



Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program Project: San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction (SAFRR) Project

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) June 21, 2018



Q: What is the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction (SAFRR) Project?

A: The proposed San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction (SAFRR) Project is a component of the Ross Valley Flood Protection & Watershed Program, and includes two main, complementary parts: A flood diversion and storage basin (basin) to temporarily divert and store floodwater proposed at the former Sunnyside Nursery site at 3000 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, about a mile north of downtown Fairfax. Under the proposed project, 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. Find more information on the SAFRR project webpage at www.marinwatersheds.org/resources/projects/san-anselmo-flood-risk-reduction-project.

Q: What is the Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program?

A: The Ross Valley Flood Protection & Watershed Program (Program) is a regional effort led by the Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District) with an overall objective to substantially 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. Learn more about the Program on the website: www.RossValleyWatershed.org

Q: Who is leading this program?

A: The program is a regional effort led by the District in partnership with the City of Larkspur, the Towns of Fairfax, Ross, and San Anselmo and the unincorporated communities of Sleepy Hollow, Oak Manor, Kentfield, and Greenbrae. The Program works closely with the Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board. Others involved include environmental, business, and community groups.

Q: How is the SAFRR Project funded?

A: The proposed project is estimated to cost \$17.4 million that would be funded by a Department of Water Resources (DWR) \$8.7 million state grant and \$8.7 million in local match funds coming from the Ross Valley stormwater fee.

Q: When will the Draft SAFRR Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) be released?

A: A draft SAFRR project EIR was released for public review in May 2018. The public has 45 days (until **July 2, 2018**) to provide written comments on the adequacy of the EIR. You can download it on the project webpage.

Q: What will the Draft SAFRR Project EIR evaluate?

A: The draft report will discuss environmental impacts caused by the construction and operation of the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction project. The Draft EIR evaluates four different alternatives, one of which will be highlighted as the environmentally-superior option.

Q: Will the Draft SAFRR Project EIR evaluate flooding impacts?

A: Yes, one area of environmental review is hydrology, hydraulics and water quality, which includes an analysis of creek flooding with the project in place.

Q: How will the project address flooding in Ross Valley?

A: The proposed project will reduce the risk of flooding to approximately 400 parcels in Fairfax, San Anselmo, and Ross. It may also increase the floodwater surface elevation for a relatively small area of San Anselmo and Ross along the creek banks in the Winship/Barber Tract neighborhood (approximately less than 30 parcels). The report will discuss ways to revise the project to reduce or eliminate the increased rise in water surface elevation at these properties.

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Q: How much will the project increase the flooding levels in the Winship/Barber Tract neighborhood?

A: With only the SAFRR project constructed, water surface levels during a 100-year flow event may increase for a small number of parcels by a couple inches. However, once the Winship Ave. bridge is replaced, in addition to the SAFRR project, the combined effect will reduce the water surface for parcels immediately upstream of the Winship Bridge by about one foot in the same flow event. Topographic surveys were done to confirm we have the correct finished floor elevation of these homes. Visit the SAFRR and H&H Modeling webpages to see results. The modeling surveys will help us understand the measures that may be needed to address the anticipated small water surface level increase with the SAFRR project alone. The District is coordinating with the Town of Ross on the Winship Ave. bridge replacement project and the SAFRR project.

Q: Are there other projects in the Winship/Barber area that will address flooding?

A: Yes, the Town of Ross is in the process of replacing the Winship Avenue Bridge, which is functionally obsolete, does not meet design standards for a 100-year flow in the creek, and is in poor structural condition. This project will remove a constriction point in the creek that contributes to flooding of the Winship/Barber Tract neighborhood. The project is funded by a grant from Caltrans, managed by the Town of Ross, and is currently in environmental review. The District and the Town of Ross are coordinating closely. Learn more about the Winship Bridge Replacement project on the Town of Ross' webpage.

Q: Is there a way to see what the possible flood level changes look like in person?

A: Yes, informational signs were installed on the existing Winship Ave. Bridge and the Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Bridge to show the anticipated 100-Year Flow water level for the existing condition, after the building in downtown San Anselmo is removed, and after the Winship Ave. Bridge is replaced. Once the Winship Ave. bridge is replaced, the combined projects will reduce the water surface for parcels immediately upstream of the Winship Bridge by about one foot in a 100-year flow event. View the WSE with finished floor elevations plotted on the H&H Modeling webpage.

Q: What is the status of the Azalea Ave. Bridge Replacement Project in Fairfax and how will it reduce flooding in Fairfax?

A: Caltrans designated Azalea Ave. Bridge as structurally deficient, so it qualifies for grant funding for its replacement. The existing bridge is also a contributor to flooding hazards in Fairfax. With the reconstruction of this bridge, it is anticipated that the new design will provide reduced flood risk to the surrounding community and would complement the overall benefits provided by the SAFRR Project. Learn more on the Town's Azalea Bridge project website.

Q: How can I review the Draft EIR?

A: The SAFRR draft EIR will be available at local libraries and can be downloaded on the project webpage.

Q: How can I provide comments on the Draft EIR?

A: The public has until **July 2, 2018** to comment on the report's findings once it is released. A public hearing was held on **May 22, 2018** during the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors session. Comments can be provided by mail, email, or during the formal public hearing on the EIR. Feedback received during the comment period will be addressed in the final SAFRR 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 in August for certification and to recommend a project.

Q: How can I stay involved and get updated information on the project as it develops?

A: You can find information about the Ross Valley Program, the SAFRR project, and other important Ross Valley Program information on its website. Subscribe on the website to receive email notification of upcoming public meetings, and project updates.

RELATED WEBSITE LINKS:

Program webpage: www.rossvalleywatershed.org

SAFRR Project: marinwatersheds.org/resources/projects/san-anselmo-flood-risk-reduction-project

Winship Bridge Replacement project: townofross.org/publicworks/page/winship-bridge-replacement-project

Azalea Bridge project: fairfaxbridges.com/about/azalea-avenue-bridge/

H&H Modeling: marinwatersheds.org/resources/projects/

