

**PAJARO RIVER AT WATSONVILLE  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS**

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: The existing flood control project, consisting of levees and channel improvements on the Pajaro River and Corralitos and Salsipuedes Creeks, was constructed in 1949 to provide 50-year flood protection to the Watsonville area. While the project remains capable of successfully passing the flow rate it was originally designed for, the current level of flood protection is about 25 years. The purpose of this study is to develop a locally acceptable plan for flood control features along the Pajaro Main Stem and the Corralitos and Salsipuedes Creeks in order to increase the level of flood protection afforded by the project.

TOTAL FUNDING:

TOTAL COST:	\$ 6,445,000
FEDERAL COST:	\$ 6,445,000
NON-FEDERAL COST:	\$ 0

TOTAL FEDERAL COST THROUGH FY04:	\$ 5,463,000
FISCAL YEAR 05 BUDGET:	\$ 200,000
COST TO COMPLETE:	\$ 782,000

FY 04 AND 05 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: A General Re-evaluation Report addressing new flood protection measures for the Pajaro main stem, as well as for Corralitos and Salsipuedes Creeks, is in preparation. Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, with the strong support of Congressman Farr, have completed a lengthy public involvement process to identify a plan acceptable to both the agricultural and environmental communities. The Corps has identified a Recommended Plan as being the one with the greatest net benefits and the Counties will vote to concur with that plan or recommend a Locally Preferred Plan in February 2004. Subject to adequate funding, public review of the Draft General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Impact Statement/Report is to occur in late FY04 and Construction would be initiated in FY06.

ISSUES AND OTHER INFORMATION: As part of the Environmental coordination for this Flood Control project, the Resource Agencies developed a geomorphic alternative for consideration. Environmental Restoration, however, is not a project purpose for this flood control project and further evaluation of this alternative cannot be pursued as it has been determined to be infeasible due to insufficient National Economic Development benefits. Restoration is, however, a project purpose for the Pajaro Basin Study, whose Feasibility Study is anticipated to begin in June 2004. There is renewed interest by the Agencies and Counties to jointly participate in the Basin Study to further develop this alternative.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: 17<sup>th</sup> District, Rep. Sam Farr

DISTRICT: San Francisco