

Cyndie Martel

From: John Crane <johncranefilms@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 1:07 PM
To: CouncilAll; Christa Johnson - Town Manager; Elizabeth Robbins; Beach Kuhl; Bill Kircher; Elizabeth Brekhus; Julie McMillan; Cyndie Martel
Subject: RE: SAFRR's HUGE MATH PROBLEM
Attachments: RV Z9 update 120722.pdf; SAFRR HUGE MATH PROBLEM.pdf

Cyndie Martel, Town Clerk & Administrative Manager

My apologies for sending twice, but I forgot to request: Please add my Comment Letter to Agenda item #10 re: Marin County Flood Control District's presentation

March 8, 2023

Town of Ross Mayor and Town Council

RE: SAFRR's HUGE MATH PROBLEM

Prior to meeting with the County, I hope the Mayor and Town Council will consider that the County has created a huge math problem for all concerned with the SAFRR project, and that it is incumbent for the Town of Ross to question its viability and future feasibility.

A December 7, 2022 a Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program Update shows Z9 flood fee revenues at \$56.9M, Grant Revenue \$20.1M and expenditures to date at \$52.1M. (Please see attached)

For Bridge Building 2, the update includes a 2023 Project Cost Summary showing \$3.7M spent to date (December 7, 2022), and BB2 estimated expenditures at \$6.2M for a total of \$9.9M. Only \$2M is allocated for mitigation.

Bridge Building 2 is eating up an amount equal to 50% of the grant money, and for the time being its removal and demolition and installation of the baffles offers no flood remediation whatsoever. Does the Town believe this course of action makes sense since there is no flood benefit?

In October 2022 Director Rosemarie Gaglione asked Liz Lewis if the Grant would have to be paid back if they didn't follow through. Liz Lewis answered in a single word: "Yes."

Does the Town of Ross believe that removing Bridge Building 2 to avoid paying back a grant while spending additional money on an unworkable plan - that will lead to additional fiscal irresponsibility - to be a prudent and responsible plan?

Compounding the financial mess, is that the funding for mitigation has not been addressed in a meaningful way and the County has long avoided the realities of FEMA mandated mitigation.

In 2020 the County presented Stetson's Site Inspection Memo of 2020 showed only 3 homes needed mitigation – but that overlooked FEMA regulations. Accordingly, that was revised in the 2021 Field Assessment Summary that upped the number to 19 homes. It is significant that the County has not presented a plan to most impacted homeowners. That will take considerable time and energy. And additional money.

Date of Survey	Number of Homes Surveyed	Number of Homes needing potential mitigation	Number of Home potentially raised
2020 Site Inspection Memo	13	3	0

2021 Field Assessment Summary	56	19	5
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Alarming the Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board March 31, 2022 staff report says that the 2021 cost to raise a home is \$700,000 to \$1.5 million. And since the staff report said only \$3M has been set aside, *"it is evident that additional funds will be needed."* The cost to raise 5 homes ranges from \$3.5M to \$7.5M.

I hope the Town Council recognizes that not only is mitigation line item – which says \$2M (not \$3M) - in the 2023 Project Cost Summary insufficient, but that:

1. The number of homes in need of potential mitigation is at least 19 or 20 (what about homes downstream of Sir Francis Drake Bridge where the SAFRR project ends, but the creek continues?)
2. The number of businesses needing mitigation has not been established
3. The budget for mitigation is unknown since no one knows how many homes and business need funding

Before retiring Liz Lewis, told the Board of Supervisors that additional funding was needed for mitigation. More recently Director Gaglione told the Board of Supervisors that: "we do have a grant from the Department of Water Resources to do the work of removal of installing the baffles if that is necessary, and then for all the mitigation work that is required."

The Town of Ross should demand that proof of funding for mitigation be provided, before any additional work is done on SAFRR. Circumventing FEMA "no-rise" regulation, as suggested by some, is not a solution as it will only put the Town of Ross in legal jeopardy and costly legal battles.

Pursuing SAFRR to avoid paying back a grant is unacceptable without flood benefit; getting around mitigation as required by FEMA, and harming residents in the process is morally and legally reprehensible.
Bottom line: This does not add up.

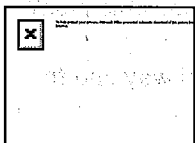
Respectfully,

John Crane
86 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Ross, CA

John Crane Films

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Respectfully,

John Crane

86 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Ross, CA

Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program Update

DECEMBER 07, 2022



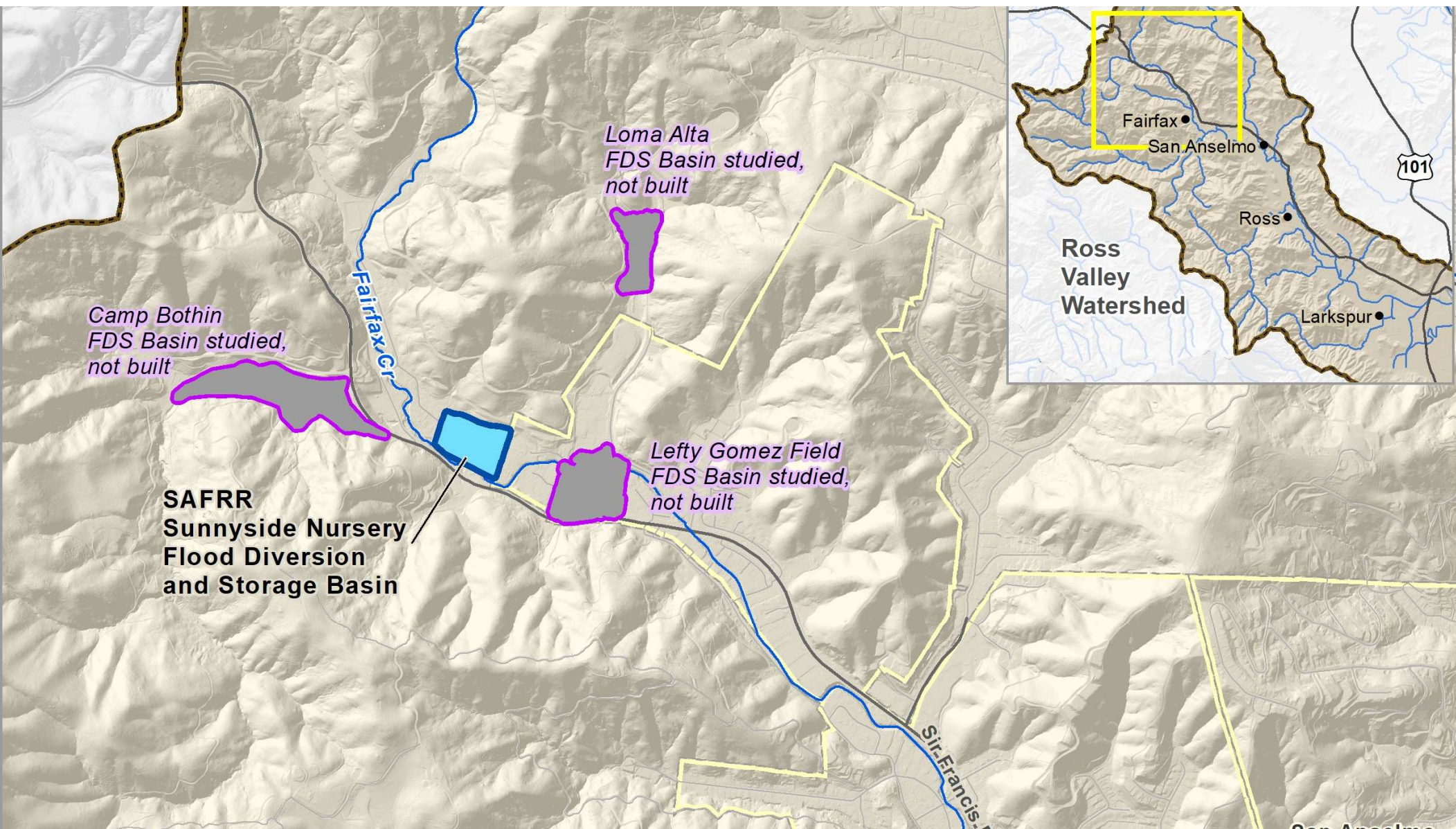
MarinFloodDistrict.org
Contact us: 415-473-6528
bdavidson@marincounty.org

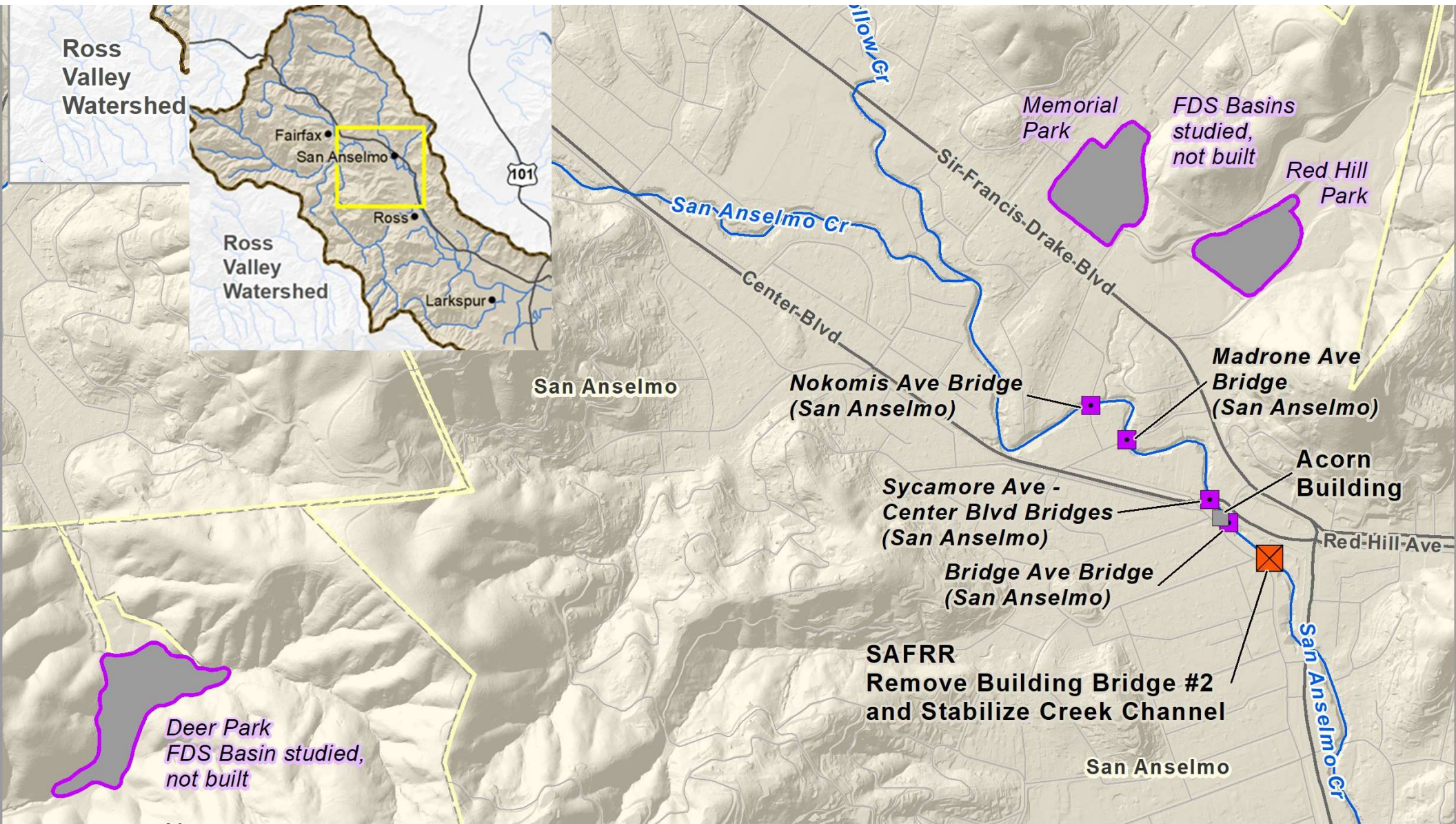
Agenda

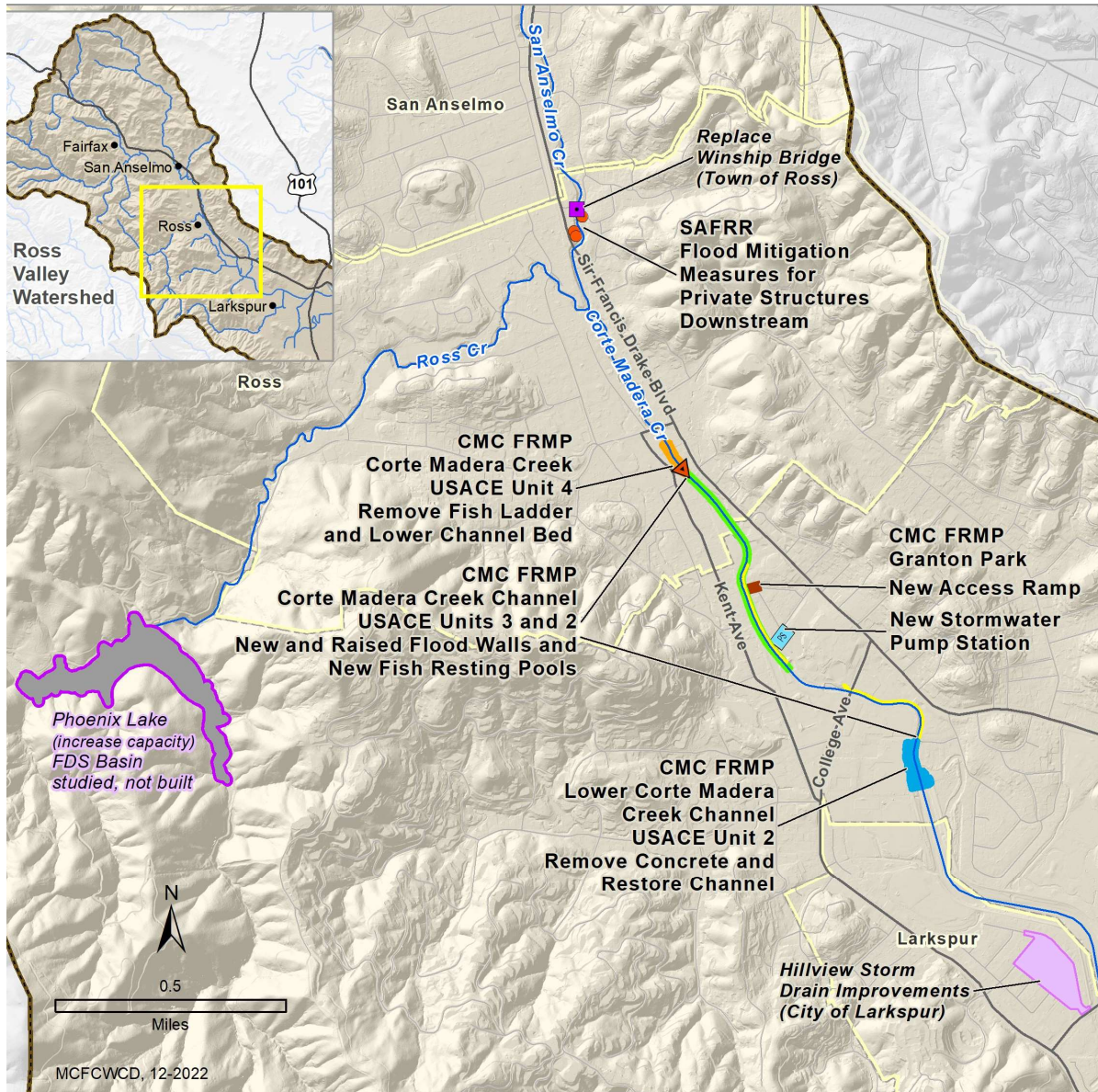
- Overview of District funding and projects (10 minutes)
- Discussion: Bridge removal project within next year -Is this a shared goal? (20 minutes)
- If we have agreement on shared goal, what are the next steps to make it happen? (20 minutes)
- Planning for future meetings? (10 minutes)

Ross Valley Program-Flood Zone 9 Fee Revenue and Project Expenses through 2022

Revenue	\$56.9M
Fee Revenue through FY 22	\$36.8M
Grant Revenue	\$20.1M
Projected fee revenue FY 23-27	\$14.7M
Expenditures to date	\$52.1M
Work Plan-Flood Risk Reduction Projects	\$40.4M
Creek Maintenance Funding: Towns and County	\$1.0M
Engineering and Feasibility Studies	\$10.7M
<input type="checkbox"/> Lefty Gomez Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Loma Alta Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Deer Park Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Park Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Lower Sleepy Hollow Creek improvements <input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix Lake Dual Purpose	







2023 Project Cost Summary

REMOVAL OF BUILDING BRIDGE #2-EXPENDITURES TO DATE

Building Bridge #2 expenditures to date

Design*	\$1,500,000
Demolition of building	\$ 120,000
Purchase	\$1,750,000
<u>Tenant Relocation</u>	<u>\$ 330,000</u>
	\$3,700,000

Building Bridge #2-estimated expenditures

FEMA compliance	\$200,000
Construction	\$4,000,000
<u>Residential mitigation</u>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>
	\$6,200,000

<u>Total</u>	<u>\$9,900,000</u>
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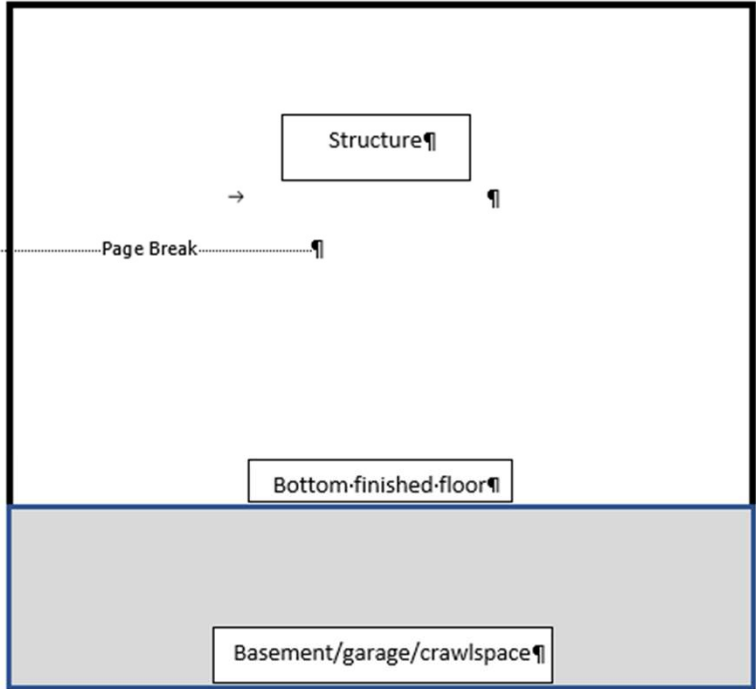
*Design amount includes other costs including project management, State and Federal permitting, FEMA process

Recommended Next Steps

FEMA Compliance

- ☐ Letter to FEMA from Ross, San Anselmo and County requesting written feedback on flood mitigation measures and next steps
- ☐ Forgo baffle and current MT-2 application
- ☐ Complete FEMA process

Stetson¶
Ex·BFE=-38.49¶
New·BFE=-39.84¶



FEMA¶
Ex·BFE=37.7¶
·New·BFE=-39.05¶

FF=-37.57¶

LAG=-36.95¶