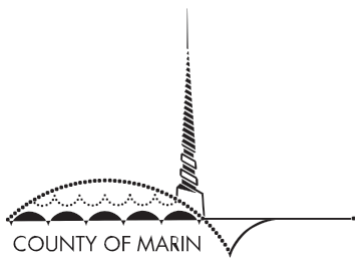


APPENDIX D

Notice of Preparation/Notice of Intent



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Quality, Excellence, Innovation

Raul M. Rojas

DIRECTOR

NOTICE OF PREPARATION/INTENT AND NOTICE OF SCOPING MEETING OF A JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR CORTE MADERA CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Administration
PO Box 4186
San Rafael, CA 94913-4186
415 473 6528 T
415 473 3799 F
415 473 3232 TTY
CRS Dial 711
www.marincounty.org/pw

November 24, 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be preparing a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for review and comment on the Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project.

Accounting

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Airport

The purpose of the project is to manage flood risk from Corte Madera Creek associated with Unit 4. The need of the project is to address channel modifications to Unit 4, from the upstream end of the existing Unit 3 concrete channel to Sir Francis Drake Boulevard at the border of Ross and San Anselmo, which may also require modifications to Units 3 and 2. Unit 3 extends from the upstream end of the concrete channel in Ross downstream to College Avenue Bridge. Unit 2 extends from College Avenue Bridge downstream to Bon Air Bridge in Larkspur.

Building Maintenance

Capital Projects

Certified Unified Program Agency
(CUPA)

A charrette was held in 2013 to restart the Study under the Corps' Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Risk Informed, and Timely planning (SMART) principles. SMART Planning is intended to complete USACE feasibility studies in a cost-effective and efficient manner. More information on the SMART Planning process is available at

Communications
Maintenance

<https://planning.erdc.dren.mil/toolbox/smart.cfm?Section=1&Part=a>

County Garage

Disability Access

Engineering & Survey

Corte Madera Creek drains an area of approximately 28 square miles in Marin County, CA and discharges into the San Francisco Bay nine miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge. Although Unit 1, 2, and 3 channel modifications were completed in 1971, public concerns led to a delay in the planned actions for Unit 4. In 1996, Marin County requested the completion of Unit 4 by the Corps, and damages incurred by the December 2005 flood also renewed public interest in finding solutions to minimize the risk of future floods. Since 1971, additional technical studies were conducted that provide an opportunity to formulate and review new alternatives. The EIS/EIR will consider all reasonable alternatives to evaluate potential impacts associated with the proposed project.

Flood Control &
Water Resources

Land Development

Purchasing

Real Estate

Reprographic Services

Road Maintenance

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Stormwater Program

Project objectives are to reduce the likelihood and consequences of flooding on human life and safety and to reduce the risk of flood damages, including critical infrastructure, in the City of Larkspur, Towns of Corte Madera and Ross, unincorporated communities of Kentfield and Greenbrae, and other surrounding unincorporated lands. Project objectives include developing and implementing environmentally sustainable flood risk management features consistent with natural geomorphic processes and ecological functions of the

Transportation &
Traffic Operations

Waste Management

project area. Objectives also include environmentally sustainable designs and construction methodologies which will minimize environmental impacts from future operation and maintenance actions in the project area.

The USACE's Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project is consistent and compatible with the District's Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program, the purpose of which is to manage flood risk in the Ross Valley watershed.

Additional studies conducted by the Corps focused on evaluating the design performance of Units 3 and 4. These studies identified the abrupt transition between Units 3 and 4 created by the existing Denil fish ladder, the narrow channel condition on the east and west bank, and the Lagunitas Road Bridge as constrictions to flood flow. The Town of Ross replaced the Lagunitas Road Bridge in 2010 with a higher bridge profile of greater flow capacity, approximately 5,400 cubic feet per second. The District and the Corps propose to manage flood risk along Corte Madera Creek downstream of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.

The alternatives evaluated will be developed in consideration of fish passage for threatened and endangered fish species that migrate through the project area, riparian habitat, as well as other potential environmental issues of concern. Pursuant to local, state, and federal guidelines, Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Zone 9 is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Corps is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this project. The Marin County Environmental Planning Manager and the Corps have determined that a full scope joint EIS/EIR is required for the project. Therefore, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c) and CEQ-NEPA Regulations Part 1501.3(a), an Initial Study and Environmental Assessment have not been prepared.

The EIS/EIR will focus on the following topical issues: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use and planning, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, utilities and service systems, and social and economic effects.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

To ensure that the EIS/EIR for this project is thorough and adequate, we are soliciting comments on specific issues to be included in the environmental review. Marin County and the Corps will conduct a Public Scoping Meeting, **Wednesday, January 14, 2016 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** at Marin Arts and Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Ross, California.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public comments on the scope of issues to be evaluated in the EIS/EIR are encouraged. **Written comments, accepted until the close of the comment period at 4:00 pm on February 1, 2016**, can be mailed to Stephen Willis, Environmental Manager, Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, 1455 Market Street, 15th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103. All written comments can also be faxed to (415) 503-6692 or sent electronically to stephen.m.willis2@usace.army.mil. Please direct questions about the project itself to Hugh Davis at hdavis@marincounty.org or (415) 473-4232 at the Marin County Department of Public Works or to Caleb Conn at (415) 503-6894 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Further information is also available on the District's project website at:

<http://www.marinwatersheds.org/resources/projects/usace-corte-madera-creek-flood-risk-management-project>

and the Corps project website at <https://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-and-Programs/Projects-by-Category/Projects-for-Ecosystem-Restoration/Corte-Madera-Watershed/>

Insert signature and disability box.