



# Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project, Phase 1

**EIR Scoping Meeting**

**August 27, 2020**

- All attendees will be on mute until we open the line for public comments.
- At the end of this presentation you will have an opportunity to provide oral comments on the scope of the EIR.
- You can also provide written comments in the **Q&A box** during the meeting; the chat box is disabled.
- We will not respond to any questions during this meeting

The meeting is being recorded



## AGENDA

- How to Participate
- Project Overview
- Environmental Impact Report and Scoping Process
- Scoping Comment Procedure
- Public Comments



- Provide an overview of the District proposed Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project, Phase 1
- Provide information on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping process and range of environmental issues that will be considered in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Receive public comments on the scope of environmental issues that should be addressed in the EIR

# Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program Work Plan



2020 – 2027 Project/Study Work Plan Timeline



# Presenters and Project Team



## Liz Lewis

Water Resources Manager, Marin Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
**Project Director** for the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project

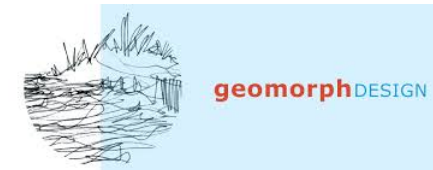


## Susanne Heim

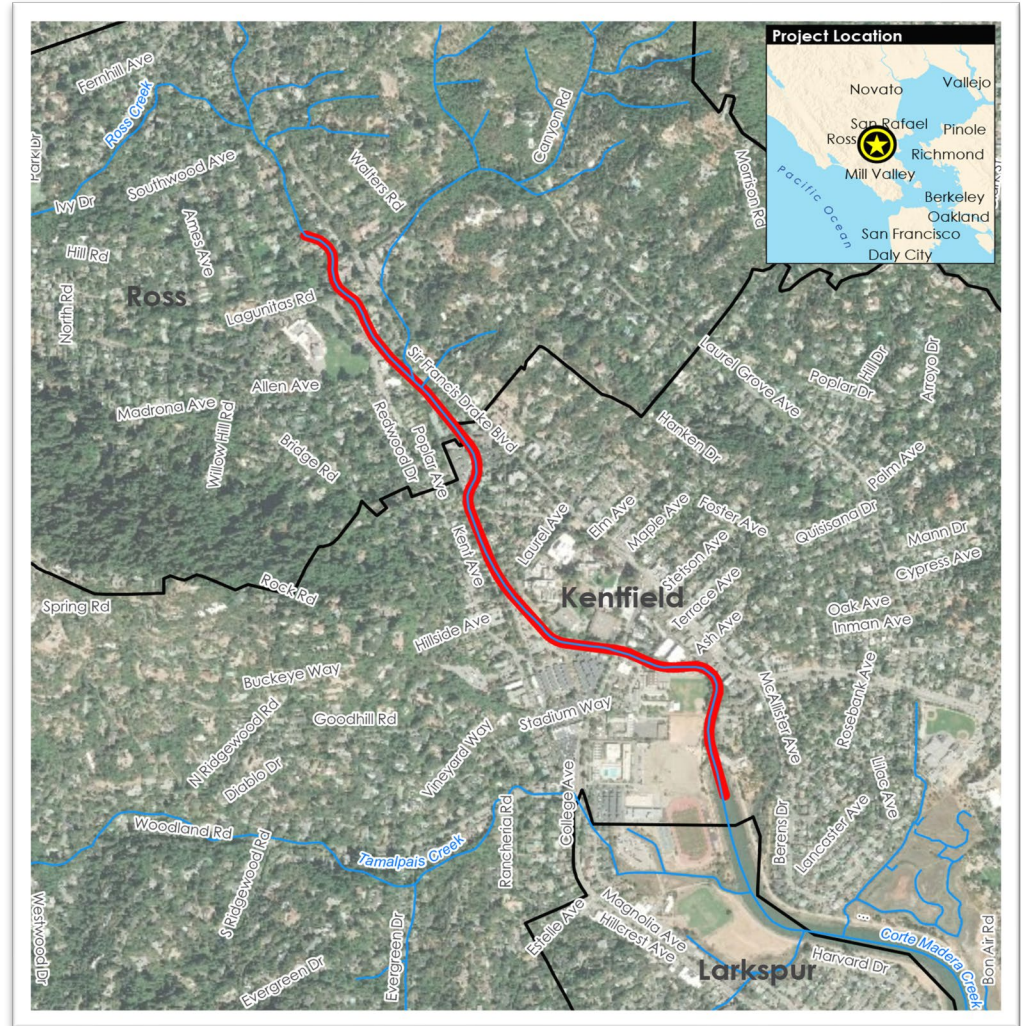
Principal, Panorama Environmental, Inc.  
**Moderator and CEQA expert** for the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project



FRIENDS OF  
CORTE MADERA CREEK  
WATERSHED



# Project Overview



# Project Objectives

**Flood Risk Reduction.** Reduce overall flood inundation extent and depth in the Town of Ross and Kentfield areas.

**Environmental Benefits.** Improve fish passage, natural creek processes, and fish and riparian habitat adjacent to the creek.

**Public Access and Recreational Quality.** Maintain public access along the creek via the multi-use path and enhance the recreational experience and amenities along the creek corridor to meet Town of Ross and Kentfield area community needs.

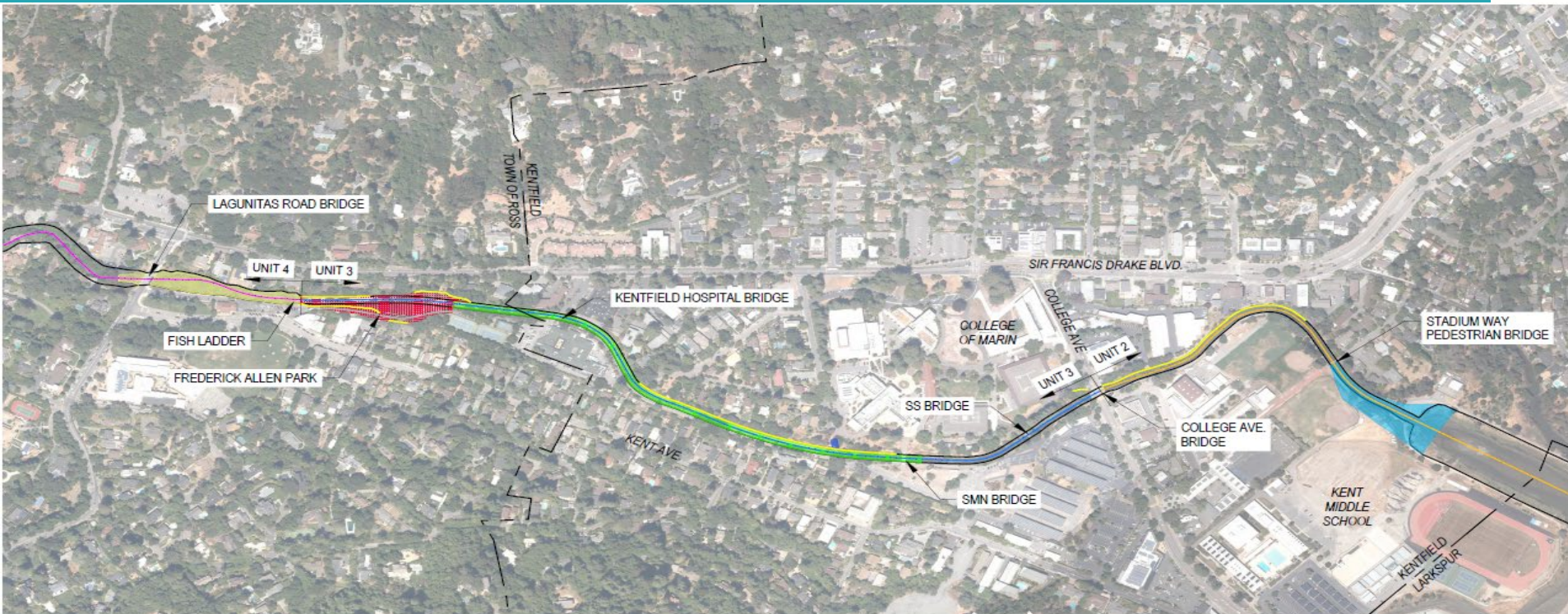
**Operational Reliability.** Improve operational reliability and reduce long-term maintenance costs by improving channel stability and protecting existing utilities.

**Regulatory Compliance.** Comply with local, state, and federal environmental laws and regulations.

**Fiscally Responsible.** Implement a flood risk reduction project that can be accomplished with local funding and reasonably foreseeable grant funding opportunities.



# Project Elements

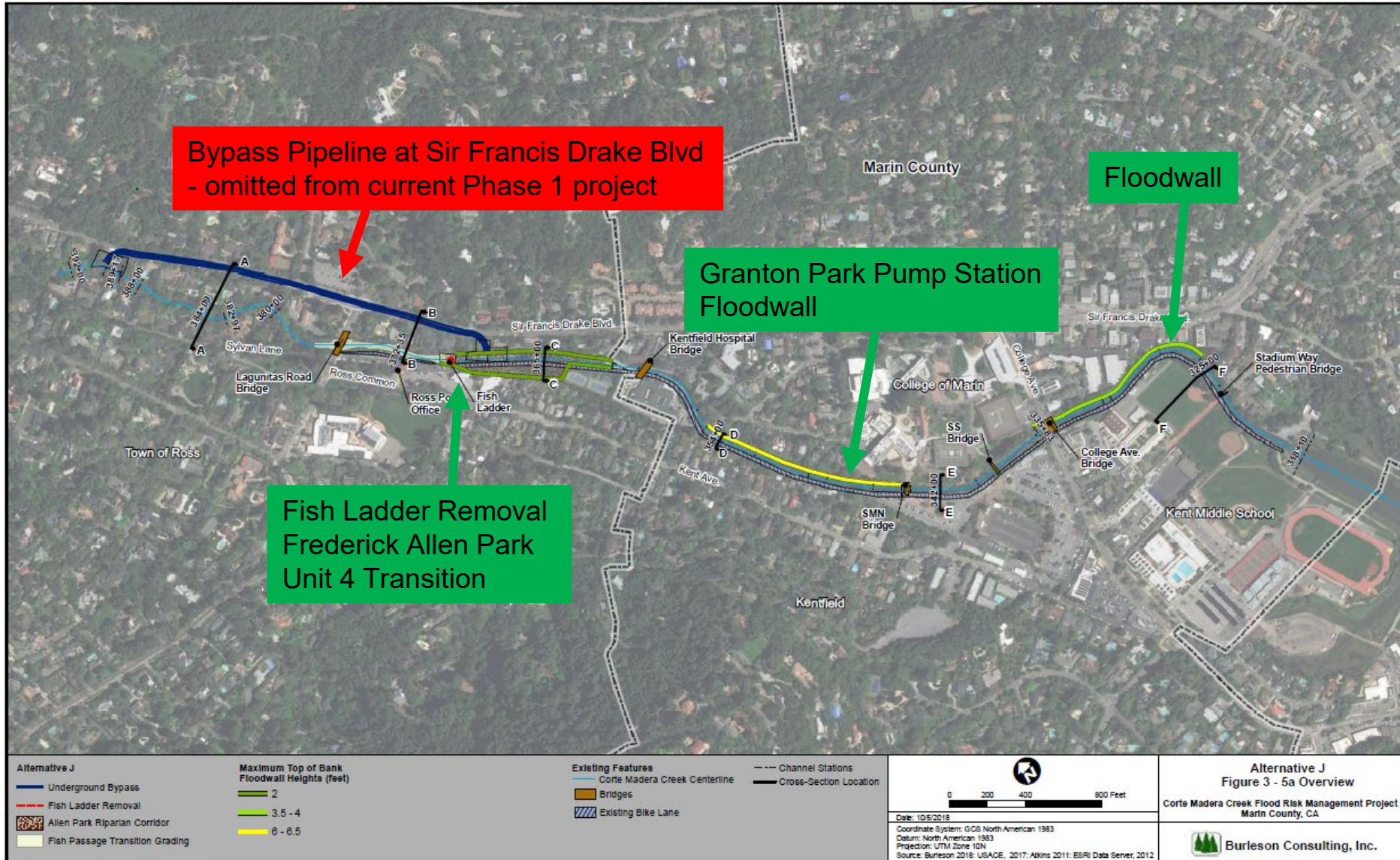


- Channel improvements and fish ladder removal
- Frederick Allen Park floodplain restoration

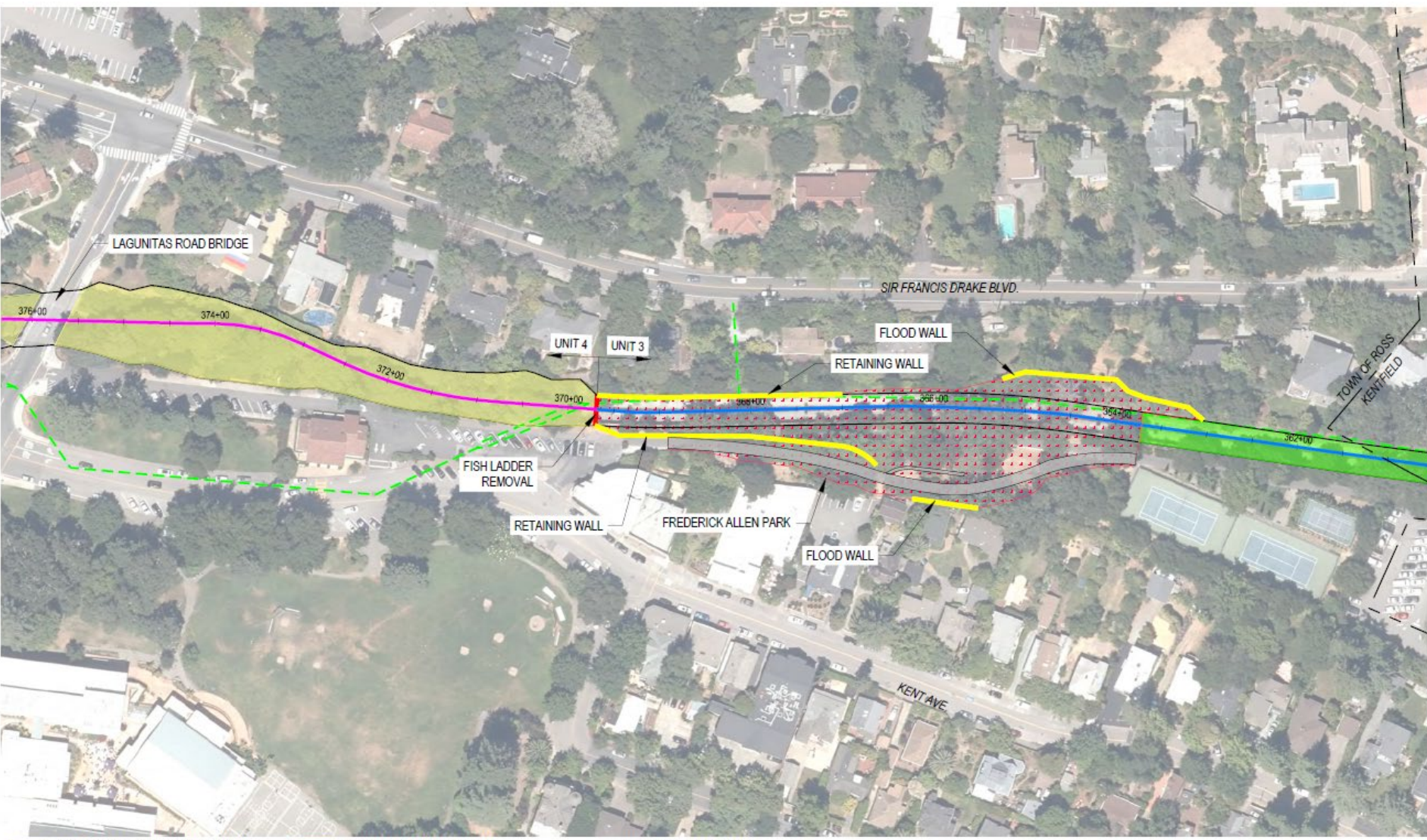
- Granton Park floodwall
- Granton Park stormwater pump station
- Concrete channel fish pool improvements

- College Ave and downstream floodwall
- Lower College of Marin reach concrete channel removal

# Previous USACE-led Project (CLOSED) – Alternative J



# Fish Ladder Removal and Frederick Allen Park



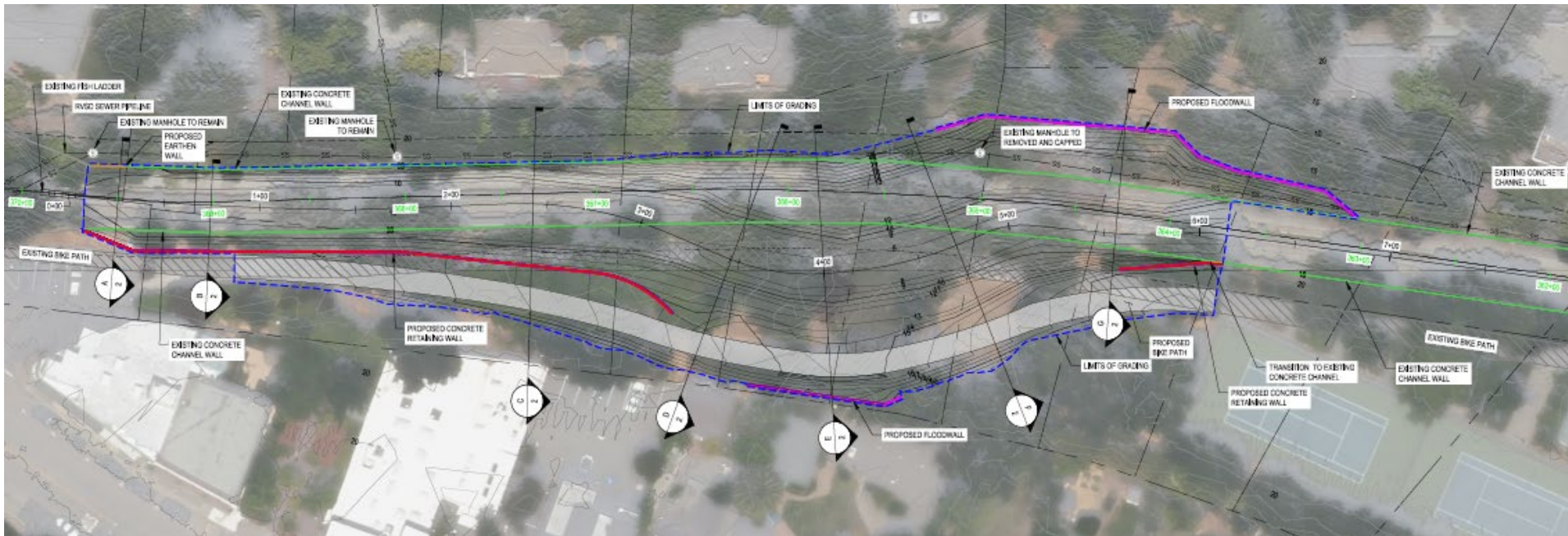
- |                                 |                          |                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| FISH PASSAGE TRANSITION GRADING | STORM DRAIN PUMP STATION | USACE PROJECT UNIT 2 |
| ALLEN PARK RIPARIAN CORRIDOR    | (E) RVSD SAN. SEWER      | USACE PROJECT UNIT 3 |
| NEW FISH POOLS                  | FLOOD WALL               | USACE PROJECT UNIT 4 |
| LOW CHANNEL CONCRETE REMOVAL    |                          | CHANNEL BANK         |





PLAN NORTH

0 50' 100'

1"=100'

# Frederick Allen Park



-  Existing concrete channel walls
-  New retaining wall
-  New floodwall (approx. 2 ft tall)
-  Approx. grading limit

# Granton Park Area



- |                                 |                          |                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| FISH PASSAGE TRANSITION GRADING | STORM DRAIN PUMP STATION | USACE PROJECT UNIT 2 |
| ALLEN PARK RIPARIAN CORRIDOR    | CHANNEL ACCESS RAMP      | USACE PROJECT UNIT 3 |
| NEW FISH POOLS                  | (E) RVSD SAN SEWER       | USACE PROJECT UNIT 4 |
| LOW CHANNEL CONCRETE REMOVAL    | FLOOD WALL               | CHANNEL BANK         |

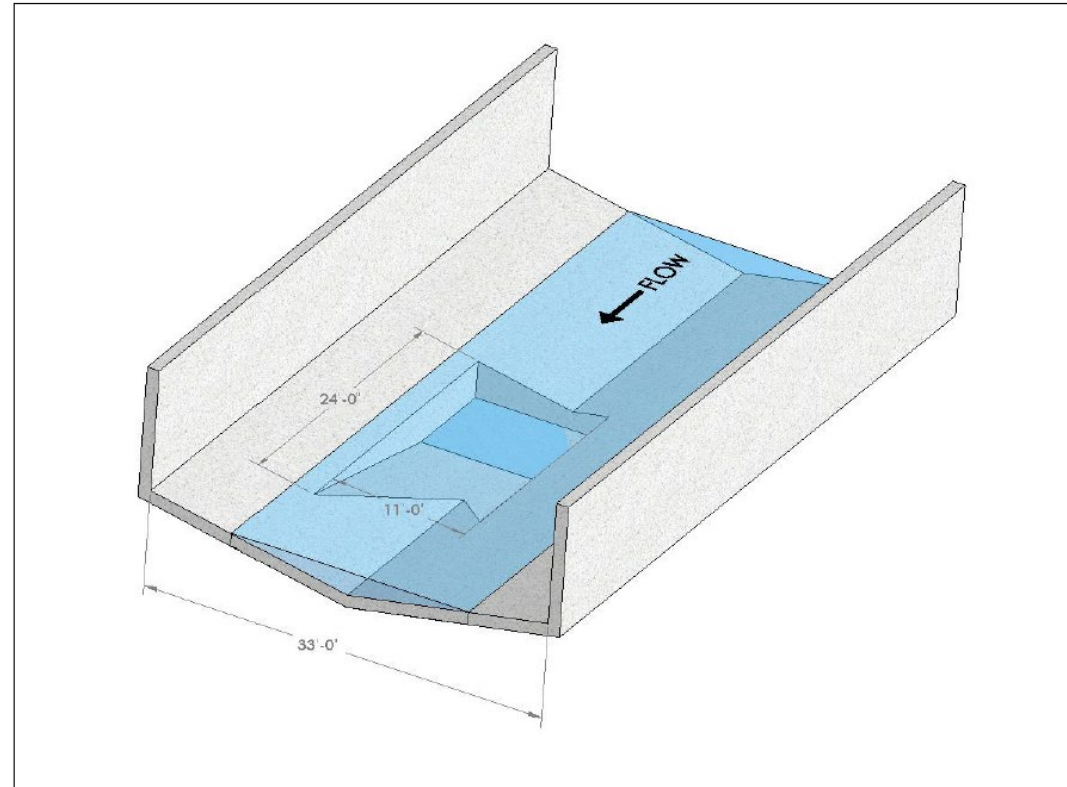
1"=100'

PLAN NORTH

MARIN COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
Corte Madera Creek  
Flood Risk Management Project - Phase 1  
Project Components  
Allen Park to College of Marin

Job Number | 11188581  
Revision  
Date | Aug. 2020

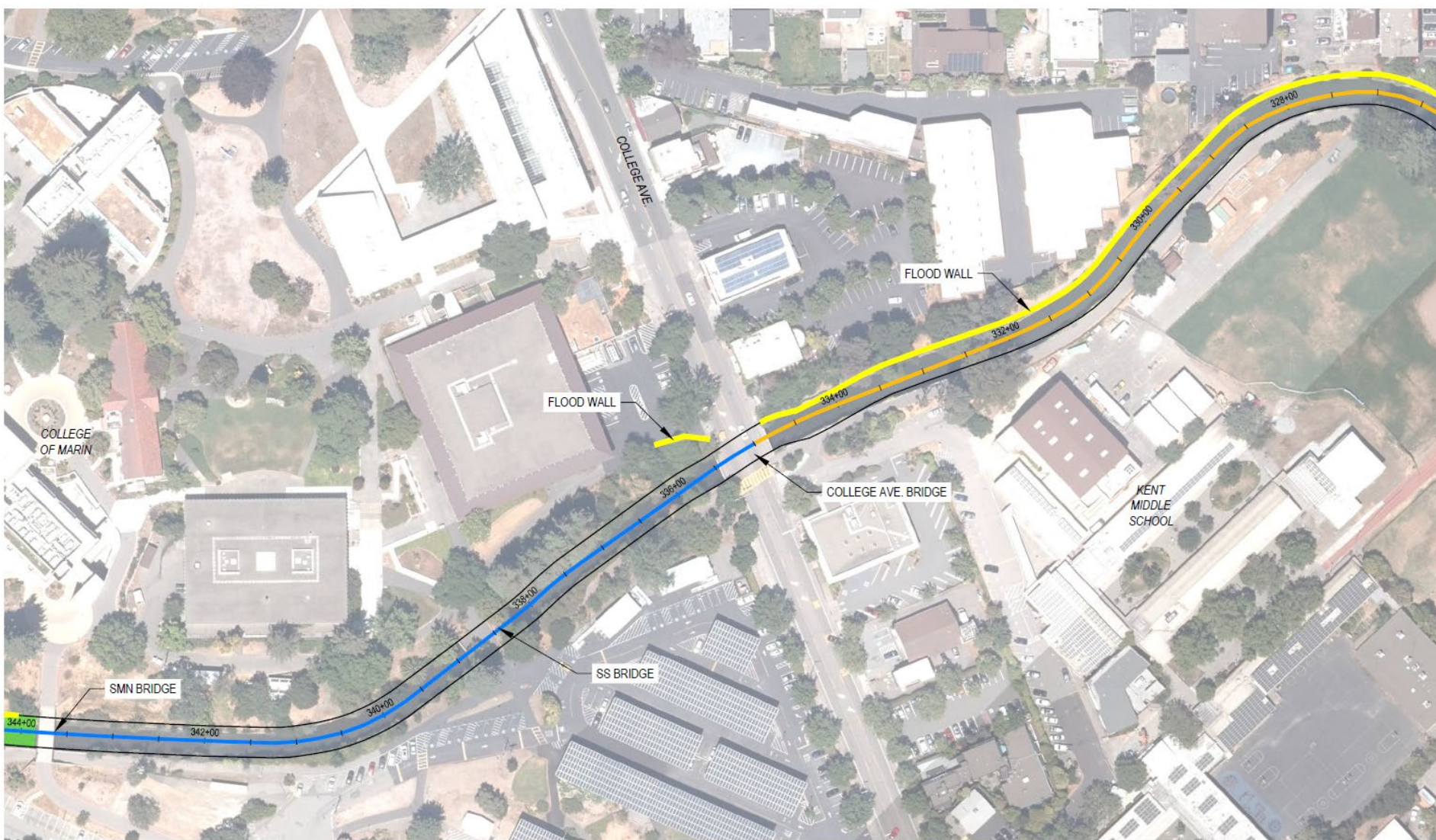
# Fish Passage Improvement



Fish Resting Pool Concept Design  
11 to 17 new pools  
(MLA 2007, MLA 2019)

Existing Fish Resting Pools  
4'x13' pools x 28, 64' apart

# Lower College of Marin Reach



- |                                 |                          |                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| FISH PASSAGE TRANSITION GRADING | STORM DRAIN PUMP STATION | USACE PROJECT UNIT 2 |
| ALLEN PARK RIPARIAN CORRIDOR    | CHANNEL ACCESS RAMP      | USACE PROJECT UNIT 3 |
| NEW FISH POOLS                  | (E) RVSD SAN. SEWER      | USACE PROJECT UNIT 4 |
| LOW CHANNEL CONCRETE REMOVAL    | FLOOD WALL               | CHANNEL BANK         |

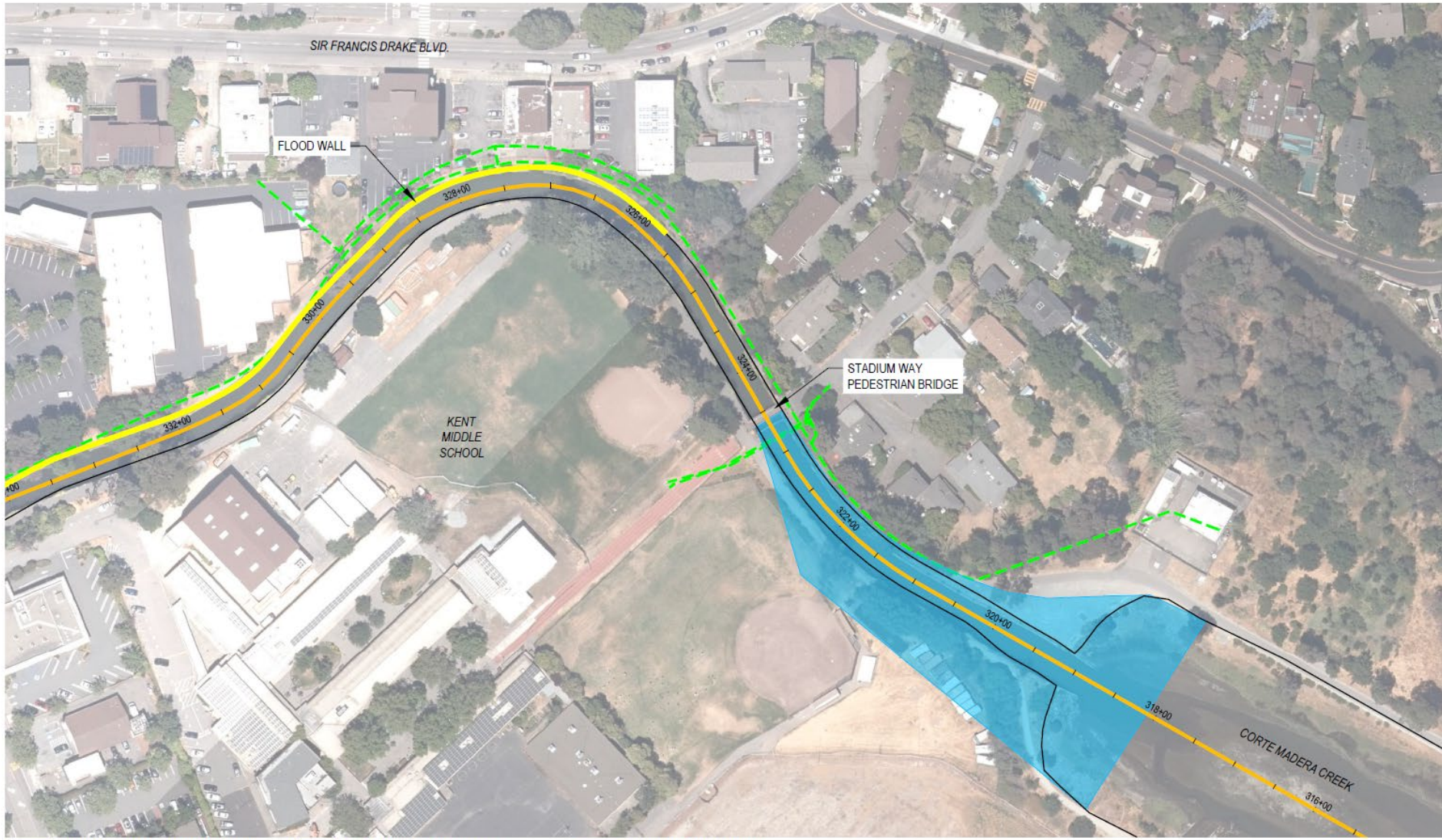
PLAN NORTH

MARIN COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
 Corte Madera Creek  
 Flood Risk Management Project - Phase 1  
 Project Components  
 College of Marin to Kent Middle School

Job Number 11188581  
 Revision  
 Date Nov. 2019

**Figure 01d**

# Lower College of Marin Reach



- |                                 |                          |                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| FISH PASSAGE TRANSITION GRADING | STORM DRAIN PUMP STATION | USACE PROJECT UNIT 2 |
| ALLEN PARK RIPARIAN CORRIDOR    | CHANNEL ACCESS RAMP      | USACE PROJECT UNIT 3 |
| NEW FISH POOLS                  | (E) RVSD SAN. SEWER      | USACE PROJECT UNIT 4 |
| LOW CHANNEL CONCRETE REMOVAL    | FLOOD WALL               | CHANNEL BANK         |



MARIN COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
 Corte Madera Creek  
 Flood Risk Management Project - Phase 1  
 Project Components  
 Kent Middle School to Downstream Limit

Job Number | 11188561  
 Revision  
 Date | Nov. 2019

**Figure 01e**



# Lower College of Marin Concrete Channel Removal



Revised:




**EXISTING CONDITIONS**  
DATE OF FLIGHT: 5 FEB 2019 AT LOW TIDE (-0.3')  
(SEDIMENTATION DOWNSTREAM PREVENTS TIDE LEVEL FROM REDUCING BELOW 1.7' IN CONCRETE CHANNEL.)



**PROPOSED CONDITIONS**  
30% DESIGN PLAN CONCEPT  
(WATER LEVEL SHOWN AT 3.5', 2020 MSL.)

PHOTOSIMULATION  
**CORTE MADERA CREEK**  
LOWER COM CONCRETE CHANNEL REMOVAL PROJECT

CONCEPT DESIGN No. 15-154  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
609.979.6000  
www.geomorphix.com



Client: 8 MAY 2020  
Design Int: MS  
Drawn By: BPS  
Checked By: MS  
Scale: NTS  
50% DESIGN PLAN SUBMITTAL

# CEQA EIR and Scoping Process Overview

## CEQA EIR Process



- CEQA Triggered By Discretionary Action of Lead Agency

We are here

- CEQA Purpose
  - Provide information to public and decision makers of potential impacts of a project and how they can be avoided or reduced
- Public Outreach Process
  - Public review into key periods of the process

- Obtain input on environmental concerns to ensure the EIR addresses those impacts
  - Public
  - Agencies
  - Other interest groups (non-profits, tribes, schools)
- Define environmental topics that will not be impacted and provide greater detail in analysis on environmental resources of public concern
- Obtain input on alternatives to the project that could reduce or eliminate a significant environmental impact

# Environmental Resources to be Addressed in the EIR



- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities
- Wildfire

- Significant impact

“a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project”

- Mitigation measures required to minimize significant adverse impacts
  - Must be feasible
  - Must be roughly proportional to the impact of the project
  - Must be enforceable
  - The EIR needs to consider the impact of implementing the mitigation

# Project Elements - Increase Creek Capacity

- Removal of concrete channel and widening within Frederick Allen Park
- Regrading and lowering the channel upstream of fish ladder (Unit 4)
- Installation of new grade control and slope protection in Unit 4 and Frederick Allen Park



# Potential Impacts - Increase Creek Capacity

- Increased flow downstream
- Sediment Dynamics
- Utilities
- New Creek Access
- Modified Pathway
- Tree Removal
- Vegetation Management
- Aesthetics/Visual
- Construction (temporary)
  - Dewatering
  - Bike Detour
  - Noise
  - Air Quality Emissions



# Project Elements - Flood Protection

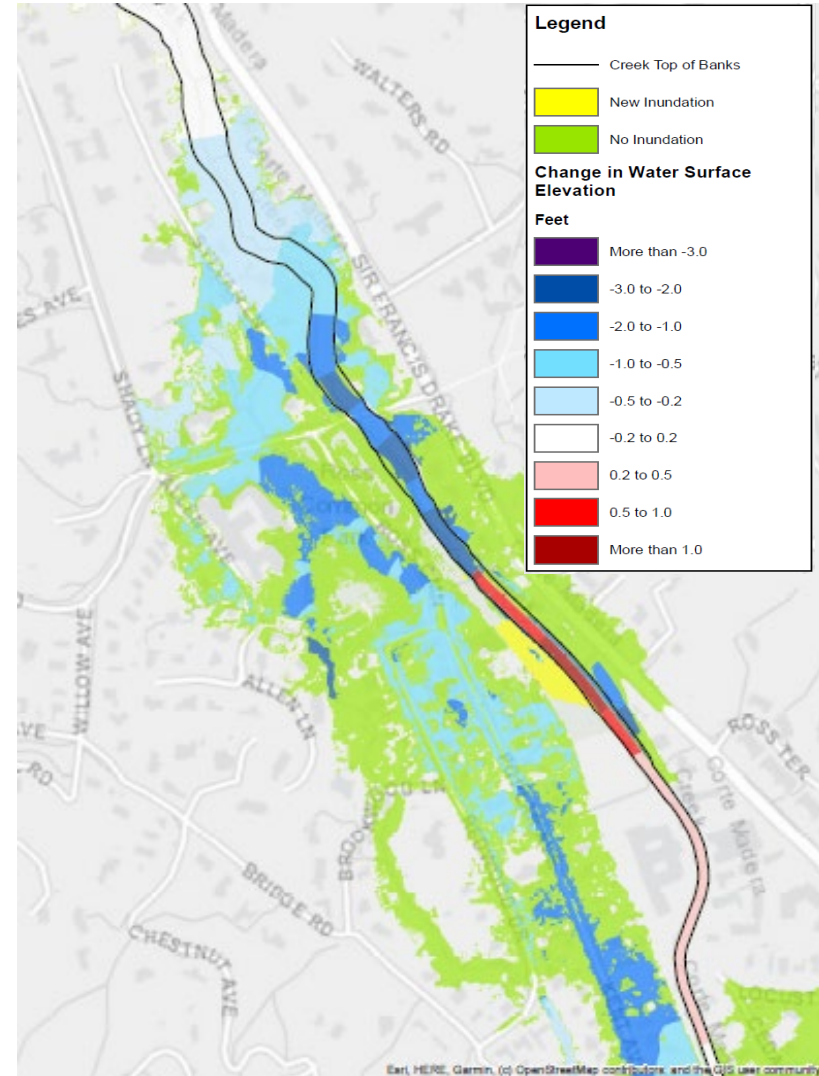
- New/modified floodwalls in Unit 3 and Unit 2
- Stormwater pump station with backup power in Granton Park





# Potential Impacts - Flood Protection

- Excavation/Grading
- Noise from Pump Operation
- Aesthetics
  - Taller Floodwall
  - Tree Removal
- Construction
  - Truck trips
  - Air Quality
  - Noise



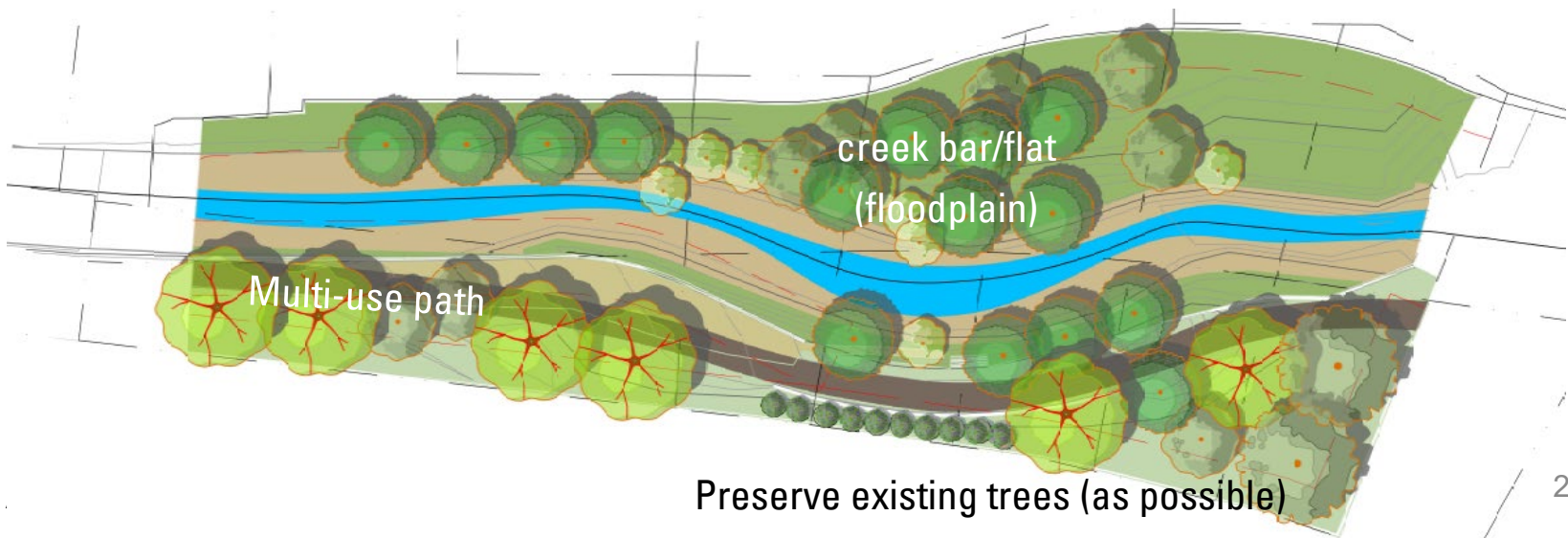
# Potential Element – Enhance Creek Habitat

- New fish pools and fish ladder removal
- Frederick Allen Park concrete removal and riparian plantings
- Lower College of Marin concrete removal and vegetation



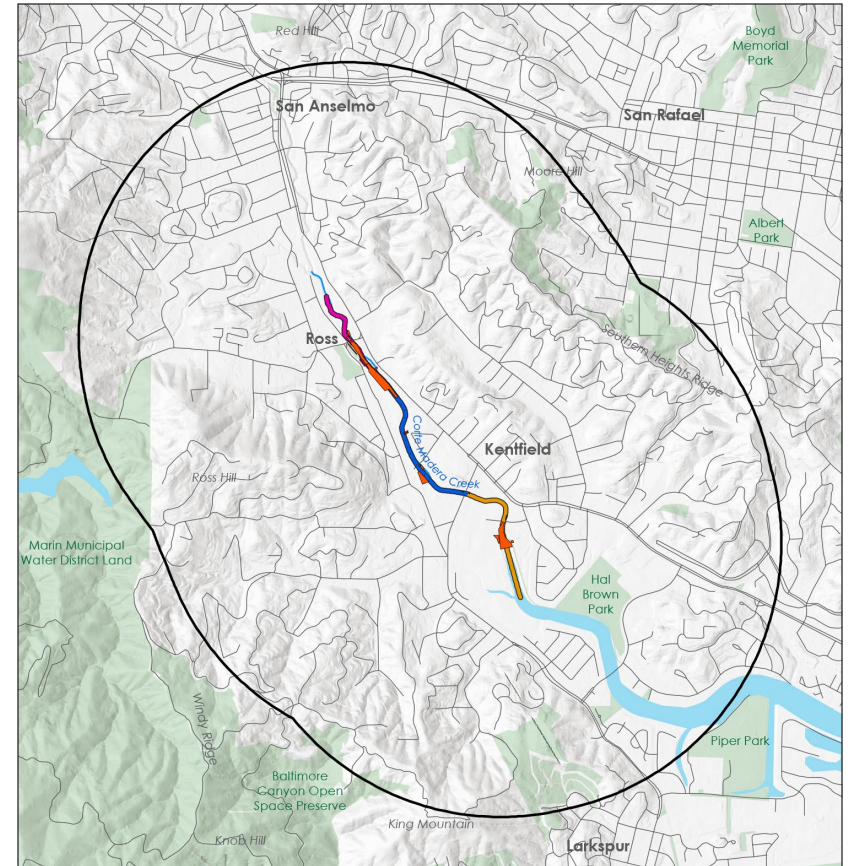
# Potential Impact – Enhance Creek Habitat

- Fish and Wildlife
  - Long-term Benefits (Fish Passage and Wildlife Habitat)
  - Temporary Disturbance (Noise and Dewatering)
- Aesthetics/Visual
- Hydrology/Water Quality
  - Sediment Transport
  - Erosion
- Recreational pathway modifications



# Cumulative Impacts

- “two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts”
- Reasonably foreseeable future projects
- Consider cumulative context for hydrology and other CEQA environmental resources



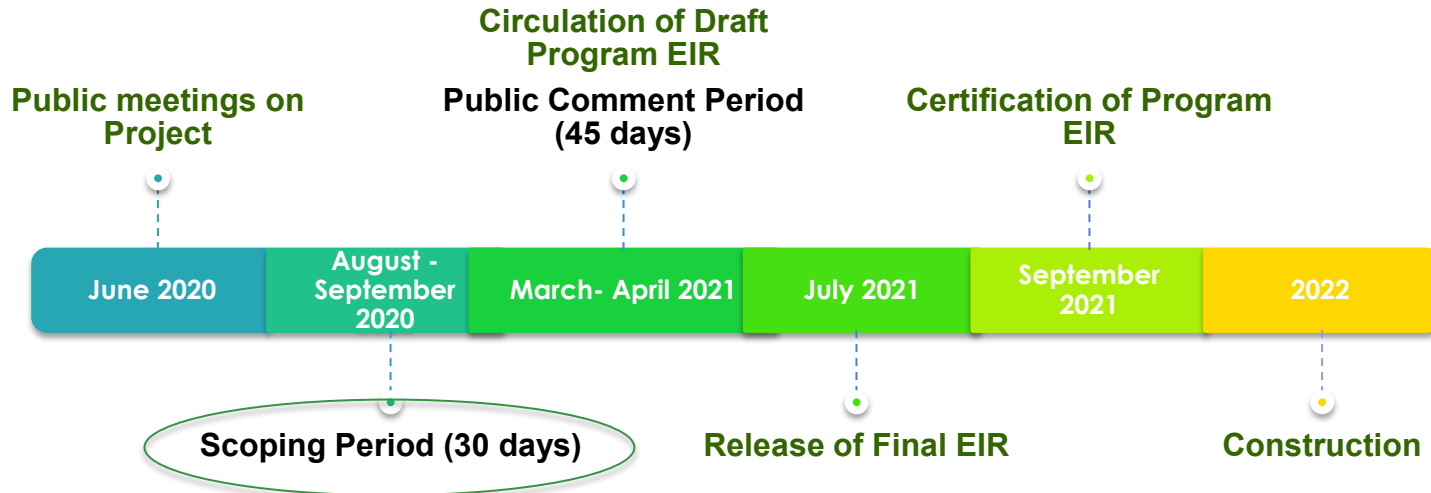
## **Screening of Alternatives (CEQA Guidelines §15126.6)**

- Represent a reasonable range of options
- Meet most of the project objectives
- Reduce or avoid significant impacts of the proposed project
- Be feasible from technical, regulatory, and legal perspectives

## **Alternatives Definition and Screening – After Scoping**

- Reduced footprint in Frederick Allen Park
- Alternatives considered or suggested in 2018 Draft EIS/EIR and comments
- Other alternatives suggested during scoping

# Points of Public Comments



Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project, Phase I  
August 27, 2020

Some suggestions for providing effective scoping comments:

- Comment on the scope of the EIR
  - Specify potential impacts from the Project that you are concerned about
  - Identify environmental resources of concern
  - Suggest mitigation measures that could reduce potential impacts
  - Suggest alternatives to the Project to avoid or reduce environmental impacts
- Not on the merits or content of the Project
- Comments limited to this Project only

- Comments on the EIR scope are due by **September 21, 2020**
  - E-mail scoping comments to [cortemaderacreek@marincounty.org](mailto:cortemaderacreek@marincounty.org)
  - Mail comment letters to:
    - c/o Joanna Dixon, P.E.,
    - 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 304,
    - San Rafael, CA 94903
- Comments obtained during the scoping period will be summarized in a scoping report
- All comments obtained during this meeting are being recorded.



# How to Comment During the Scoping Meeting

- **Oral Scoping Comments:** Please use the **RAISE HAND** feature and we will unmute you and call on you to speak. You will have one 3-minute period for oral comment on the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project.
- **Written comments:** Click on the **Q&A** feature and type your question into the box
- We will not respond to comments or questions

## If joining via telephone ONLY:

- Press **\*9** to raise your hand
- When called on: Press **\*6** to unmute



- Additional project information is available at the project website

<https://rb.gy/mouvkv>

- For information on other District projects in Ross Valley to the Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program Flood Zone 9 website

<https://rb.gy/jx3weq>

**Survey:** Take a [survey](#) to provide input on the design for Frederick Allen Park.

**June 30, 2020, 6:00p-8:00p:** A public meeting was held online via Zoom to provide the public with a project update focusing on Town of Ross/Frederick Allen Park. See [PowerPoint presentation](#) and [webinar recording](#) for more info.

**June 25, 2020, 6:00p-8:00p:** A public meeting was held online via Zoom to provide the public with an update on the project status, project concepts, and schedule. See [PowerPoint presentation](#) and [webinar recording](#) for more info.

# Public Comment

