

From: [Charlie Goodman](#)
To: [Zach Koblick de Leon](#); [CouncilAll](#); [Julie McMillan](#); [Elizabeth Robbins](#); [C. William Kircher](#); [Teri Dowling](#); [Mathew Salter](#)
Cc: [Charlie Goodman](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement Project; Agenda Item #17 for July 9, 2026 Town Council Meeting
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2026 5:38:21 PM

July 7, 2026

To Ross Town Council (Mayor Julie McMillan, Elizabeth Robbins, Teri Dowling, Bill Kircher & Mathew Salter)

Re: Agenda Item 17, July 9, 2026

Dear Mayor McMillan and Ross Council Members:

I am writing regarding the proposed replacement of the existing Winship Avenue Bridge over San Anselmo Creek. I understand this is Richard Simonitch's last meeting, and the Bridge replacement project is posted on the July 9, 2026, agenda as an update.

For the record, I am restating my reasons for opposing the Bridge replacement project, which I have raised several times before.

1. Flood-control impacts cannot be treated as "stand-alone" projects: In pausing two flood projects, the County acknowledges having learned the consequences of trying to implement individual, stand-alone projects to address flood control across the Ross Valley. Actions that reduce flood risk in one location can change water elevations and flow paths that affect other locations downstream, creating adverse impacts for others. This concern directly applies to the Winship Avenue Bridge replacement project, which is expected to reduce flooding upstream of the bridge while downstream risk and impacts are uncertain.

The Winship Avenue Bridge is approximately one-half mile upstream of my home at 20 Sylvan Lane. My home sits on a parcel adjacent to Corte Madera Creek and is downstream of the Winship Avenue Bridge. Despite discussion of mitigation, no representative associated with the Winship Avenue Bridge project has visited my home or any home on Sylvan Lane to offer site-specific assessment. We are also being told there will be "no rise" in water elevation risk to our homes. I take immense exception to this misleading statement, and anticipate mitigation is a more likely requirement.

2. FEMA involvement should be sought up front to determine whether the proposed new Winship Bridge complies with FEMA's "no rise" requirement for floodway projects through CLOMR.

At the last Zone 9 Advisory Board Meeting of the Marin County Flood Control District on June 25, 2026, County representatives discussed **Lessons Learned** from the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project (SAFRR) failure.

In my view, FEMA should be involved at the earliest stage for all proposed projects to determine whether a valid “no rise” situation exists, rather than spending an estimated \$10 million or more on consultants’ fees, studies, and planning that may later prove wasted.

3. Pattern of failed flood-control projects supports continued skepticism
The Ross Town Council is aware that there have been numerous failed flood-control projects, including:
 - The Sunnyside Nursery detention basin, which holds less than 20% capacity than promised by its original design.
 - The SAFRR project in San Anselmo, cancelled after many years of planning and expense.
 - The Fred Allen Park project cancelled; the County now states the fish ladder in Ross cannot be removed unless there is a “no rise” with potential mitigation for up to 200 homes downstream.
 - The infeasible project to transform Phoenix Lake into a detention basin.

On all these failed projects, citizens have raised objections grounded in facts, challenged the viability of those efforts, and documented the potential for damaging downstream consequences. Has this become a Ross Valley tradition?

Conclusion:

Given the above, I respectfully request that the County, and any entities supporting the project, including the Town of Ross, pause or revise the project update process until:

(a) FEMA assesses and confirms ‘no rise’ conditions; (b) meaningful, site-specific outreach and mitigation planning are conducted with affected downstream properties, including homes on Sylvan Lane such as my own at 20 Sylvan Lane.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. Please include this statement as part of the record for the July 9, 2026, agenda item.

Sincerely,

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