Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project is a joint project among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (Corps) the Flood Control District, and the City of Santa Barbara (City). The Corps has been unsuccessful in securing federal funding for the design and construction phases of the project. While Flood Control will continue to pursue funding from the Corps, the possibility of obtaining funding does not appear likely in the foreseeable future.

The Flood Control District and the City have decided to move forward in phases with this Project as opportunities present themselves since costs for the Project have continued to increase dramatically over the past few years. In addition, the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) has recently indicated a desire to replace their Mission Creek Bridge in the near future. Coordination of the UPRR improvements with the Lower Mission Creek Project is necessary to assure efficiencies in project costs and time. This provides another incentive to pursue the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project at this time.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: Budgeted: No.Narrative:

Land acquisition for the Project was not included in this year's budget. This Board action to proceed with right-of-way negotiations for potential purchase of property in fee or easement, only authorizes the negotiations for land acquisition but does not commit any funding. Any funding commitment would require the Board's approval.

The Flood Control District has applied for a grant from the Flood Protection Corridor Program through Proposition 84 for funding to acquire land for the Project. If approved, the District at that time will include costs for land acquisition in the budget. If the grant is approved, we would include acquisition costs in next year's budget.

This project is also included in the County's Capital Improvement Program on page B-179.

Special Instructions:

After Board action, distribute as follows:

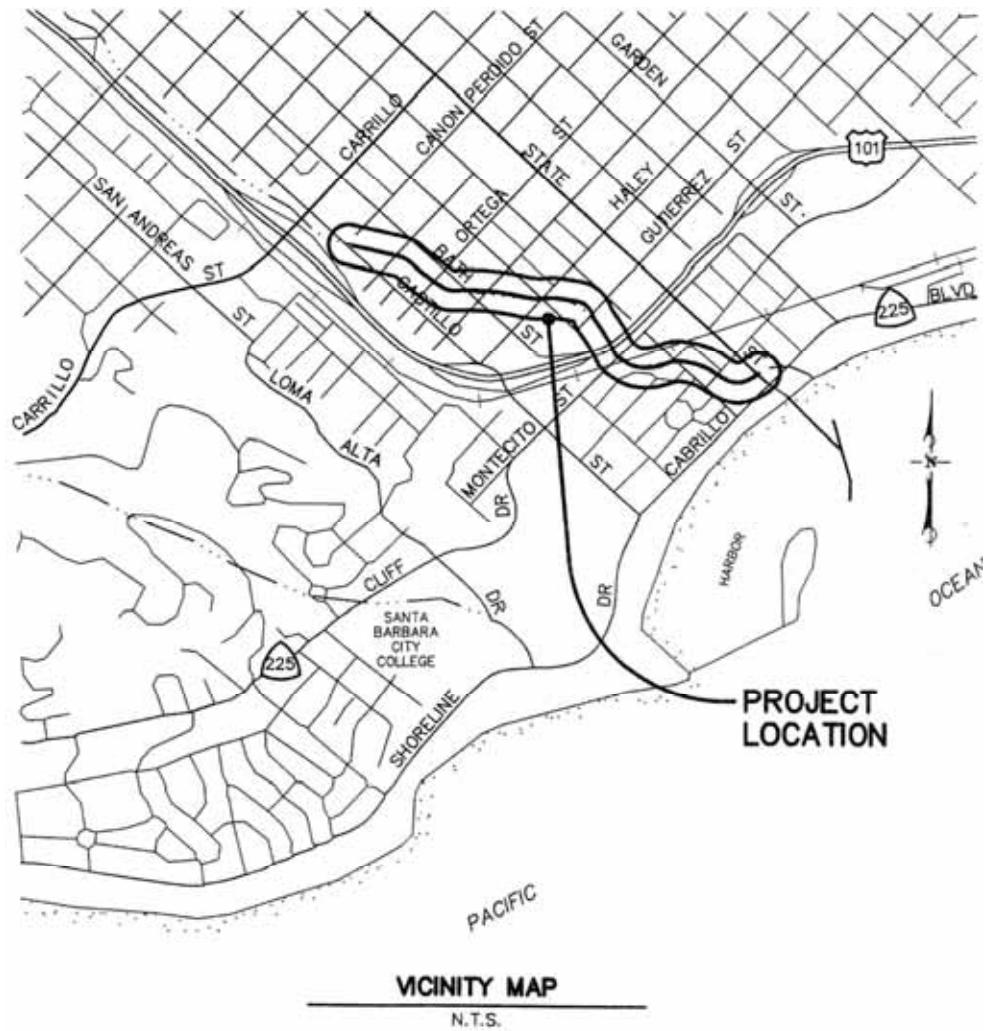
1. Minute Order
2. Minute Order

Public Works, Real Property, Attn: Jeff Havlik
Public Works, Flood Control, Attn: Christina Lopez

Authored by:

Jeff Havlik, SR/WA, Public Works, Real Property, 568-3073

Matt Griffin, Public Works, Flood Control and Water Conservation District



Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project Site Map