




TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

June 6, 2018

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Garrett Toy, Town Manager 
Ben Berto, Planning & Building Services Director

SUBJECT: Receive public comment and discuss the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project

RECOMMENDATION

Receive public comment and discuss the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project.

DISCUSSION

The draft environmental impact report for the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project has been released. The report presents an analysis of the environmental impacts of potential flood mitigation projects. The proposed project is intended to improve public safety and protect residential and business properties along Fairfax and San Anselmo creeks in the Ross Valley.

The DEIR is available for review online at: <http://www.marinwatersheds.org/resources/news/draft-report-san-anselmo-flood-risk-reduction-project-released>. A hardcopy is also available for review at the Fairfax branch of the Marin County Library and on the front counter of Town Hall.

EIRs require public agencies to document and consider the potential environmental implications of their actions. The San Anselmo Project EIR contemplates a proposed project comprised of two complementary parts. A basin to temporarily divert and store floodwater is proposed at the former Sunnyside Nursery site at 3000 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, about a mile north of downtown Fairfax. The basin would be coupled with the anticipated acquisition and removal of a building at 634-636 San Anselmo Avenue that obstructs the creek's natural flow. The flood risk reduction project is proposed to be funded by a \$8.7 million state grant and \$8.7 million in local match funds coming from Ross Valley property owners' storm water fee.

The public has 45 days to comment on the report's findings, from May 17 to July 2. Feedback received during that stage will be addressed in the final project EIR, which will be prepared following the close of the public comment period. The final project EIR is expected to be brought before the Flood District Board of Supervisors for consideration in August.

Staff intends to provide comments on the DEIR regarding the project's potential impacts on the Town infrastructure (e.g., roads) and environment (e.g., traffic) during the construction period (approximately 8 months in 2020). Comments received at this meeting will be included in our written comments on the DEIR.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time

ATTACHMENT

Notice of DEIR

AGENDA ITEM # 19

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND
NOTICE OF DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEARING
FOR THE
SAN ANSELMO FLOOD RISK REDUCTION PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) has been completed for the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project. The Project involves implementing various flood risk reduction elements in Fairfax and San Anselmo to increase creek capacity, remove obstructions and attenuate flows within portions of the San Anselmo Creek and Fairfax Creek sub-watersheds in Ross Valley, located in central eastern Marin County.

The Project proposes several flood reduction elements (elements) designed to reduce flood risk in the watershed. Proposed elements include:

- Increasing creek and floodplain capacity to convey floodwaters
- Removing or modifying buildings to convey floodwaters
- Enlarging some channels through the removal or modification of existing obstructions to flow
- Reducing peak discharge and attenuating flows by increasing floodplain detention storage

This Project is part of the overall Ross Valley Watershed and Flood Risk Reduction Program, a regional effort led by the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) in partnership with the City of Larkspur, the Towns of Fairfax, Ross, and San Anselmo and unincorporated communities of Sleepy Hollow, Oak Manor Kentfield, and Greenbrae. The Program's overall objective is to reduce the frequency and severity of flooding throughout the Ross Valley Watershed, in an economically viable manner while prioritizing public safety and minimizing environmental impacts. The Program looks at broader flood mitigation measures for Corte Madera Creek and its tributaries within the 28 square-mile watershed.

Project construction is estimated to occur over portions of two years in 2019 and 2020. In addition to certification of this EIR, regulatory permits from State and Federal agencies are required to construct these projects. Additional details about the Project are provided online at <http://www.marinwatersheds.org/resources/projects/san-anselmo-flood-risk-reduction-safrr-project>

The 45-day public review and comment period for the Draft EIR commences on May 17, 2018. Written comments on the environmental review will be accepted at the Community Development Agency until the close of the public review period on July 2, 2018. Commenters are advised to mail written comments postmarked on or before July 2, 2018 to the attention of Liz Lewis, Planning Manager at 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 304, San Rafael, CA 94903. Comments can also be submitted via email to lizlewis@marincounty.org before the end of the comment period deadline.

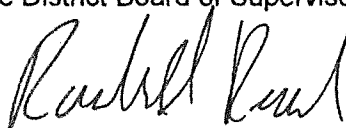
The Draft EIR evaluates the project with respect to the following topical issues:

1) Land Use & Planning	6) Transportation/Traffic	12) Utilities & Service Systems
2) Population & Housing	7) Biological Resources	13) Aesthetics/Visual Resources
3) Geology and Soils	8) Energy & Natural Resources	14) Cultural Resources
4) Hydrology and Water Quality	9) Hazards and Hazardous Materials	15) Agriculture and Forestry Resources
5) Air Quality	10) Noise	16) Greenhouse Gas Emissions
	11) Public Services and Recreation	17) Mineral Resources

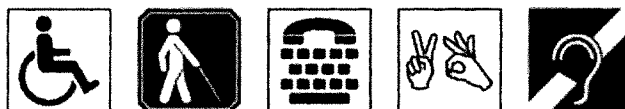
The Draft EIR finds that the Project would result in significant or potentially significant environmental impacts related to topical issue(s) #4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 16, and recommends the implementation of feasible mitigation measures to either avoid or reduce to a level of insignificance the identified environmental impacts. The EIR also identified two impacts from Project implementation that could not be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. These significant and unavoidable impacts are in the Hydrology and Water Quality section and are related to small increases in inundation depths and/or small increases in the extent of flooding for flows above the 25-year flood event.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that a public hearing on the Draft EIR will be conducted by the Marin County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors. Oral and written comments on the Draft EIR may be presented to the Flood Control District Board at the hearing. The hearing is scheduled for a meeting of the District Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers (Room #330 – Administration Building) Civic Center, San Rafael, California, at which time any and all persons interested in this matter may appear and be heard. Please call the Department of Public Works at (415) 473-6528 on or after Friday, May 18, 2018, in order to be informed of the place on the agenda and the approximate time of the hearing or to obtain a copy of the staff report, or visit our website at <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/bs/meeting-archive>. Written material should not be mailed or delivered directly to Board Members because it will not be accepted or considered as part of the administrative record for the project. Written material for the District Board of Supervisors should be submitted to the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District at least three working days prior to the meeting date so that it can be distributed with the staff report. Any written material submitted after this date will be distributed to the District Board of Supervisors prior to or at the meeting.

May 17, 2018



Rachel Reid
Environmental Planning Manager



All public meetings and events sponsored or conducted by the County of Marin are held in accessible sites. Requests for accommodations may be made by calling (415) 473-4381 (Voice) 473-3232 (TDD/TTY) or by e-mail at disabilityaccess@marincounty.org at least four work days in advance of the event. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon request.