



STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Andrew D. Poster, P.E., Director of Public Works/City Engineer
SUBJECT: Flood Management and Storm Drain Master Plan
DATE: March 15, 2021

Approved for Forwarding:

Alan E. Piombo, Jr., City Manager

1 **Issue:** Flood Management and Storm Drain Master Plan.

2
3 **Recommendation:** Receive presentation and provide feedback.

4
5 **Background:** On June 5, 2017, the City Council authorized an agreement with Schaaf & Wheeler
6 Consulting Civil Engineers for professional services to complete a Flood Management and Storm
7 Drain Master Plan. Since that time, the scope has expanded to include additional flood modeling
8 and analysis. The Council has designated a Master Plan as a Priority Project. The Mayor appointed
9 a Flood Management and Storm Drain Master Plan Task Force, which assisted with review the
10 consultant's findings and helped guide the overall direction of the Master Plan. On September 23,
11 2020, the draft Master Plan was presented to the community. Staff and the consultant have
12 coordinated with the City's funding partners and technical experts at Flood Zone 3 on this
13 endeavor.

14
15 **Discussion:** A link to the project website is listed as an attachment to this report. The link includes
16 Task Force Meeting summaries, previous Council reports, and a copy of the community
17 presentation. The March 15, 2021 Council presentation will provide an overview of the study's
18 purpose, findings, and recommended next steps.

19
20 In completing the study, the project team explored and researched potential ideas and alternatives
21 to address the City's drainage issues. As had been concluded in previous studies, it was quickly
22 confirmed that it was not feasible to mitigate 100- or 50-year storm events from either a financial
23 or logistical point of view. The project team then focused on trying to address 10-year storm
24 events, or those that have a 10% chance of occurring each year. These 10-year events divert traffic

City Council Staff Report
Flood Management and Storm Drain Master Plan
March 15, 2021

25 and typically impact less than 25 homes. The City team and Task Force discussed, researched,
26 and analyzed ideas such as: widening creeks; re-routing stormwater into larger pipe or culvert
27 systems; building flood walls along creek banks; installation of dams; creation of detention basins;
28 implementing rain garden and/or rain barrel programs; installing new pump stations; dredging
29 portions of local creeks and/or Richardson Bay. Unfortunately, these alternatives have either an
30 insignificant impact or cost upwards of \$50 million dollars to implement with no viable funding
31 mechanism.

32
33 The team researched grants and other agency programs and potential funding sources and found
34 that voters are not willing to support storm drain parcel taxes in the dollar amounts necessary to
35 take on these projects.

36
37 The plan did find that raising homes could be a cost effective and viable alternative. However,
38 raising homes would be the responsibility of individual homeowners and it may not be universally
39 supported. The City's Planning Department and Planning Commission would need to review,
40 adjust, or make exceptions to current policies on building size, bulk, and height limits that may
41 change the character of neighborhoods to create a streamlined program for residents looking to
42 raise their homes.

43
44 The County of Marin has secured a Federal grant and initiated a pilot program for helping to raise
45 homes. Properties in Mill Valley are eligible for this program, however, there was only enough
46 funds to raise 16 homes and those homes have already been selected. Depending on the success
47 of this pilot program, the County may seek continuation of this program and apply for additional
48 funding.

49
50 **Fiscal Impact:** Through January 31, 2021, the consultant has expended \$361,585 of the \$488,390
51 project budget. Future fiscal impacts are currently unknown. Staff expects to seek funding from
52 grants and Flood Zone 3 to help implement approximately \$17 million dollars in desired storm
53 drain improvement projects, as well as \$250,000 in annual operations and maintenance programs,
54 but the success of securing outside funding is uncertain.

55
56 **Attachments:** *(Please use the links below to access the attachments)*

- 57 1. Draft Flood Management and Storm Drain Master Plan:
58 <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r013x8hkkr8liut/AACpsuolkp0QkSiGbhnJrqqa?dl=0>
59 2. Project Website:
60 [https://www.cityofmillvalley.org/gov/departments/publicworks/waterresources/presido/d](https://www.cityofmillvalley.org/gov/departments/publicworks/waterresources/presido/default.htm)
61 [efault.htm](https://www.cityofmillvalley.org/gov/departments/publicworks/waterresources/presido/default.htm)
62 3. Marin County Elevation Program staff report:
63 https://marin.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=33&clip_id=10161&meta_id=107
64 [1733](https://marin.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=33&clip_id=10161&meta_id=107)