

JOHN A. FANTHAM
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

County of Santa Cruz

399

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 410, SANTA CRUZ, CA 950604070
(931) 454-2160 FAX (831) 454-2385 TDD (831) 454-2123

AGENDA: MARCH 23, 1999

March 16, 1999

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 Ocean Street

Santa Cruz, California 95060

SUBJECT: PAJARO RIVER WATERSHED BASIN FLOOD CONTROL

Members of the Board:

On November 24, 1998, your Board received the last status report on efforts to work cooperatively with Santa Clara, San Benito, and Monterey counties to address flood control problems within the Pajaro River Basin. Your Board directed that another status report be presented today.

As indicated in the last report (Attachment I), the Army Corps has not been able to proceed on developing a Pajaro River Basin Flood Control Study because the necessary \$100,000 appropriations were not included in the 1999 federal budget. In an attempt to remedy this situation, staff prepared a letter (Attachment II) to the California Water Commission requesting its support for a mid-year addition to the federal budget. Congressman Farr and the Army Corps received copies of the letter. In addition, staff has met with Army Corps representatives and discussed the study by telephone on numerous occasions to keep the issue in the forefront.

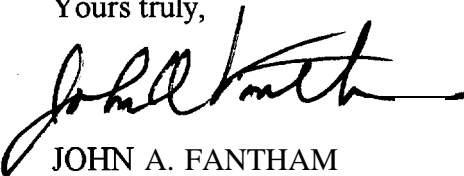
The Commission met Friday, March 5, 1999, and considered the request for support for a mid-year congressional add to the federal budget and was supportive. As your Board is aware, pursuit of a mid-year add was intended to facilitate initiation of the basin-wide study in the coming months. Based on recent discussions with the Army Corps San Francisco District representatives, County staff had the understanding that the Army Corps had the capability to initiate work at this time. However, the Army Corps Division representative at the hearing cited difficulties with beginning a new project study in mid year but supported offering it in the next

federal budget. Consequently the commission acted to support \$100,000 of federal funds in the year 2000 federal budget for the Basin study. Because the California Water Commission has a great deal of influence on the federal level, it is very unlikely that a mid-year add will be successful without the Commission's support. Therefore, staff proposes to draft letters supporting the inclusion of funding in the year 2000 federal budget. Unfortunately, deferring inclusion of this funding to the year 2000 budget will delay initiation of this study for nearly one year.

Staff has also sent a letter to Assemblymember Keeley (Attachment III) updating his office on the status of the four-county effort and indicating the County's continued support for formalizing the relationship between the various Pajaro River Basin agencies, as well as requesting his continued assistance.

It is therefore recommended that your Board accept and file this report on cooperative efforts with neighboring counties to identify flood control options for the Pajaro River Watershed Basin and direct that the next status report be presented on June 15, 1999.

Yours truly,

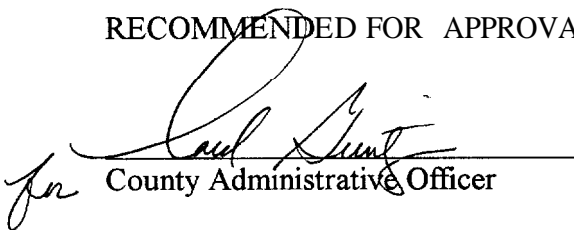


JOHN A. FANTHAM
Director of Public Works

PCR:mg

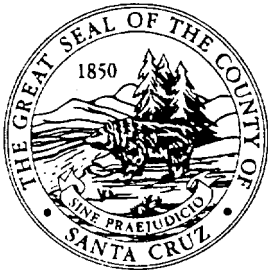
Attachments

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL,:


for County Administrative Officer

copy to: Zone 7 Board of Directors
Carlos J. Palacios, Watsonville City Manager
Watsonville Public Works Department
Public Works Department
Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District
Assemblymember Fred Keeley
United States Representative Sam Farr

401



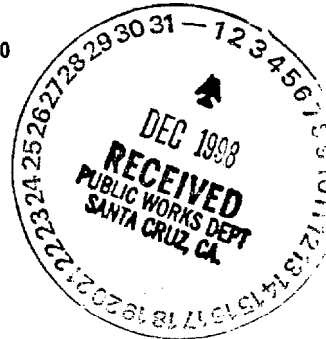
FILE COPY

County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 410, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4070
(831) 454-2160 FAX (831) 454-2385 TDD (831) 454-2123


JOHN A. FANTHAM
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS



APPROVED AND FILED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DATE: November 24, 1998
CLERK: SUSAN A. MARCHELLO
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE BOARD

AGENDA: November 24, 1998

November 18, 1998

 DEPUTY

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

SUBJECT: PAJARO RIVER <WATERSHED BASIN

Members of the Board::

On-August 25, 1998, your Board considered a report and adopted a resolution (Attachment I) agreeing to work cooperatively with neighboring counties to assess the nature of flood risk throughout the Pajaro River Watershed basin. Santa Clara, San Benito and Monterey Counties adopted similar resolutions.

In response to this show of good faith, legislation mandating a Joint Powers Authority between the four counties to assess Pajaro River flooding problems was discontinued. Letters were sent (Attachment II) requesting that \$100,000 in federal funds be appropriated for a Reconnaissance Study by the Army Corps of Engineers to assess the entire Pajaro River Basin. Unfortunately, no funds were allocated for this purpose in the 1999 federal budget.

Public Works staff are meeting with representatives from Assemblymember Keeley's office to review alternate approaches for coordinating future discussions between the four counties. However, in the absence of federal funds in the coming year for the necessary Army Corps study, progress has slowed somewhat, as staff has focused on more immediate Pajaro River flood control options for Santa Cruz County. It is anticipated that a four county meeting to discuss basin wide flood assessment options will be held in January 1999.

It is therefore recommended that the Board of Supervisors accept and file this status report on cooperative efforts with neighboring counties to assess flood risks throughout the Pajaro River Watershed Basin and direct that the next status report be presented on or before March 23, 1999.

Yours truly,

For *Charlie A Jones Jr*
JOHN A. FANTHAM
Director of Public Works

PCR:rw

Attachments

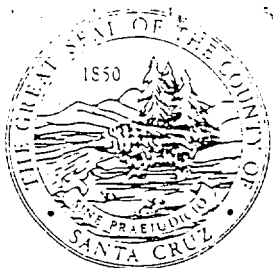
RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:

County Administrative Officer

copy to: Public Works ✓

NO.	ROUTE DATA	COPY	ATT.
1	DIRECTOR	✓	
	ASST. DIR. OPF.		
	CSA/CLAIMS		
	OPR. PROJ/PKKG		
	PERMITS/ENCR		
	RDS/DRAIN/EQP		
	SANIT./LANDF		
2	ASST. DIR. PS.	✓	
	CONSTRUCTION		
3	DRAINAGE	✓	
	SANIT. ENG		
	SOLID WASTE		
	ASST. DIR. R.E.		
	DESIGN		
	R.D.A.		
	RD. PLAN/TRAFF		
	SURVEY		
	CHIEF ADM. SVC		
	REAL PROPERTY		

PARWR



County of Santa Cruz 403

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 550, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060.4069

(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

WALTER J. SYMONS
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

March 1, 1999

California Water Commission
1415 9th Street, Room 1148
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: PAJARO RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to request your Commission's assistance and support in requesting that the United States Congress provide a mid-year appropriation of \$100,000 in this year's federal budget for a Pajaro River Basin Flood-Control Study by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

The Pajaro River Watershed Basin encompasses approximately 1,300 square miles of land within San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. The Pajaro River then makes a natural boundary between Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties before emptying into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Numerous flood events have plagued areas adjacent to the river over the years, particularly in the final 10 miles before it reaches the Bay. The Army Corps constructed levees along the lower Pajaro River System in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties in 1949; however, the flooding has continued. The first instance of levee overtopping occurred in 1955. More recently failure of the levee systems, with resultant severe flooding, has occurred in two of the past five years.

Last summer, the four counties, the Cities of Watsonville, Gilroy, Morgan Hill and Hollister, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the San Benito County Water District, and the Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Zone 7 all adopted resolutions agreeing to work cooperatively toward addressing flooding problems within the Pajaro River Basin. One of the first steps identified in this cooperative effort is the need for the Army Corps to prepare a basin-wide flood control study of the Pajaro River System. At this time, the County of Santa Cruz Flood Control and Water Conservation District Zone 7 would act as the project sponsor. When a more formalized relationship is developed between the many interested agencies, project sponsorship could transition to a multi-agency jurisdiction.

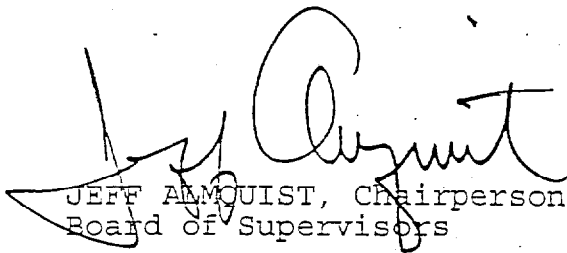
March 1, 1999
Page 2

The Army Corps of Engineers has indicated that this study can be accomplished under existing Congressional authorizations if the necessary appropriations are made available. Unfortunately, local efforts to include the necessary funds in the final 1999 budget were unsuccessful. It is hoped that with your Commission's support, together with more concerted effort from our numerous benefitting jurisdictions, that a request for these mid-year appropriations will be approved.

The County of Santa Cruz, in concert with the City of Watsonville and Monterey County, has been working for many years with the Army Corps to plan, design, and construct flood control improvements along the lower Pajaro River and two of its tributaries, Salsipuedes and Corralitos Creeks. These lower Pajaro River improvements are intended to protect the City of Watsonville, the town of Pajaro, and adjacent Unincorporated areas in both counties from flooding during 50 to 100 year storm events. A brief summary of the history, goals and key issues associated with these efforts is attached. We believe that approval of funding and completion of a Pajaro River Basin Flood Control Study is an important first step in our efforts to secure necessary federal and State funds for these critically needed flood control projects.

We will have representatives available at your March 5, 1999, meeting to respond to any question your Commission might have. In addition, please feel free to contact Peter Cota-Robles, Pajaro River Flood Control Coordinator, by telephone at 831-454-2816 or by e-mail at <dpw257@co.santa-cruz.ca.us>. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


JEFF ALMQUIST, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors


OSCAR RIOS, Mayor
City of Watsonville



BETTY BOBEDA, Chairperson
Flood Control and Water Conservation District Zone 7

Attachment

cc: Congress Member Sam Farr; Senator Bruce McPherson;
Assembly Member Fred Keeley; Assembly Member. Peter Frusetta;
Monterey County; San Benito County; Santa Clara County;
City Council, City of Watsonville; City of Gilroy; City of
Morgan Hill; City of Hollister; Santa Clara Valley Water
District; San Benito County Water District; Santa Cruz
County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Zone 7;
Santa Cruz County Administrative Office; Santa Cruz County
Public Works Department; Army Corps of Engineers, San
Francisco



County of Santa Cruz

FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT-ZONE7

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 410, SANTA CRUZ, CA 950604070
(631) 454-2160 FAX (831) 454-2335 TDD (831) 454-2123

JOHN A. FANTHAM
DISTRICT ENGINEER

February 24, 1999

ASSEMBLYMEMBER FRED KEELEY
701 Ocean Street, Room 318-B
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: PAJARO RIVER WATERSHED

Dear Assemblymember Keeley:

This is 2 response to your letter dated February 10, 1999, inquiring into the status of the efforts of the Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Zone 7 to implement the four-county multi-jurisdictional study to assess the nature of flood risks throughout the Pajaro River Basin.

As you are aware, Zone 7 of the Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District adopted a resolution on August 25, 1998, supporting a combined effort between the appropriate agencies in San Benito, Santa Clara, Monterey and Santa Cruz counties to carry out a Pajaro River Basin flood control study. Prior to adoption of this resolution, a meeting was held on July 30, 1998, with other jurisdictions to better define and initiate efforts toward the study. In addition, Congressman Farr's office took the initiative to pursue \$100,000 to fund the study as an Army Corps of Engineers Reconnaissance Level Study in the federal 1999 budget. Unfortunately, the funding for the study was not included in the final federal budget.

As a consequence of the lack of federal funding, local agencies have not met since July. Our agency contacted your staff in January and volunteered to coordinate further meetings. However, we believe given the history of the multi-jurisdictional efforts, it would be more effective if an agency outside Santa Cruz County takes the lead role in the short term, and ultimately this could lead to a joint powers authority or some comparable multi-agency agreement.

Our district remains strongly supportive of efforts to move forward on a basin-wide approach to flood control along the Pajaro River. We believe that multi-jurisdictional support is critical to our efforts to achieve approval of state/federal funded flood control projects to protect the City of Watsonville, the town of Pajaro, and the surrounding agricultural areas

We are currently working with the City of Watsonville to prepare requests to the California Water Commission to ask its support for a midyear addition to the federal budget to allow the **Pajaro River Basin Army Corps** study to proceed. If the Commission includes the **\$100,000 Pajaro Basin Study** in their midyear requests to Congress, we will request Congressman **Farr** to again lend his support to the funding. Any assistance your office can provide in supporting this request for support to the California Water Commission: in addition to further steps toward approval of midyear federal funding, would be much appreciated. In addition, it is important to note that Zone 7 has continued to work closely with the City of Watsonville and the Army Corps of Engineers to further the study and design process for federal flood control projects to provide flood protection for the City of Watsonville and surrounding unincorporated areas. However, as stated earlier, broad-based support from all agencies and political representatives from the entire Pajaro River Basin is critical if funds are to be made available for final design and construction of these projects.

I hope this information addresses the questions raised in your letter. If you have any further questions or concerns on this matter, please feel free to contact me or Peter Cota-Robles of this office at (831) 454-2816. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours truly,)



JOHN A. FANTHAM
District Engineer

PCR:mg

copy to: Congressman Sam Farr
Board of Supervisors
Zone 7 Board of Directors
City of Watsonville
Santa Clara Valley Water District
County Administrative Office

KEM

Pajaro River Flood Control Background Summary

Brief History

- 1936 Federal Flood Control Act authorizes preliminary study by Army Corps.
- 1949 Levee system construction is completed.
- 1955 First flood event to overtop levees.
- 1963 Interim Report identifies design deficiency.
- 1966 Federal Flood Control Act authorizes new project.
- 1974 Flood Control Alternatives Plan completed by Army Corps.
- 1975 Local farmers/residents speak out against proposed 100 year project.
- 1992 SCCFC&WCD Zone 7 is formed to generate maint. & local match funds.
- 1993 Army Corps Pajaro River Recon Study finds no + benefit mainstem project.
- 1995 Major flood event breaches levees; flows exceed design capacity
- 1995 Pajaro River Channel cleared above Highway 1
- 1997 Pajaro River levees resurfaced above Highway 1
- 1998 Most recent flood event
- 1998 Army Corps Gen 'Reevaluation Report finds 50 year mainstem proj cost effective
- 1999 GRR completed identifying Salsipuedes/Corralitos Creek project alternatives

Flood Protection Goal:

50 to 100 year level of flood capacity (0.2 to 0.1) recurrence interval

Current Capacity:

Pajaro River Mainstem: 22 to 25 year (4%) recurrence interval

Corralitos/Salsipuedes Creek System: Approx 8 year (12%) recurrence interval

Current Cost Estimates":

Pajaro River Mainstem 50 Year Project:	\$42 Million (Sec 216 Initial Appraisal)
Local/State Cost:	\$2 1 Million
Pajaro River Mainstem 100 Year Project:	\$100 Million (Current Guestimate)
Local/State Cost:	\$50 Million
Corralitos/Salsipuedes Creek 50 Year Project:	\$18 Million (General Reevaluation Report)
Local/State Cost:	\$9 Million
Corralitos/Salsipuedes Creek 70 Year Project:	\$24 Million (General Reevaluation Report)
Local/State Cost:	\$ 12 Million
Corralitos/Salsipuedes Creek 100 year Project:	\$41 Million (General Reevaluation Report)
Local/State Cost:	\$14 Million

* Cost estimates based on standard 65135 Army Corps cost share formula w/ local agency responsible for bridge replacement, offsite mitigation, land acquisition, etc.

Pajaro River Flood Control Strategies and Issues

Local Funding:

Currently, the key issue in achieving high level flood control along the Pajaro River and Salsipuedes/Corralitos Creeks is reducing the amount and identifying a source for “local” funds required to design and construct a project.

- Required local funds for the entire project (including Monterey County portions) are estimated at \$10 million to \$64 million depending on the level of flood control selected and the manner in which the project funding is approved on the Federal level (which will dictate “local” cost share amounts).
- “Local” funds can be provided by either the State or by local agencies under the Federal criteria.
- It is extremely unlikely that more than \$2 million to \$3 million dollars can be generated in Santa Cruz County for local match costs due to limited bonding ability resulting from the law suit and the limited financial resources of residents in the impacted area. Options for additional funds include formation of an assessment district on benefitting parcels (this would require election approval).

Nest Steps:

- Pursue \$ 100,000 federal mid-year budget add for Pajaro Basin Study.
- Continue to work closely with the Army Corps to complete the design process for a 50 to 100 year flood protection project.
- Work with local agencies and stakeholders to finalize consensus on a preferred local alternative for the project.
- Prepare RFP and hire Federal/State level lobbyists to support options which maximize the percentage of state/federal flood control funding.
- Establish an active bipartisan coalition of local State and Federal elected officials to support, promote and sponsor the Pajaro River Flood Control Project approaches which maximize the percentage of state/federal flood control funding.