



## Agenda Item No. 14.

### Staff Report

**Date:** December 14, 2017

**To:** Mayor Robbins and Council Members

**From:** Richard Simonitch, Public Works Director/Town Engineer

**Subject:** Town Council consideration of adoption of Resolution No. 2037 supporting the Marin County Flood Control District in proceeding with further project development through the completion of the joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report.

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#### **Recommendation:**

Town Council adopt Resolution No. 2037 recognizing the potential flood risk reduction benefits of the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project – Phase 1 (“Ross Project”), and support the Marin County Flood Control District (MCFCD) in proceeding with further development of the Ross Project through the completion of the joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report.

#### **Background and discussion:**

There is a long history of flooding in Ross. The two most severe floods of record occurred in the winters of 1982 and 2005. Since the construction of the concrete channel and fish ladder in 1971, the Corte Madera Creek has reportedly overflowed its banks in Ross five times; in 1982, 1983, 1986, 1994, and 2005. (Attachment 2) Then, in the winter of 2016-2017, the floodwaters crested overbank at some locations during 3 separate storm events. Although slightly less extreme than the 1982 flood, the flood in December 2005 - January 2006, was nonetheless a federally declared disaster (DR-1628). The current channel provides only a 6-year level of flood protection, meaning overbank flooding will statistically occur once every 6 years. The project being proposed tonight should provide up to a 25-year level of protection from overbank flooding, and remove some parcels from the 100-year flood plain. Overall the Ross Project could provide some level of flood risk reduction benefits to over 300 parcels in Ross and Kentfield.

The first steps in any major construction project is the preparation of a feasibility study to determine project costs and identify financial risks involved with moving a project forward through the design and development phases. A major component of such a study is an early determination of community “buy-in” and support for the project concept. This is especially true with respect to the allocation and expenditure of any grant funding provided by a public agency. The MCFCD is requesting that the Town consider and adopt Resolution 2037 tonight in order to facilitate the approval of grant funding for the Ross Project and reduce the at-risk expenditures of MCFCD Flood Zone 9 (FZ9) tax money. Further, the project being presented tonight is on an extremely short time schedule; the requirement for completion by June, 2020 being established by the terms of the grant funding component. If the project is not completed by that time, the MCFCD risks losing the grant funding, putting the FZ9 tax money at risk as

well. A frequently asked questions (FAQ) sheet prepared by the MCFCD is attached to this staff report (attachment 6).

*Early project history:*

The concrete channel in Ross was constructed in the late 1960's and early 1970's as a part of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Corte Madera Creek Flood Control project, and the USACE maintains jurisdiction over any creek improvement projects downstream of the Sir Francis Drake Bridge. Pending the future extension of the concrete channel upstream toward San Anselmo, a denil-style fish ladder was constructed at the upstream terminus of the concrete channel as a temporary measure to allow fish passage to the natural channel upstream, however no further improvements have been made in this section of the creek since 1971 due to delays caused by lawsuits, unpopular USACE design alternatives, federal funding difficulties, and the changing environmental regulations. Hydraulic analysis has shown that the fish ladder is both an obstruction to flow and an extremely inefficient transition for water flowing from the natural creek into the concrete channel. The hydraulic deficiencies at the fish ladder structure has been identified as one of the primary causes for flooding in Ross upstream of the structure. It is also generally accepted that the fish ladder fails in its ability to facilitate fish passage, particularly after being heavily damaged in the December 31, 2005 flood. The concrete channel has proved to be less efficient in both the conveyance of flood waters and the passage of fish.

*The need for action:*

In response to the extensive damage caused by the 2005 flood, the Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program was created by the Marin County Flood Control District (MCFCD) in 2006. The MCFCD must partner with the USACE to implement any flood risk reduction projects in the Corte Madera Creek in Ross and therefore must rely on the unpredictable USACE timeline and availability of congressional funding to make any progress toward flood protection in Ross. A significant opportunity now exists for the MCFCD and the Town to move forward with a flood risk reduction solution that specifically benefits the Town of Ross at a pace that runs almost completely independent of the historically slow USACE project timeline.

*The pieces come together:*

In 2013, MCFCD was awarded a Department of Water Resources (DWR) Proposition 1E grant in the amount of \$7,661,000 to evaluate, design, and construct flood control/detention basin features and water supply improvements at the Phoenix Lake Dam in Ross. The results of the Phoenix Lake IRWMP draft feasibility assessment revealed various challenges that outweighed the flood risk reduction benefit and the decision was made to halt the project.

MCFCD immediately identified the "Ross Project" as an alternative project within the USACE list of potential projects that will allow the utilization of the DWR Prop 1E grant funding by remaining consistent with the primary goals of the Bay Area IRWMP and the DWR Prop 1E guidelines. The primary elements of the Ross Project are the removal of the fish ladder and most of the concrete channel within the Town Limits. The lands where the stretch of concrete channel exists that would be proposed for removal (Exhibit 3) is geographically unique in that a relatively wide expanse of public land (MCFCD and Town of Ross) is available to allow for:

1. Increasing the floodplain cross section area by expanding the creek banks and,
2. constructing a hydraulically efficient transition back to the concrete channel.

Both of these important design elements contribute to the lowering of the water surface elevation during the flood and, consequently, keeping the flood waters contained within the channel. The combination of

the removal of the fish ladder, the widening of the creek bank, and the construction of the smooth transition provide a significant reduction in flood risk to the Town of Ross as is evidence by the attached "change" maps showing the reduction in inches of water throughout the Town (Attachments 3-a, b, &c.) The area in the Ross Project where the concrete channel is removed and the creek banks slopes are flattened and widened provides an opportunity to expand the limits of Frederick Allen Park to accommodate the reconstructed pedestrian/bike path, add pedestrian access, and re-landscape with native species of trees and shrubs (attachments 4 and 5). Most of the existing trees and vegetation along the creek banks and the bike path would be removed during the excavation to create the restored creek bed. Following construction, the area would be re-landscaped with trees and shrubs to restore a park-like appearance. The other element of the project involves the construction of the Granton Park flood barrier, which mitigates pre-existing flooding issues as well as any minor increases in downstream water surface elevations which could result from more flood waters being contained within the channel and less overbank flooding.

At a regular Ross Town Council meeting on June 8, 2017, the MCFCD introduced the Ross Project as the preferred alternative with which to migrate the DWR Prop 1E Grant funds to. At a Special Town Council meeting on October 10, 2017 the MCFCD presented the project again in detail, highlighting the flood-related benefits of the project and providing additional information, including some answers to specific questions and concerns from Town Council, the public, and Staff from the June 8th, 2017 meeting. The MCFCD held a public outreach informational meeting and site tour to certain residents whose properties are contiguous to the Project on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Ross Common and Poplar Avenue in the Town of Ross on November 4, 2017 followed by a duly noticed public outreach site tour for all Town residents on November 18, 2017.

*Timeline and critical path:*

The project is currently in a conceptual design phase. The Town Council is voting tonight to adopt a resolution that supports further development of the project concept by MCFCD. With that support, the MCFCD can accelerate the expenditure of FZ9 and grant funds to develop the project design and associated agreements with reduced risk of losing the funding, albeit along what is becoming a very critical timeline. The project environmental review is being prepared by the USACE, with the draft EIR/EIS due out for comment in Spring, 2018. In order to meet the completed construction deadline of June 2020, the final environmental documents will require adoption by the Marin County Board of Supervisors (MCBOS) by the end of 2018 or early 2019.

The Town will have opportunities to comment on the Draft and Final EIR/EIS but regardless of Ross' comments the Ross Project can still move forward if the MCBOS chooses to adopt the document. At some point soon after the adoption of the Final EIR/EIS by the MCBOS, the Town Council will conduct a public hearing and consider a Design Review application for final consideration of the Ross Project design. The detailed project design will include the location of all elements of the project such as creek channel, pathways, walls, and landscaping. Also at that hearing, the Town will consider approval of agreements with the District including items such as maintenance responsibilities, construction plan requirements, easements, liability, and indemnity. Only after Town approval of these agreements could construction begin.

**Fiscal, resource and timeline impacts:**

No fiscal impact to the Town other than staff time. The project is 100% funded by FZ9 tax revenues and DWR Proposition 1E grant funding.

**Alternative actions**

If the adoption of the resolution is rejected the Town must wait for action by the USACE which could be several years behind the proposed project's schedule. Whether funding would then be available from FZ9 revenue for alternative projects is unknown, and DWR Proposition 1E funding would likely be lost.

If the adoption of the resolution is delayed or continued there is increased risk of loss of all of the Prop 1E grant funding and significant loss of FZ9 tax money.

**Environmental review (if applicable)**

This action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

**Attachments:**

1. Resolution No. 2037
2. IJ Newspaper Article from 2006
3. Flood change maps: (a)10-yr, (b)25-yr, (c)100-yr
4. Conceptual project 3D perspective
5. Project conceptual layout plan
6. Project FAQ
7. Correspondence

# ATTACHMENT 1

## **TOWN OF ROSS**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2037**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF ROSS RECOGNIZING THE POTENTIAL FLOOD RISK REDUCTION BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THE MARIN COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT ZONE 9 "CORTE MADERA CREEK FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT – PHASE 1" AND SUPPORTS THE DISTRICT IN PROCEEDING WITH FURTHER PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND COMPLETION OF A JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT.**

**WHEREAS**, the primary goal of the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project – Phase 1 (the "Project") as proposed by the Marin County Flood Control District (the "District") is to reduce the frequency and severity of flooding and to protect human life and property in the communities of Ross and Kentfield by enhancing and improving Corte Madera Creek; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Ross owns property in fee over which portions of the Project would be constructed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project is currently in a conceptual design phase, wherein the final design and specific features of the Project as well as any agreements or understandings as to landscape design, land use, easements, maintenance, liability and indemnification will require the approval of Town Council at some future date; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project as proposed is the first phase of the larger US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) flood control project; and

**WHEREAS**, as a condition for becoming a part of the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Zone Nine, the Town of Ross retained the contractual right of final design approval for all elements of the USACE flood control project through its jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project's ability to reduce the frequency and severity of flooding and to protect human life and property in the communities of Ross and Kentfield has been adequately demonstrated through detailed hydraulic analysis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council held duly noticed public hearings on June 8, 2017, October 10, 2017, and December 14, 2017 wherein the merits of the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project – Phase 1 project (the "Project") were discussed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Marin County Flood Control District held public outreach informational meetings and site tours to certain residents whose properties are contiguous to the Project on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Ross Common in the Town of Ross on November 4, 2017 and a duly noticed public outreach site tour for all Town residents on November 18, 2017, wherein the basic concepts of the Project were discussed; and

**WHEREAS**, the design and construction costs for the Project are eligible for 100% funding under a State Department of Water Resources grant and Marin County Flood Control District Zone 9 tax revenue

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Ross Town Council of the Town of Ross does hereby recognize the potential flood risk reduction benefits of the Project, and supports the Marin County Flood Control District in proceeding with further project development through the completion of the joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the Ross Town Council at its regular meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017, by the following vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

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Elizabeth Robbins, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Linda Lopez, Town Clerk

# ATTACHMENT 2



## Doomed from the first drop

Richard Halstead

Article Launched: 01/08/2006 04:28:00 AM PST

As floods surged through the Ross Valley last weekend, Miriam Kuppermann of Ross watched from her window as a deer was swept down Kent Avenue in a 4-foot-deep torrent of water.

Turbid water poured through her basement and garage, submerging her family's four cars.

Now, she and other water-logged residents of the region including Ross, San Anselmo and Fairfax want to know: Why has a flood control project for the area languished for more than 30 years?

"I'm an avid hiker, and I totally appreciate and respect the environment, but you can't turn Kent Avenue into a flood zone," Kuppermann said. "It needs to be fixed right away."

This isn't the first time the Ross Valley has been inundated. The Corte Madera Creek Basin has flooded 14 times over the past 50 years. Floods causing major damage occurred in 1951, 1955, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1967, 1969, 1982-83 and 1986. The worst floods occurred in 1955 and 1982. Prior to the 1960s, it was not uncommon to see rowboats in use on the College of Marin campus.

In the 1960s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers initiated a flood control project on Corte Madera Creek. As originally conceived the project would have reached from the San Francisco Bay into Fairfax, replacing the upper reaches of Corte Madera Creek and much of San Anselmo Creek with a concrete channel extending 6.5 miles.

But the project hit a political brick wall when it

reached the town of Ross in 1971.

Time after time over the next three decades the project would appear about to proceed only to face some new roadblock. The main sticking point has been the Army Corps' design plans. Local environmental activists have rejected more than one version. They say the Army Corps' focus on getting water to move faster through the creek channel is misplaced and question whether it would be effective. Project opponents say more attention needs to be paid to prohibiting building in the flood plain and reducing the amount of impervious surfaces.

The most recent reincarnation of the project stalled in 2000 when representatives from Ross, Kentfield, Larkspur and a local environmental group, Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed, failed to agree on a preferred design alternative. The estimated cost for the project continues to spiral upward with every tick of the clock. Even if local consensus was reached, funds would have to be allocated by Congress.

### Channel challenged

In 1971, when the federal government was prepared to pay the lion's share of construction costs, the project ran afoul of Marin's budding environmental movement. At the time, Frank Egger, in the early stage of his more than 40 years on the Fairfax Town Council, compared the proposed concrete channel to the Embarcadero Freeway in San Francisco. The freeway was deplored as an eyesore when built and later torn down. Egger said the concrete channel was an approach that might have been acceptable in 1962 - but not in 1971. Both Fairfax and San Anselmo decided to opt out of the project.

"We didn't want our creeks turned into concrete ditches," said Egger, who played a key role in

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getting both towns to drop out.

The Ross council, however, voted 3-2 to proceed.

"Ross had a gun put to its head," said Peter Brekhus, who was the Ross town attorney in 1971. Brekhus said the Army Corps threatened to build a dam at the town borders between Kentfield and Ross if the town refused.

Nevertheless, construction was halted by a lawsuit filed in December 1971 by Ross resident Peter Valentine, co-chairman of a group calling itself Save Our Creek. In his suit, Valentine insisted a referendum should be placed on the ballot to allow Ross voters to decide the matter. In April 1972, a Marin Superior Court judge ruled in Valentine's favor. The decision was later overturned, however, after the Ross council appealed.

Valentine, who now lives in Kentfield, says it was the Army Corps' refusal to consider a more environmentally friendly design that doomed the original project.

"I told them, 'What we want is a Chevrolet,'" Valentine said. "Their response was 'No. You can have a tank, or you can have a tank.'"

Opponents of the project received support from Marin County supervisors Peter Arrigoni and Gary Giacomini. But the Board of Supervisors gave up an attempt to block the project in November 1974 after a judge ruled that supervisors could be held personally liable for up to \$12 million in damages.

At the beginning of 1975, the project appeared to be back on track. The state Supreme Court had refused to hear an appeal by Valentine. But in February 1975, Congressman John Burton, then the Sixth District's representative in the House of Representatives, stepped in, promising to block

federal funding. In March 1975, Burton announced that the Army Corps had agreed to consider design alternatives.

A compromise plan, which called for building a channel parallel with the creek - a series of stone-covered concrete walls up to 8 feet high - emerged and appeared to garner the support it needed to move forward. Then in 1978, California voters passed Proposition 13, throwing up a new roadblock. The initiative limited the Marin County Flood Control District's ability to raise the \$500,000 in local funds needed to secure federal funding.

It wasn't until after the devastating floods of 1982 that this obstacle was surmounted. In August 1983, Marin Superior Court Judge Henry Broderick ordered the district to impose a special tax to raise the local matching funds. Broderick said the tax would be legal since the funding agreement was reached prior to passage of Proposition 13.

But the 1982 flood revealed new information about the work already completed, a trapezoidal earth channel near the Corte Madera Creek's mouth followed by a 1,500-foot concrete channel farther upstream through Kentfield.

The Corps discovered that the rate at which water flowed through the channel had been slowed substantially because of sediment and barnacles growing on the concrete walls. As a result, the design for the project extension into Ross, once again, had to be rethought.

**Back from the dead**

The project lay dormant until 1996 when the Board of Supervisors requested that the Army Corps proceed with a scaled-down version. The Corps responded with four options. But a local advisory committee formed to choose one failed to reach a

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consensus. The project stalled again.

Joan Lundstrom, who heads the five-member committee that advises the Board of Supervisors on flood matters, has notified the county that she wants to resume discussion of the project this month.

"This is the time to sit down and focus everybody," said the Larkspur councilwoman.

But local environmentalists still oppose any of the construction alternatives.

Jared Huffman, an attorney with the National Resources Defense Council and a Marin Municipal Water District board member, has led a coalition of environmentalists calling for "a serious look at nonstructural strategies for flood management."

"Unfortunately, the Corps of Engineers has continued to focus on 1950s-style channelization and concrete walls, which we now know doesn't work," Huffman said.

Huffman, a candidate for state Assembly, said the work completed so far fails to deliver the amount of flood protection promised. "In fact, it delivers almost no protection," he said.

Huffman contends the major problem is all the construction in the Ross Valley, much of it in the flood plain, that is impervious to water. He said that when the rain comes hard and fast, the water sheets off roofs, concrete sidewalks and asphalt parking lots.

Brekhus said much of the water that flooded Ross in 1982 flowed there from San Anselmo.

"There were actually cars and big Dumpsters floating down San Anselmo Avenue into Ross," Brekhus said.

Any work completed downstream in Ross will provide no flood relief to communities upstream such as San Anselmo and Fairfax, said Jim Miller, the Army Corps' project manager.

But John Woley, a county flood control consultant, said it is inaccurate to say that the flood control project has been a failure. From 1900 through the 1960s, there were property-damaging floods every four years in the Ross Valley; since then there have been four, Woley said.

"There has been a dramatic reduction in the amount of flooding in the lower Ross Valley after construction of the project," Woley said.

**Rising costs**

The cost for the Ross section of the project has ballooned from \$3 million in 1974 to \$11.6 million in 2000. It is unclear whether the Marin County Flood Control District would be required to pay the 1.5 percent local match, which existed when the project was initiated, or the 50 percent match required of projects since 1996.

"The ifs get larger the longer you go," Lundstrom said.

Supervisor Hal Brown, who joined the board in 1983, said one of the problems has been keeping people's attention once the rain stops.

"If there hasn't been flooding for 10 years, nobody's interested," Brown said. "You can't get anybody to come to a meeting."

In the end, Brekhus said people may once again shrug off last weekend's storm and say, "Thank God these 100-year storms only come every 20 years."

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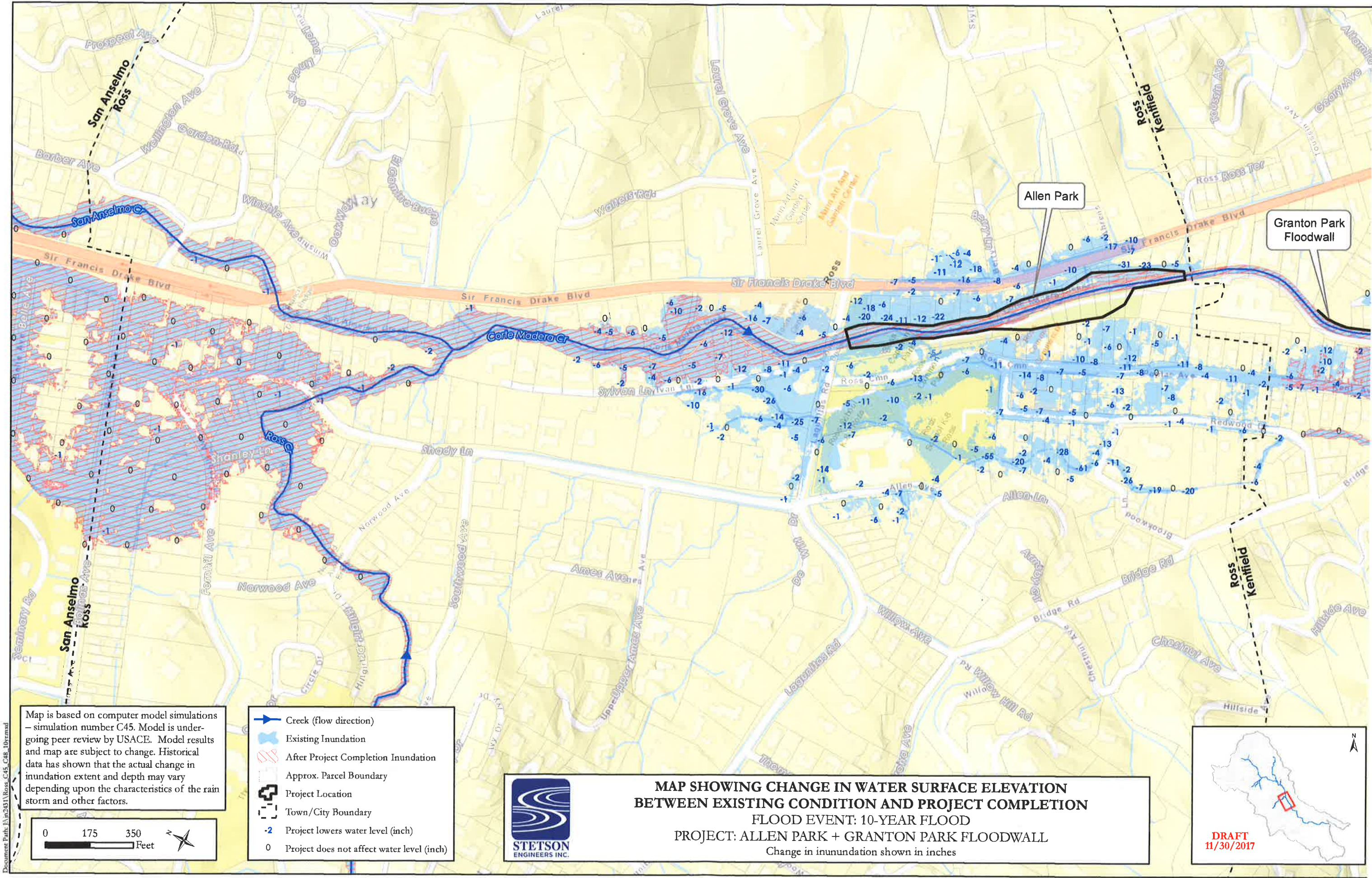
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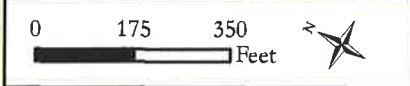
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# ATTACHMENT 3



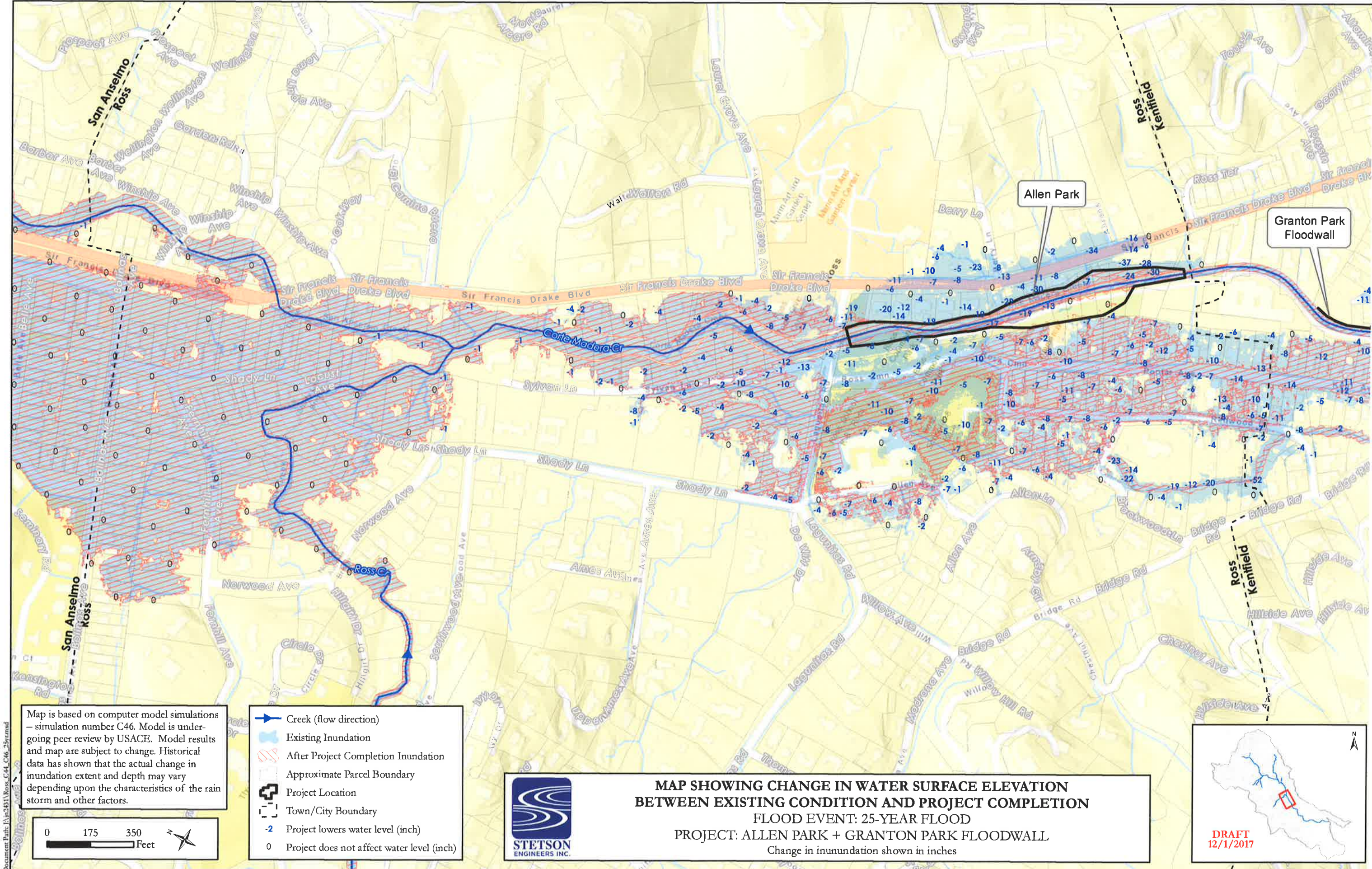
Map is based on computer model simulations – simulation number C45. Model is undergoing peer review by USACE. Model results and map are subject to change. Historical data has shown that the actual change in inundation extent and depth may vary depending upon the characteristics of the rain storm and other factors.

- Creek (flow direction)
- Existing Inundation
- After Project Completion Inundation
- Approx. Parcel Boundary
- Project Location
- Town/City Boundary
- Project lowers water level (inch)
- Project does not affect water level (inch)



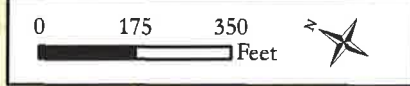
**MAP SHOWING CHANGE IN WATER SURFACE ELEVATION  
BETWEEN EXISTING CONDITION AND PROJECT COMPLETION**  
 FLOOD EVENT: 10-YEAR FLOOD  
 PROJECT: ALLEN PARK + GRANTON PARK FLOODWALL  
 Change in inundation shown in inches





Map is based on computer model simulations – simulation number C46. Model is undergoing peer review by USACE. Model results and map are subject to change. Historical data has shown that the actual change in inundation extent and depth may vary depending upon the characteristics of the rain storm and other factors.

- Creek (flow direction)
- Existing Inundation
- After Project Completion Inundation
- Approximate Parcel Boundary
- Project Location
- Town/City Boundary
- Project lowers water level (inch)
- Project does not affect water level (inch)



**MAP SHOWING CHANGE IN WATER SURFACE ELEVATION  
BETWEEN EXISTING CONDITION AND PROJECT COMPLETION**  
FLOOD EVENT: 25-YEAR FLOOD  
PROJECT: ALLEN PARK + GRANTON PARK FLOODWALL  
Change in inundation shown in inches

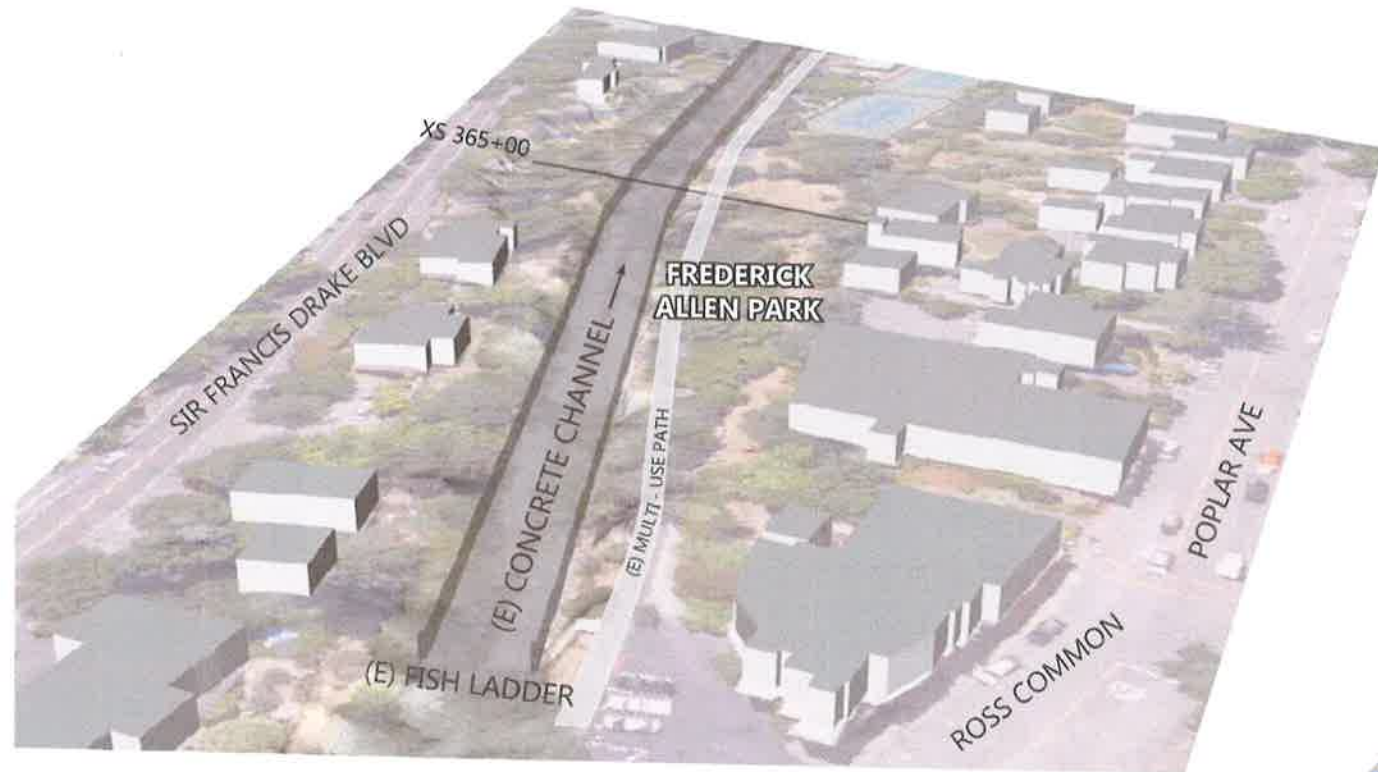


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# ATTACHMENT 4

# FREDERICK ALLEN PARK RIPARIAN CORRIDOR CONCEPTUAL DIAGRAM BIRDS-EYE VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST (DOWNSTREAM)



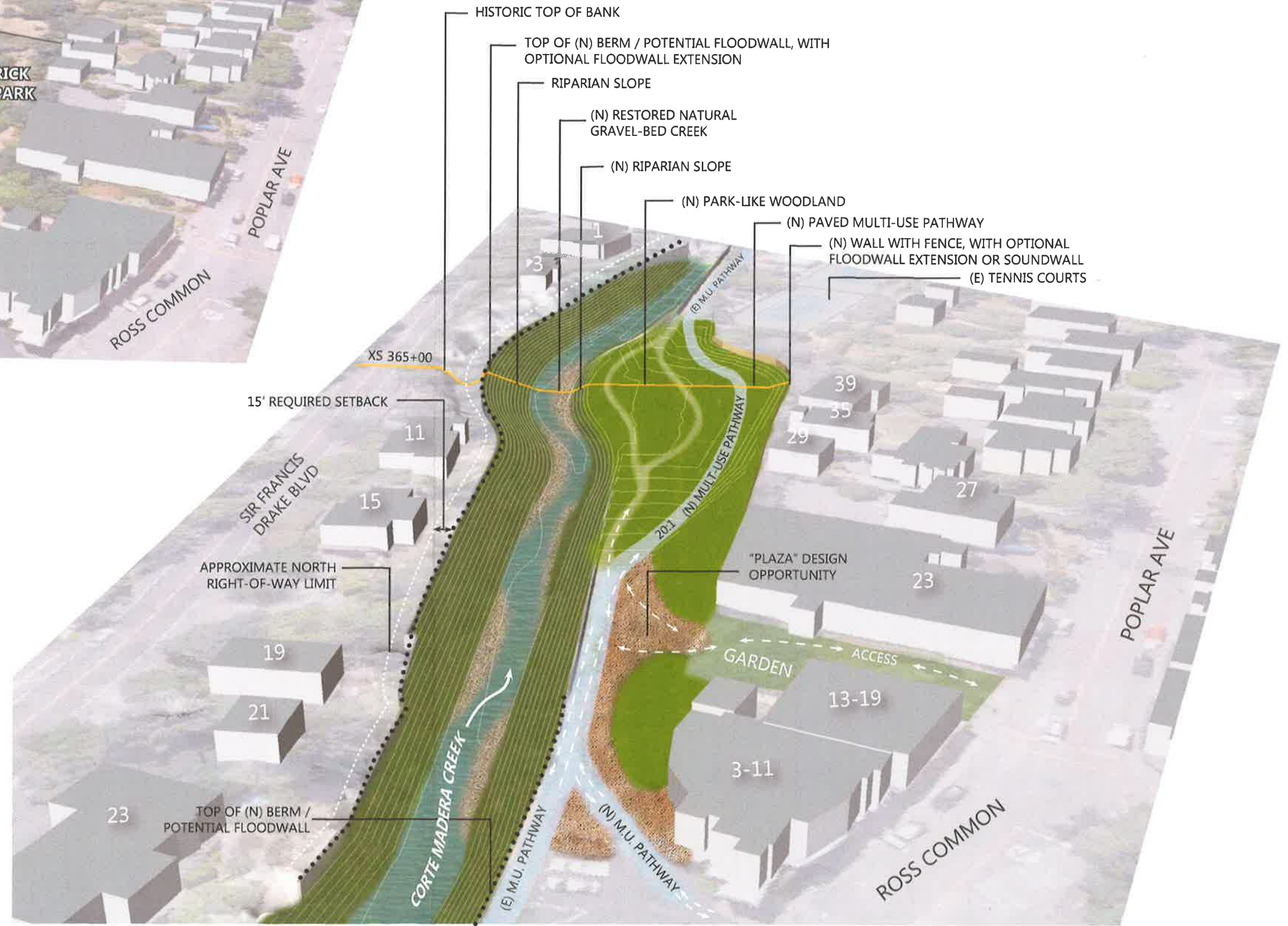
EXISTING (E) CONDITIONS

## ABBREVIATIONS

- (E) = EXISTING
- (N) = NEW
- R.O.W. = RIGHT OF WAY
- M.U. = MULTI-USE

**PROJECT CONCEPT ONLY**  
SUBJECT TO FUTURE REVIEW AND INPUT

DATE: 12/01/17

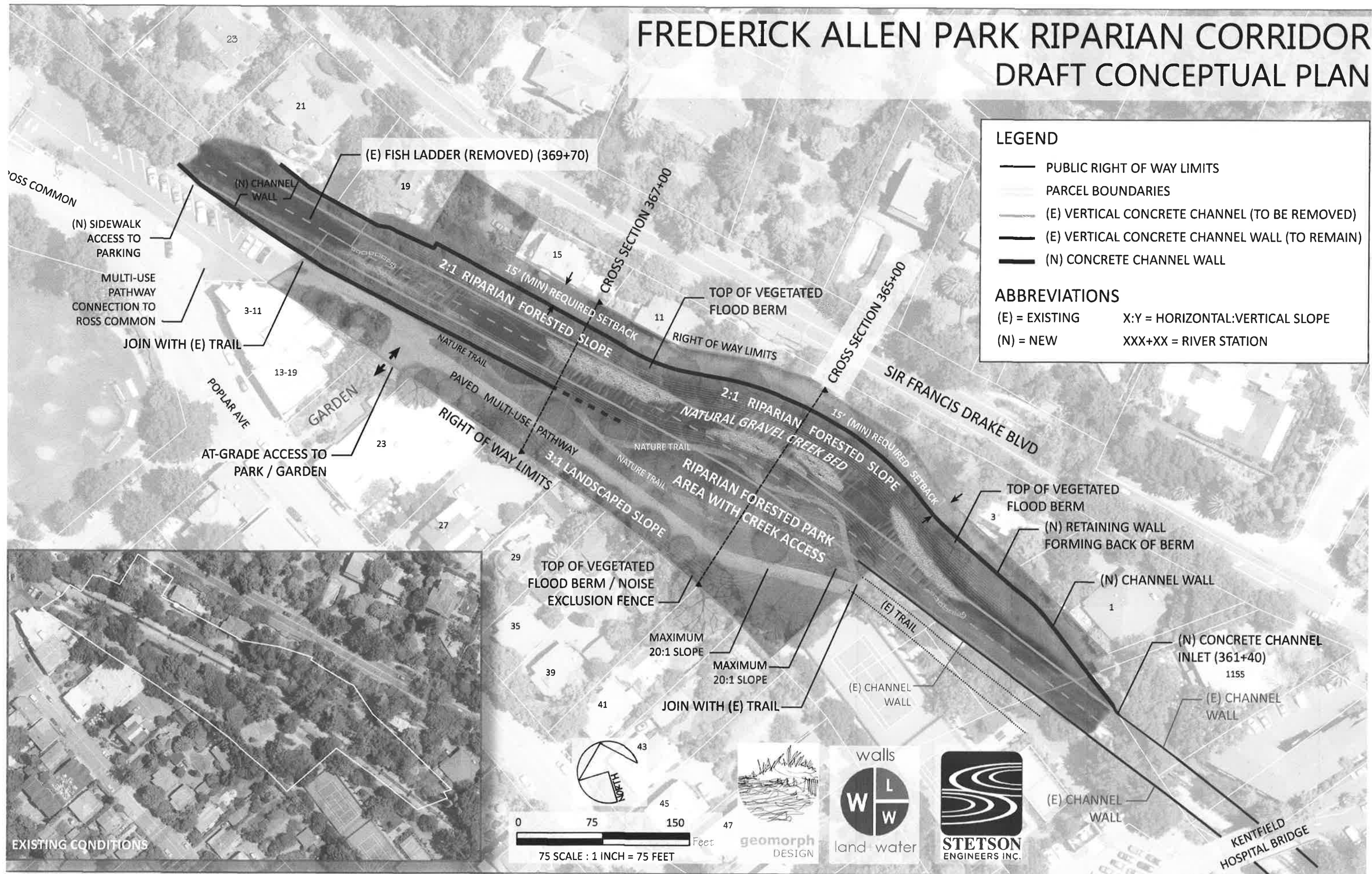


PROPOSED (N) CONDITIONS

TREE AND SHRUB PLANTINGS FOR ACHIEVING PARK-LIKE TREE DENSITY IN RESTORED RIPARIAN CORRIDOR NOT SHOWN FOR CLARITY AND PENDING PLANTING PLAN DEVELOPMENT

# ATTACHMENT 5

# FREDERICK ALLEN PARK RIPARIAN CORRIDOR DRAFT CONCEPTUAL PLAN

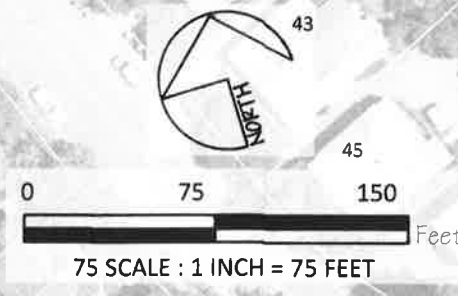


## LEGEND

- PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY LIMITS
- PARCEL BOUNDARIES
- (E) VERTICAL CONCRETE CHANNEL (TO BE REMOVED)
- (E) VERTICAL CONCRETE CHANNEL WALL (TO REMAIN)
- (N) CONCRETE CHANNEL WALL

## ABBREVIATIONS

- (E) = EXISTING
- (N) = NEW
- X:Y = HORIZONTAL:VERTICAL SLOPE
- XXX+XX = RIVER STATION



# ATTACHMENT 6

# Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program

## PROJECT: CORTE MADERA CREEK FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) NOVEMBER 29, 2017



### What is the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project that is currently under development by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)?

The primary goal of the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project (USACE Project) is to reduce the frequency and severity of flooding in the communities of Ross and unincorporated Kentfield. The proposed Project would include;

- removing the wooden fish ladder in Ross that constricts flow,
- widening the channel to hold more water by removing portions of the concrete channel to create flood plains and riparian corridors, and
- installing flood walls adjacent to the banks and stabilizing creek slopes to protect properties adjacent to the creek.

The proposed USACE Project goals and benefits are:

- managing flood risk in a manner that is fully implementable and supportable by the local community by reducing the likelihood and consequences of flooding on human life and safety, and reducing the risk of flood damages, preserving or restoring the natural creekbed and associated riparian habitat, and improving fish passage;
- preserving or improving, to the extent practicable, the recreational experience and aesthetic quality of Corte Madera Creek;
- minimizing future erosion of unprotected creek banks & improving bank stability along the earthen channel in Ross; and,
- minimizing long-term maintenance requirements of the project.

### What is Phase 1 of the USACE Project?

The USACE Project is being divided into two projects in order to move priority flood reduction measures in Ross and Kentfield years ahead of the larger USACE Project's schedule by utilizing a \$7.6 M grant from the Department of Water Resources (DWR). In June 2017, the Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board approved reallocating DWR grant funds from the Phoenix Lake Integrated Regional Water Management Project (determined to be infeasible as proposed due to grant restrictions) to create Phase 1 of the Corte Madera Flood Risk Management Project.

The goal would be to construct Phase 1 by 2020 and includes removing constrictions (such as the Ross fish ladder) and widening the channel (creating a flood plain, a more hydraulically-efficient transition, and a riparian corridor at Frederick Allen Park) to keep more water in Corte Madera Creek during large flood events. Phase 1 also includes making improvements to stabilize the banks of the earthen channel above the fish ladder and adding protective floodwalls along the channel downstream in Kentfield at the Granton Park neighborhood. These measures are being prioritized because residents and business in these areas flood during even smaller flood events, such as experienced in winter 2016-17. This opportunity also leverages state funds to offset the USACE-required local funding share of design and construction of the project. You can learn more about the larger USACE Project (Phase 2) at:

[http://www.marinwatersheds.org/documents\\_and\\_reports/USACECorteMaderaCreekProject.html](http://www.marinwatersheds.org/documents_and_reports/USACECorteMaderaCreekProject.html)

# PROPOSED PROJECT: CORTE MADERA CREEK FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) NOVEMBER 29, 2017

## What are the benefits of the Phase 1 Project?

Phase 1 brings flood risk reduction to many residents and businesses in Ross and Kentfield by 2020, years ahead of the larger USACE Project (Phase 2) schedule. Existing hydraulic modelling indicates that the Project is calculated to reduce the height of flood waters by 2-11 inches in flood-prone areas in Ross, in addition to potentially removing properties from the FEMA 100-year special flood hazard area (SFHA) along Sir Francis Drake Blvd downstream of the Lagunitas bridge and Granton Park in Kentfield. Also, several properties within the existing SFHA that see flooding during a 10-year flood event should experience little to no flooding. Other potential downstream impacts will also be mitigated under the larger USACE project.

## Where is the Phase 1 Project in the development process?

The Phase 1 Project is currently in a conceptual design phase. The final design and specific features of the Project have not been completed at this point. The Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) and Town of Ross are working together to conduct an in-depth public engagement process within the Ross community to ensure both directly and indirectly impacted residents have an opportunity to learn about the conceptual design and provide input. The District is also carefully analyzing different scenarios to maximize flood reduction while supporting community interests and environmental benefits. Both the larger USACE Project and Phase 1 Project are in environmental review and a Draft EIR/EIS will be released for public review and comment in Spring 2018. The Final EIR should follow later in 2018, which offers another opportunity for public comment. Then, Phase 1 will progress into final engineering and design, followed by construction, which is projected to be complete by 2020. Community input will continue to be a part of all phases of project development.

## Why not just remove the fish ladder, or are there additional benefits to creating the riparian corridor?

Hydraulic modelling shows that including the proposed Allen Park Riparian Corridor lowers the floodwater elevations an additional 2" to 11" compared to removing the fish ladder alone, mainly within the riparian corridor itself and also in the Sylvan Lane neighborhood upstream of the Lagunitas Road bridge. Reducing the depth of flooding during flood events is the most important goal of this project, which is further achieved by construction of the riparian corridor. The Riparian Corridor is also judged to be a crucial part of the overall USACE Project to mitigate for downstream effects of removal of the fish ladder and to mitigate for environmental effects that may be required to construct any project.

## Why doesn't the Town dredge the creek downstream of the Lagunitas Bridge like they did in the past?

Dredging (sediment removal) for flood risk reduction is mainly used in the slow moving, tidally-influenced reaches of a channel where fine sediment tends to build up over a period of years. In Ross, studies show that the buildup of the gravel bar around the Lagunitas bridge is a phenomenon attributed to the "fish ladder" bulkhead installed downstream by the Corps of Engineers back in 1971. In the past, the removal of the gravel bar around the old Lagunitas Bridge provided only a temporary flood risk benefit and because of the potential environmental impacts on aquatic species, is now only permitted when the creek is dry (naturally or by using expensive dewatering systems). With the higher deck and wider opening of the new Lagunitas bridge, and because it was found that the gravel bar was usually restored by nature during the first few storms of the season, the expenditure of Town funds to dredge this part of the creek is no longer justifiable.

## What is the Town of Ross' role in the Phase 1 Project?

The Town of Ross has multiple roles in the Project ranging from property owner to one of the project's decision makers relative to design and negotiating future agreements, such as maintenance and liability. The Town owns the property west of the current concrete channel, which is Frederick Allen Park. At this time, the Phase 1 Project is a conceptual plan with detailed analysis and design details still to be worked out based on findings from studies and meetings with stakeholders including Ross residents and businesses. As property owner of the Frederick Allen Park, the next step is to



# PROPOSED PROJECT: CORTE MADERA CREEK FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) NOVEMBER 29, 2017

have the Town Council decide whether to support the conceptual flood risk reduction project, which is scheduled at the Ross Town Council meeting on December 14, 2017.

Additional public workshops for the USACE Project (including Phase 1) will be scheduled for Spring 2018 to offer the community an opportunity to learn more about the Project schedule and gain information to assist with providing informed comments when the Draft EIR/EIS is released in Spring 2018.

Further along in the process, the Town Council will conduct a public hearing on the Phase 1 Project and consider a Design Review application for final consideration of the Phase 1 Project design. The detailed project design will include the location of all elements of the project such as creek channel, pathways, walls, and landscaping. In addition, the Town will consider approval of agreements with the District including items such as maintenance responsibilities, construction plan requirements, liability, and easements. Only after approval of these agreements could construction begin.

### **Will FEMA recognize the flood risk reduction benefit of the Project and reduce our flood insurance premiums?**

After construction is completed, the District and Town of Ross will apply for a Flood Insurance Rate Map Revision through FEMA that could redefine the flood plain to remove areas of Ross to reduce flood insurance premiums for some Ross residents.

### **As an alternative to constructing barriers to contain flows, why not offer no-interest loans to all homeowners in the floodplain to raise their homes?**

An alternative that will also be assessed in the EIR/EIS known as the Non-Structural Alternative, does propose to rely on home raising and flood proofing in the place of structural barriers to flooding. However, this alternative puts the onus on homeowners to raise their homes and would only benefit those homeowners that have the financial means and want to pursue raising or flood proofing their home. This alternative would not reduce hazardous flooding around homes that affect access to emergency services and roadways.

### **How can I learn more about the entire Project?**

You can go to the Ross Valley Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Program (Program) website at [www.RossValleyWatershed.org](http://www.RossValleyWatershed.org) and click on the project name "Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project" to learn more about the larger USACE Project (Phase 2) and Phase 1. You can also sign up on the website to receive automatic email notifications related to upcoming meetings and other Program updates.



# ATTACHMENT 7

# Margaret Foley Ellis

December 4, 2017

Dear Town Council Members,

I am in full support of the proposed flood risk reduction project at Frederick Allen Park. This plan will not only help minimize the danger of flooding our community but will also improve the Park that is an entrance to our Town. I applaud the members of our community who have devoted years of study, research and discussion of this issue.

I have read all the information and have spoken extensively with members of the community who have spent the last decade working on a solution to the flood problem that we face each year during the winter rains. I have also reviewed the information opposing this plan and I don't agree with this opinion.

This is the first time in years we have had a well researched, viable plan that is fully funded. It is time to take action and I encourage the Council to forward with the development process for the proposed Frederick Allen Park project. Please vote yes to go forward with this plan.

Sincerely,

Margie Ellis

#4 Fernhill Ave, Ross

Post Office Box 1421 Ross California 415-453-5870

## Linda Lopez

---

**From:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 7, 2017 12:32 PM  
**To:** Linda Lopez; Richard Simonitch  
**Subject:** FW: Flood control project

-----Original Message-----

**From:** CarolinePrezzano [mailto:caroline.gee@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 07, 2017 12:30 PM  
**To:** CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>  
**Subject:** Flood control project

We are ALL FOR - fully support the proposed flood control project. We live up stream from the location and welcome any and all relief from the creek backing up.

Thanks for your consideration,

Doug & Caroline Prezzano  
45 SFD

Sent from my iPhone

## Linda Lopez

---

**From:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 7, 2017 12:32 PM  
**To:** Linda Lopez; Richard Simonitch  
**Subject:** FW: Flood control

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Margaret Partlow [mailto:mmpartlow@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 07, 2017 12:20 PM  
**To:** CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>  
**Subject:** Flood control

Dear Council Members: I share all of Charlie Goodman's concerns about the lack of information and lack of answers about the proposed flood control plan. Please research the issues Goodman has raised and answer these concerns completely before approving this plan. Thank you. Margaret Partlow, 7 Southwood Avenue, Ross.

Sent from my iPhone

## Linda Lopez

---

**From:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 7, 2017 11:50 AM  
**To:** Linda Lopez; Richard Simonitch  
**Subject:** Flood Prevention

**From:** Thomas Harbinson [mailto:Thomas.Harbinson@harbinsonlaw.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 07, 2017 9:00 AM  
**To:** CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>  
**Subject:** Flood Prevention

Town of Ross  
Council Members,

Please approve the proposed flood prevention project. It appears to be a step in the right direction to reduce the risk of flooding in Ross.

THOMAS J. HARBINSON

Town of Ross

TELEPHONE (415) 986-3992

**Linda Lopez**

---

**From:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 7, 2017 3:26 PM  
**To:** Linda Lopez; Richard Simonitch  
**Subject:** flood control plan

**From:** Lisa Williams [mailto:Lisa@WilliamsRoss.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 07, 2017 2:33 PM  
**To:** CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>  
**Subject:** flood control plan

I am opposed to the proposed floodwater plan that would widen the creek at Allen Park. I am a 22 year resident of Ross, and a 52 year resident of Marin, having grown up in Kentfield, and lived through the flood in the 1980s.

The proposed plan is not the answer.

Lisa Williams  
61 Glenwood Avenue, Ross.

## Linda Lopez

---

**From:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 7, 2017 5:50 PM  
**To:** Linda Lopez; Richard Simonitch  
**Subject:** FW: flood control

**From:** Marilyn Riede [mailto:MarilynRiede@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 07, 2017 5:16 PM  
**To:** CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>  
**Subject:** flood control

Dear Town of Ross Council Members: please do everything you can to stop the flooding in the Town of Ross. We can't be at the meeting as we are out of town.

Very important to deal with this issue.

Thank you.

Marilyn Riede

**Linda Lopez**

---

**From:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager  
**Sent:** Friday, December 8, 2017 8:23 AM  
**To:** Linda Lopez; Richard Simonitch  
**Subject:** Fwd: Frederick Allen Park Flood Project

Begin forwarded message:

**Resent-From:** Proofpoint Essentials <[do-not-reply@maildistiller.com](mailto:do-not-reply@maildistiller.com)>  
**From:** "B.J. Martin" <[zapmarin@comcast.net](mailto:zapmarin@comcast.net)>  
**Date:** December 7, 2017, 5:41:46 PM PST  
**Resent-To:** <[towncouncil@townofross.org](mailto:towncouncil@townofross.org)>  
**To:** [towncouncil@townofross.org](mailto:towncouncil@townofross.org)  
**Cc:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager <[jchinn@townofross.org](mailto:jchinn@townofross.org)>  
**Subject:** Frederick Allen Park Flood Project

Dear Town Council Members,

I am writing to say how strongly I support the proposed flood control project at Frederick Allen Park.

Having attended two community meetings, where the project was thoroughly explained by the County Flood Control District regarding the removal of the archaic (and non-functioning) fish ladder, and demolition of a portion of the weirdly unnatural concrete channel, and widening of the natural creek basin near Frederick Allen Park, I am in full support of this flood risk reduction project.

Reducing the threat of the floodwaters should be a shared responsibility of all the towns along the Corte Madera Creek. While this one project will not be a fix-all, it will demonstrate (hopefully to other communities) a practical response to the devastating impact of flooding that we have seen in recent years. The fact that the project will receive a \$7.6 million dollar grant from the California Department of Water Resources, only makes this project more attractive. Please seize this opportunity to enhance the natural beauty of this beloved park, including the elimination of a tall chain-link fence and concrete wall, and the replanting of a natural riparian landscape.

When I read the flooding risk reduction calculations for the town of Ross, I was impressed by the number of inches of floodwaters that this project will remedy. The modeling of this project was very timely, thorough and encouraging. The handouts visually laid out the plans in a very accessible format. I love that the multi-use pathway will be maintained and improved. I loved that the natural pathways will meander near the creek in the 11 months of the year when the waterway is minimal.

For those who fear the improvement will endanger their children, or invite public access to the creek, I remain confused. Does Natalie Coffin Greene Park endanger our children or invite unwanted public access to the creek? Does Creekside Park in San Anselmo endanger our children or invite unwanted public access to the creek? Does the park across from Ross Town

Hall or behind Ross Town Hall, endanger our children or invite unwanted public access to the creek? I personally think this argument is ridiculous.

Having chaired the Ross Tree Committee for a couple of years, I feel confident that the town and the county will replant this beloved park with trees that will grow happily in a natural space, unbound by concrete walls and chain-link fences.

Thank you for your volunteer service to the Town of Ross. We are very lucky to have people like you looking out for our best interest.

Warm regards,  
B.J. Martin  
88 Shady Lane, Ross, CA 94957  
(415) 459-6437

**Linda Lopez**

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**To:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager  
**Subject:** RE: Test Message - HTML Format:Urgent - Ross Residents - Please comment by Dec 12

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**From:** Charles Goodman [<mailto:charlie@charlesgoodman.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 07, 2017 10:46 AM  
**To:** [eliz.robbins@gmail.com](mailto:eliz.robbins@gmail.com); [elizabethb@brekhus.com](mailto:elizabethb@brekhus.com); [beach.kuhl@sedgwicklaw.com](mailto:beach.kuhl@sedgwicklaw.com); Russell, P. Rupert; Julie McMillan  
**Subject:** FW: Test Message - HTML Format:Urgent - Ross Residents - Please comment by Dec 12

Please review, I am sending this out today and wanted to give you an advanced view.  
Charlie

**From:** Charles Goodman [[mailto:Charles\\_Goodman@mail.vresp.com](mailto:Charles_Goodman@mail.vresp.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 07, 2017 10:37 AM  
**To:** Charles Goodman <[charlie@charlesgoodman.com](mailto:charlie@charlesgoodman.com)>  
**Subject:** Test Message - HTML Format:Urgent - Ross Residents - Please comment by Dec 12



Dear Neighbor,  
Please click on the link below to view a short video with more information regarding Flood Control:  
<https://youtu.be/Os5yFJpmKCo>

Below are 2 photos of the 1987 Flood in Ross, CA.  
The water cannot re-enter the Corte Madera Creek because the road is lower than the channel



These questions still remain unanswered for the December 14, 2017 Council Meeting:

What are the contractual obligations on the Town of Ross, if the Council approves this conceptual plan?  
What is Ross' share of the matching funds tied to this \$7 Million grant?  
What will this cost Ross in:

- ? new annual dredging of this large sediment area in the creek?
- ? expanded insurance coverage to meet the assumed liability of the new park?
- ? staff to police, and maintain this new park?

The existing Frederick S. Allen Park has ample room for both bikes and pedestrians. Will the new paths offer the same amenities and recreational uses?  
Will the trees on both sides of the channel be clearly marked so people can see which trees are being removed?  
Is the environmental cost worth the benefit? Who floods less and by how much?  
What happens to the local flooding kept from the creek by walls and berms? Does walling in the creek mean walling out local drainage? If pumps are used, where are they, who maintains and operates them?  
How is the larger, broader flow of stormwater from the new park funneled into the narrow concrete channel downstream? Does this project create a new "fish ladder" there?

[Click here to see the email I received from Ross Valley Sanitary District](#)

[Click here to see Dick Spotwood's editorial](#)

Here is a link to the letter I sent to all of you on November 3, 2017 (please note, the date the Council will vote on the project is December 14, 2017):  
<http://p0.vresp.com/HeOIAM>

Please contact the Ross Town Council with your comments and concerns before December 12, 2017. They will be voting on this project December 14, 2017. Their email is: [towncouncil@townofross.org](mailto:towncouncil@townofross.org).  
Sincerely,  
Charlie Goodman  
[charlie@charlesgoodman.com](mailto:charlie@charlesgoodman.com)

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[penny@goodmanenterprises.us](mailto:penny@goodmanenterprises.us)  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
US



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## Linda Lopez

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**From:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager  
**Sent:** Friday, December 8, 2017 10:10 AM  
**To:** Linda Lopez; Richard Simonitch  
**Subject:** Fwd:  
**Attachments:** image001.png; image002.png

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Roeder, Chris" <[Chris.Roeder@am.jll.com](mailto:Chris.Roeder@am.jll.com)>  
**Date:** December 8, 2017 at 9:17:39 AM PST  
**To:** "[towncouncil@townofross.org](mailto:towncouncil@townofross.org)" <[towncouncil@townofross.org](mailto:towncouncil@townofross.org)>  
**Cc:** Stephanie Fazeli <[Fazelis@aol.com](mailto:Fazelis@aol.com)>

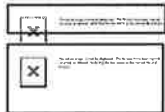
My wife Stephanie and I, owners of 15 Fernhill and former owners of 2 Fernhill in Ross, are fully supportive of the passing of the Flood Reduction Measure being voted on next week.

Please call or email me w/ questions or comments.

Thanks,

Chris

**Christopher T. Roeder** – RE Lic. #01190523  
International Director  
Tel: (415) 395-4971  
Mob: (415) 939-4806



Jones Lang LaSalle  
1 Front Street, Suite 2100  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
[JLL Video](#)

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## Linda Lopez

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**From:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager  
**Sent:** Friday, December 8, 2017 10:10 AM  
**To:** Linda Lopez; Richard Simonitch  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please Approve Flood Reduction Project

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Stanley Stern <[stanley@sternplace.com](mailto:stanley@sternplace.com)>  
**Date:** December 8, 2017 at 9:15:12 AM PST  
**To:** "[towncouncil@townofross.org](mailto:towncouncil@townofross.org)" <[towncouncil@townofross.org](mailto:towncouncil@townofross.org)>  
**Subject: Please Approve Flood Reduction Project**  
**Reply-To:** Stanley Stern <[stanley@sternplace.com](mailto:stanley@sternplace.com)>

Dear Members:

We are writing to urge you to support the Flood Reduction Project at Frederick Allen Park. Flooding has been a long-time problem in Ross and our vicinity – this project appears to have a good chance to mitigate the disastrous problem that has affected many of our residents. To us, it's pretty clear that little has been done to solve this problem, and now we have the opportunity to proactively reduce this risk. It appears to be a very easy decision, and doing nothing seems like a less than constructive approach.

We understand the money's in place to do this in the form of a grant, so please approve this project and let's act in the interest of the citizens of Ross.

Thank you for your service to our Town - we know it's not easy.

*Stanley & Karen Stern  
66 Bridge Road, Ross*

## Linda Lopez

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**From:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager  
**Sent:** Friday, December 8, 2017 10:14 AM  
**To:** Linda Lopez; Richard Simonitch  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ross Flood Control  
**Attachments:** Ross Town Council Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project.docx; ATT00001.htm

**From:** Gary Scales <[garrettscales@comcast.net](mailto:garrettscales@comcast.net)>  
**Date:** December 8, 2017 at 7:43:26 AM PST  
**To:** Elizabeth Robbins <[eliz.robbins@gmail.com](mailto:eliz.robbins@gmail.com)>, Elizabeth Brekhus <[elizabethb@brekhus.com](mailto:elizabethb@brekhus.com)>, "Kuhl, Beach" <[Beach.Kuhl@sedgwicklaw.com](mailto:Beach.Kuhl@sedgwicklaw.com)>, "Russell, P. Rupert" <[rrussell@sflaw.com](mailto:rrussell@sflaw.com)>, Julie McMillan <[juliemcmillan@comcast.net](mailto:juliemcmillan@comcast.net)>  
**Subject: Ross Flood Control**

Attached are some thoughts I respectfully ask you consider before voting on the "flood control" issue. I believe it is better to forego the so-called grant than risk making a really bad decision. Regardless, I have the utmost confidence and respect for your collective judgement and will fully support your decision. Thank you for your continued good efforts on behalf of all residents of Ross. Gary Scales

There are several reasons why the Ross Town Council should not approve the Ross Valley Flood Risk Management Project on December 14, 2017. The following are among the most compelling.

- 1) The Army Corps of Engineers, and their counterparts with the County of Marin, unanimously agree the concrete channel adjacent the Frederick S. Allen Park is the only section of the entire flood control culvert that has worked as designed and has never failed to carry all flood waters. Why would you destroy the only section of the culvert that always has protected Ross residents?
- 2) The specifications for removing the existing concrete culvert walls and widening the earthen section of FSA Park are designed for a six-year flood with purported benefit in a ten-year event. When the inevitable 25 or 50-year flood occurs, County staff has not produced meaningful hydraulic projections to indicate the flooding dynamics when the current functioning culvert is removed. What happens when the widened section reaches capacity? Where will the additional water go? Such an occurrence has the potential for a monumental disaster with the Town of Ross holding major liability responsibility for damages. Officials have stated the proposed plan will provide no material relief benefit for flooding that exceeds the 10-year benchmark.
- 3) Sediment build-up occurs each year under the Lagunitas Bridge. With the fish ladder removed, these rocks naturally will move downstream to the proposed earthen section at the Park. They will build up, as they always do, thus raising the water levels and inevitably diminishing the widening effect of the Park. The County has yet to produce documentation previously requested by Ross residents and other interested parties on this important issue. The engineers have acknowledged the silt build-up on the revised Park will resemble the conditions at the mouth of the Corte Madera Creek Culvert in Kentfield at low tide. Even without a six-year event, the County engineers portray a silt-covered Park landscape strewn with "Cheetos bags, plastic bottles" and other such detritus for most of the winter months. Not only would this be a continual eyesore, but will require ongoing maintenance expense. Is that what Ross residents want to see three plus months of the year?
- 4) By any environmental criterion, the proposed destruction of the existing mature trees and natural landscape within the FSA Park cannot be justified. These trees were planted by Ross Town residents and the children of Frederick S. Allen to honor their father's many years of dedicated service. They provide visual aesthetics, habit for wildlife, and serve as an important sound barrier. It will take many decades to restore the beauty and functionality of the existing full-grown trees and vegetation once they have been cut down.
- 5) The Town has been advised the Corps of Engineers is preparing a comprehensive flood control proposal with four alternative schemes. County Flood staff state these plans will be available by April 2018. The goal will be to address solving the major flooding occurring with 25 or 50-year floods, as well as the 6 to 10-year events. Why doesn't the Council delay its vote to allow Ross residents the opportunity to evaluate the Corps of Engineers alternative long-range flood control plans?
- 6) In 1980 the Town Council approved, with significant resident participation and support, a Corps endorsed flood control known as the Royston Plan. This was a relatively simple and economical solution for the section from the fish ladder to the new Lagunitas Road Bridge that embraced all the current objectives for flood control, riparian restoration and enhanced recreational opportunities.

The 1980 Royston Plan was designed to integrated the existing FSA Park section while maintaining proper flow velocity and water transition. Ross residents should be able to compare the benefits and costs of the Royston Plan with the current FSA Park widening proposal as well the April 2018 Corps of Engineers alternatives. Why should the Town Council be pressured into an "up or down" vote that is based solely on the threat of the loss of a partial funding grant for a project still fraught with unknowns and serious future liabilities? Why shouldn't Ross residents be allowed the opportunity to consider alternative plans that will offer more flood protection than a six-year event?

- 7) On December 14, 2017, the Town Council will meet to consider approval of the conceptual plans for the widening of the FSA Park. Two of the votes will be made by appointed Councilmembers whose terms will expire in six months. In June 2018 election for the two appointed seats on the Council will be held. The views and opinions of prospective candidates on flood control plan will play a very important part in the voters' decision. In a real sense, being forced by the County to vote on the flood control issue by December 14, 2017 disenfranchises Ross residents of their rights of representation on this crucial issue.

Ross residents deserve long-term comprehensive flood-control protection rather than stop-gap measures that do not address the realities of 25 and 50-year flood events. Ross residents should be allowed to consider the Army Corps of Engineers alternative options and the 1980 Royston Plan. Ross residents should be represented by a fully elected Council. The Town Council should postpone the flood control vote until after the June 2018 elections are held thus allowing Ross residents to evaluate available alternatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Scales  
4 Berry Lane, Ross

Ross Valley resident since 1940  
Graduate of Ross Grammar School 1953  
Ross Town Council 1978-1982 (Mayor 1982)  
Former Trustee Marin Art & Garden Center (Three terms)  
Current Trustee Moya Library-Ross Historical Society

## Linda Lopez

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**From:** Mimi <mimi\_mccarty@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 8, 2017 11:04 AM  
**To:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager; Linda Lopez  
**Cc:** Craig  
**Subject:** Flood control proposal

I am strongly in favor of the 3-part proposal for flood mitigation on Corte Madera Creek.

Regards,  
Mimi McCarty (Margaret R. McCarty)  
59 Poplar Avenue  
Ross 94957

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

## Linda Lopez

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**From:** Christopher Martin <zapwharf@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 8, 2017 11:06 AM  
**To:** CouncilAll  
**Cc:** Linda Lopez  
**Subject:** Frederick Allen Park Flood Reduction Project

Dear Town Council Members,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Flood Risk Reduction Project at Frederick Allen Park.

For too many years, floodwaters from the Corte Madera Creek have menaced our community threatening life and property. The Town's historical inaction to achieve solutions to reduce the severity of flooding is disturbing. Perhaps it was a lack of funding sources or other issues that delayed action for nearly 50 years. This Council finally is in a position to take action to reduce the degree of flooding in Ross and downstream communities. These flood reduction improvements can be achieved by 2020. It is time to take decisive action.

Your vote in favor of the Frederick Allen Park Flood Reduction Project will maintain the \$7.6 Million grant from the California Department of Water Resources. Your inaction will potentially jeopardize this grant.

The Frederick Allen Park Flood Reduction Project along with other alternatives will be considered and evaluated by the US Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies. This is not the Town Council's final vote on this project and this is not the final design.

I urge you to move forward with the project development process for the proposed Frederick Allen Park project. There will be opportunities in the future and throughout the process for public comment and Town Council review the of proposed project before final decisions are made.

Very Sincerely,

Christopher Martin

88 Shady Lane

## Linda Lopez

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**From:** Craig McCarty <Craig\_McCarty@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 8, 2017 11:14 AM  
**To:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager; Linda Lopez  
**Subject:** I Support Flood control proposal

I am strongly in favor of the 3-part proposal for flood mitigation on Corte Madera Creek.

Regards,  
Craig McCarty  
59 Poplar Avenue  
Ross 94957

## Linda Lopez

---

**From:** Eileen Thau <eileen.thau@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 8, 2017 11:40 AM  
**To:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager; Linda Lopez  
**Subject:** We support Flood Control Proposal

We are in favor of the 3-part proposal for flood mitigation on Corte Madera Creek.

Kevin and Eileen Thau

65 Poplar Ave #1135

Ross, CA 94957

**Linda Lopez**

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**From:** Tim Hill <t.hill@ggsir.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 8, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** Linda Lopez  
**Subject:** Flood control

I am strongly in favor of the 3-part proposal for flood mitigation on Corte Madera Creek.

Timothy Hill  
Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty  
49 Poplar Avenue  
Ross, Ca

15 3662 8580  
[Tim.Hill@SIR.com](mailto:Tim.Hill@SIR.com)  
Sent from my iPhone