



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** October 23, 2007  
**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Engineering Division, Public Works Department  
**SUBJECT:** Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project Update

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive a status update on the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### BACKGROUND

The Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project (Project) has been a joint project between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (County), and the City of Santa Barbara (City), for several years. The Project is located along Mission Creek from Canon Perdido Street to Cabrillo Boulevard, and will widen the creek channel to increase flood flow capacity in order to reduce flooding and property damage to the surrounding areas. In addition, widening the channel will allow 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.

In fall 2006, the California Coastal Commission approved the Project's Coastal Consistency Determination application. The total project cost was estimated by the Corps in 2003 at \$28.5 million. However, the Corps has been unable to secure the required funding to proceed with the design or construction.

The City and County have both expressed a commitment to moving forward with completing the design and construction of the Project, possibly with local funds and grants in affordable increments of work, because of the benefits of increased flood protection and providing creek rehabilitation.

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REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_Finance \_\_\_\_\_Attorney

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## PRELIMINARY DESIGN

Due to construction industry cost increases over the past several years, staff has found the Project will cost significantly more to build than the Corps' 2003 estimate. In spring 2007, the City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the County to share the cost to update cost estimates and conduct preliminary design. The work was awarded by the County to a local firm, Penfield and Smith (Contractor).

The Contractor, the County, and the City have been meeting monthly to coordinate and review the activities included in the preliminary design. The preliminary design is now nearing completion and cost estimates have been updated to reflect current values. The Contractor's scope of work also included outlining construction phases in an effort to create affordable increments of work that could be funded by a combination of local and grant funds.

## DESIGN SUBCOMMITTEE

As part of the preliminary design effort, the Project Design Subcommittee met in mid-September 2007 to review design refinements that were developed in the preliminary design, and to review updated project costs. There was a positive reception to the proposed design refinements. Meetings are planned to continue every few months to review and discuss any further design work, project phasing plans, and cost estimates. Currently, Councilmember Helene Schneider has been appointed as the City Council Representative.

## UPDATED COSTS AND PHASING

The Channel improvements have been calculated by the Contractor to cost an estimated \$57 million. Unfunded bridge replacements add another \$5.1 million, for a grand total of \$62.1 million. The following are the proposed increments of work that could be completed individually, or combined in sequence, starting at the lowest end:

| Item | Channel Section                             | Constr. Cost | Eng/ROW Cost | Total Cost          |
|------|---|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1.   | State Street to Yanonali Street             | \$7,462,000  | \$10,157,000 | \$17,619,000        |
| 2.   | Yanonali Street to Upstream Side of US 101  | \$9,235,000  | \$2,622,000  | \$11,857,000        |
| 3.   | Upstream Side of US 101 to Gutierrez Street | \$2,395,000  | \$2,531,000  | \$4,926,000         |
| 4.   | Gutierrez Street to Haley Street            | \$2,405,000  | \$4,828,000  | \$7,233,000         |
| 5.   | De La Vina St to Cota Street                | \$2,865,000  | \$2,743,000  | \$5,608,000         |
| 6.   | Cota Street to Ortega Street                | \$2,073,000  | \$2,222,000  | \$4,295,000         |
| 7.   | Ortega Street to Castillo Street            | \$2,749,000  | \$2,713,000  | \$5,462,000         |
|      | Subtotal                                    | \$29,184,000 | \$27,816,000 | \$57,000,000        |
| 8.   | Mason Street Bridge                         |              |              | \$1,300,000         |
| 9.   | Cota Street Bridge                          |              |              | \$3,800,000         |
|      | Subtotal                                    |              |              | \$5,100,000         |
|      | <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                          |              |              | <b>\$62,100,000</b> |

The availability of funding will be the key limiting factor as to how many channel restrictions can be constructed at any one time. The completion of Channel Sections 1, 2, and 3 would provide a large benefit to decrease flooding of the railroad station and waterfront community. However, it is also feasible to construct only Channel Section 1 if there is only sufficient funding for this amount of work.

## RELATED FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

The Project was previously identified to start at the north face of the Cabrillo Bridge (not including the bridge) and end approximately 1.3 miles upstream near Canon Perdido Street at an existing concrete channel. Since the City had previously secured FHWA grant funds to replace the Haley/De La Vina Bridge, the cost of the Cabrillo Bridge was not included in the Corps' 2003 project cost estimate.

Even though not identified as part of the Project, the proposed replacement of the Cabrillo Bridge will benefit local flood conveyance. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding has been secured for the Cabrillo Bridge, which is currently estimated to cost \$18 million. Since the proposed replacement of the Cabrillo Bridge includes the upstream channel to State Street, the channel work can now be identified to start at the north side of the State Street Bridge.

The Haley/De La Vina Bridge is estimated to cost \$12 million. In addition, the City was successful in securing FHWA grant funding to replace the Ortega Street Bridge, which is estimated to cost \$6 million. The total cost of all these bridges is currently estimated at approximately \$36 million, with the City contribution estimated at approximately \$4.14 million. All of these bridges are in final design and are scheduled to be constructed within the next few years.

## FUNDING

In late August 2007, City and County staff from Finance, Public Works, and Administrator Offices met to develop an action plan to determine funding options. As part of the overall project evaluation, staff from the County Auditor-Controller's office and the City's Finance Department is working to identify a range of funding options for the project in the absence of meaningful Federal funding.

The \$3.8 million Cota Street Bridge noted in the new project \$62.1 million cost estimate is eligible for grant funding; however, the City's 11.5% contribution is not funded at this time. Design is tentatively scheduled to start in Fiscal Year 2012 per the City's six-year CIP report. Mason Street is currently described as not being eligible for FHWA grant funding; however, staff has recently received information that could lead to a successful grant application, assuming that the City's 11.5% contribution funding can be found.

#### NEXT STEPS

Staff will be returning to Council with another update in approximately three months. The preliminary design will have been completed by then, progress will have been made with the County regarding funding options, and more will be known about grant options.

**PREPARED BY:** Pat Kelly, Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer/TMC/sk

**SUBMITTED BY:** Anthony J. Nisich, Public Works Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office