

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ZONE 7 MEETING
SANTA CRUZ BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS
701 OCEAN STREET

0711

9:00 A.M.

April 9, 2002

- A. Roll Call
- B. Consideration of Late Additions
- C. Additions and Deletions

1. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - The Board ~~will~~ receive Oral Communications. Any person ~~may~~ address the Board during its Oral Communications period. Presentations must not exceed three minutes, must be directed to an item not listed on today's Agenda, and must be within the jurisdiction of the Board. Board members ~~will~~ not take action or respond immediately to any Oral Communications presented, but ~~may~~ choose to follow up at a later time, either individually, or on a subsequent District Agenda.
- 1.1 AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ZONE 7, continued hearing on the Pajaro River Management Plan-Certification of Final Environmental Impact Report



County of Santa Cruz 0713

FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT -ZONE 7

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

THOMAS L. BOLICH
DISTRICT ENGINEER

AGENDA: APRIL 9, 2002

April 3, 2002

BOARD OF DIRECTORS-ZONE 7
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: PAJARO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN
CERTIFICATION OF FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Members of the Board:

On March 19, 2002, your Board considered a report on the Pajaro River Management Plan and continued the public hearing to this date.

Several documents had been previously provided to your Board relative to this item. All of the documents were combined and provided to your Board prior to this meeting. A copy is also on file with the Clerk of the Board. The documents include the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Pajaro River, Salsipuedes and Corralitos Creeks Management and Restoration Plan, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Findings, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

As indicated in our last report, once the Environmental Impact Report is certified, it will be necessary for the Public Works Department to obtain required permits from local, State and Federal regulatory agencies. These agencies include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 404 Permit, with National Marine Fisheries Service consultation), State Fish and Game (Section 1603 - Streambed Alteration Permit), State Coastal Commission, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the County Planning Department (Grading and Riparian Exception). Public Works has been informed that these permits must be issued before maintenance operations can begin this summer.

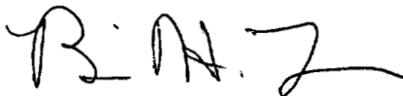
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS-ZONE 7
Page -2-

It is therefore recommended that the Board of Supervisors take the following action:

1. Receive public testimony.
2. Adopt the CEQA findings.
3. Certify the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Pajaro River and Salsipuedes and Corralitos Creeks Management and Restoration Plan to be in conformance with the requirements of CEQA.
4. Direct the Public Works Department to pursue required permits for the maintenance of the existing Pajaro River Levee System (including Salsipuedes and Corralitos Creeks), as provided under Alternative 6 in the Draft EIR.

Yours truly,

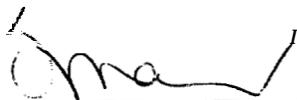


For THOMAS L. BOLICH
District Engineer

PC-R:mg

Attachments

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:



County Administrative Officer

copy to: Zone 7 Board of Directors
 Carlos J. Palacios, Manager, City of Watsonville
 Monterey County Water Resources Agency
 Planning Department
 County Council
 Public Works Department



0715 ~~0343~~

County of Santa Cruz

FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT - ZONE 7

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THOMAS L. BOLICH
DISTRICT ENGINEER

AGENDA: MARCH 19, 2002

March 5, 2002

BOARD OF DIRECTORS-ZONE 7
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: PAJARO RIVER MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN

Members of the Board:

On January 15, 2002, your Board received a report on the Pajaro River Management and Restoration Plan (Attachment I) and directed that a further report be submitted today regarding certification of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the plan.

The draft and final EIRs for the project have been transmitted to your Board, other agencies and members of the public by the Santa Cruz County Planning Department under separate cover. The transmittal letter for the EIR is included as Attachment II. The EIR was completed under the direction of the Planning Department and in conformance with state law. As stated in the Planning Department's transmittal, as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) recognized lead agency, your Board is the body which reviews the EIR for certification purposes. Included at the conclusion of this report is a recommendation that your Board certify the document.

As directed by your Board, the EIR was prepared based on a proposed project calling for ongoing maintenance of the existing Pajaro River Levee System in conformance with Alternative 2 of the Pajaro River Management and Restoration Plan, as well as in the Pajaro River 1998 Bank Erosion Assessment and historical tributary maintenance practices as outlined in a 1999 summary report by Public Works. The project is described in detail in Section 2.0 beginning on page 9 of the Draft EIR.

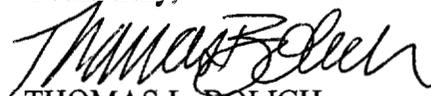
The EIR reviewed 7 alternatives including the "No Project" alternative, as described on page 136 of the Draft EIR. In conformance with CEQA, a "Mitigated Alternative" (Alternative 6) was developed. This alternative combines the proposed project with mitigation measures designed by the consultants to address project impacts. Pursuit of a maintenance approach which does not include some or all of the mitigation measures would require a finding of overriding consideration by your Board.

J. J.

As indicated in our last report, once the EIR is certified, it will be necessary for the Public Works Department to obtain required permits from local, state and federal regulatory agencies. These agencies include the U.S. Army Corps (Section 404 Permit, with National Marine Fisheries Service consultation), the State Department of Fish and Game (Section 1603 - Streambed Alteration Permit), the State Coastal Commission, and the County Planning Department (Grading and Riparian Exception). Public Works has been informed that these permits must be issued before maintenance operations can begin this summer.

It is therefore recommended that your Board certify the EIR to be in conformance with CEQA requirements and direct the Public Works Department to pursue required permits for maintenance of the existing Pajaro River Levee System (including Salsipuedes and Corralitos Creeks) as provided under Alternative 6 in the Draft EIR.

Yours, truly,

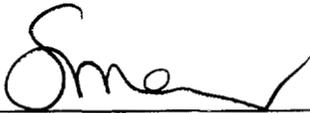


THOMAS L. BOLICH
District Engineer

PCR:abc

Attachments

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:



County Administrative Officer

copy to: Zone 7 Board of Directors
Carlos J. Palacios, Manager, City of Watsonville
Public Works

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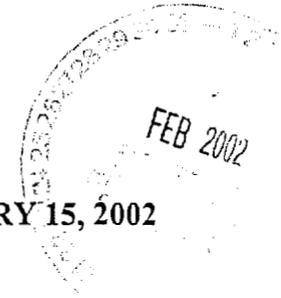
County of S'anta Cruz

FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT - ZONE 7

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THOMAS L BOLICH
DISTRICT ENGINEER

APPROVED ZONE 7



**Santa Cruz County Flood Control
and Water Conservation District**

AGENDA: JANUARY 15, 2002

January 3, 2002

By Sharon Mitchell Date 1/5/02
Deputy Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF DIRECTORS-ZONE 7
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
701 Ocean Street
Santa CNZ, CA 95060

SUBJECT: PAJARO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Members of the Board:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a status report on the methodology and permitting associated with maintenance of the current Pajaro River and Salsipuedes/Corralitos Creek levees and river channels. As your Board is aware, the Pajaro River Management and Restoration Plan, and the Pajaro River 1998 Erosion Assessment were prepared some time ago to provide guidelines for these maintenance activities. In addition, maintenance specifications for Salsipuedes and Corralitos Creeks have been prepared by Public Works staff. Under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, these three documents were submitted for environmental review. A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was completed in September of this year. Copies of the DEIR were circulated for public review. It is posted on the Santa Cruz County Planning Department's web site at www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/pln.eirpajaro/cover.pdf.

A final Environmental Impact Report (EJR) is currently being prepared and it is anticipated that it will be released by the end of January. Both the final and draft EIR volumes will be brought to your Board for certification at your next meeting on March 19, 2002. Once the EIR is certified, Public Works will apply for required maintenance permits from the Planning Department and the California Department of Fish and Game. A permit application has already been filed with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, which does not require prior completion of an EIR for necessary federal approvals. A time line identifying these steps is included as Attachment I.

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Maintenance activities over the past few years have been conducted under short term interim approvals from local and state regulatory agencies, granted to allow completion of the management plan and environmental review, however these temporary approvals have now expired. It is therefore important that we move expeditiously to complete the environmental review and permitting process to allow ongoing maintenance activities to continue this summer.

It is therefore recommended that your Board accept and file this status report and direct that a further report be submitted regarding certification of the EIR on the Pajaro River Management and Restoration Plan at your next meeting on March 19,2002.

Yours truly,



THOMAS L. BOLICH
District Engineer

PCR:bbs

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:

County Administrative Officer

copy to: Zone 7 Board of Directors
Carlos J. Palacios, Manager, City of Watsonville
Public Works Department ✓

NO.	ROUTE DATA	COPY	ATT.
1	DIRECTOR	✓	
2	ASST. DIR. SPEC. SVCS.	✓	
	SOLID WASTE ENG.		
	LANDFILL OPERATIONS		
3	PAJARO COORD.	✓	
	DRAINAGE ENG.		
	DRAINAGE OPERATIONS		
	CONSTRUCT. ENG.		
	ASST. DIR. DEV. SVCS.		
	SANITATION ENG.		
	WATER & WASTEWATER		
	SURVEY / DEVELOPMT.		
	ASST. DIR. TRANSPORT.		
	ROAD OPS. ENG.		
	PERMITS / ENCROACH.		
	RD. MAINT. OPERATIONS		
	RDA ENG.		
	ROAD DESIGN ENG.		
	TRANSP / RD. PLANNING		
	DIR. OF ADMIN. SERVICES		
	REAL PROPERTY/ FLEET		
	CSA / PRGM ADMIN.		
	SAFETY OFFICER/LIVE OAK P.		
	PERSONNEL / MIS		

JAMES F. VAN HOUTEN
CIVIL ENGINEER
28 ARBOLADO DRIVE
LA SELVA BEACH, CA. 95076
831-684-1861

March 18, 2002

Chair and Members of the Board
Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to protest the proposed certification of the Pajaro River Management and Restoration Plan (PRMRP). Please consider my letter to Kim Tshantz of October 31, 2001 as a part of this protest.

I received the document containing the responses to the DEIR and the responses to comments by your consultant Harding ESE.

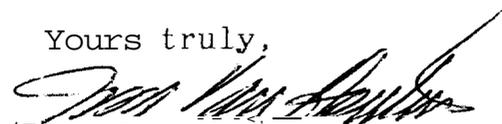
Your consultant has stated that biological restoration must wait for a large scale project using setback levees and that the work envisioned by the PRMRP should be considered as a short term interim project that lessens the impact of management actions within the existing levee system.

The PRMRP will unreasonably increase environmental impacts and fails to adequately address the environmental damages done to the river corridor by prior illegal and excessive clearing of the channel.

Your consultant's responses to comments by NMFS and State DF&G are inadequate and will surely lead you to propose maintenance projects that will not be permitted. They could also lead to legal action to enforce State and Federal laws designed to protect rare and endangered species.

I urge you to reject the findings of your consultant and reconsider both the PRMRP and the DEIR that inaccurately describes its environmental impacts.

Yours truly,


/Jim Van Houten