



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: July 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Report of Flood SAFE Yolo Activities

Report in Brief

As requested by Council, an informational presentation by Fran Borcalli, Program Manager for Flood SAFE Yolo on the progress made on floodplain management for the City of Woodland and Yolo County will be presented during the July 15 Council meeting. The City of Woodland is participating with Yolo County and the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District through an MOU to begin developing a sustainable method for managing floodplains in Yolo County. The City of Woodland participation in this process includes a contribution of \$100,000 per year for two years. This is the first annual report to Council on this program's progress since its inception a year ago.

Staff recommends that the City Council receive the presentation and affirm the City's continued participation in the program.

Background

As the City Council is well aware, the City of Woodland is in a floodplain and needs to address this problem in a way that is best for the residents of the City and the region. In the course of reviewing options for addressing this problem, collaboration with other area local governments and residents of both rural and urban areas is essential. Therefore, working in cooperation with Yolo County and the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District on the joint flooding issues has a greater chance of success than pursuing a solution alone. In addition to the expertise and resources provided by these agencies, working cooperatively also provides opportunities for the constituencies of each agency to participate in the discussion of potential solutions.

The City of Woodland, with funding from the WRA, completed an initial study on Cache Creek Hydrology that indicates that a significant number of City of Woodland parcels could be removed from the 1% chance FEMA regulatory floodplain. This factor and other data shared between the

signers of the MOU are helping to generate new opportunities to address the floodplain management challenge. Flood solutions developed jointly will help gain further support from other sponsors including CalTrans, the Reclamation Board, DWR, Army Corps of Engineers, the Delta Commission and Sacramento County Flood Agency.

It is also important to note that new issues are being identified, including the FEMA requirement for certification of levees and the new mapping associated with a levee decertification. FloodSAFE Yolo will give the City of Woodland greater credibility by presenting a united front in dealing with other agencies in order to address these issues. For example, new requirements for mapping the 200-year floodplain will be facilitated by producing a consistent mapping program across jurisdictional boundaries.

Discussion

The City of Woodland tried to solve its flood problems in a unilateral manner in the past and has been unsuccessful. This effort will benefit the City of Woodland by linking its flood management needs to the greater area and build local support for whatever solutions are identified in this process. It will also build local credibility for a flood management program that benefits area residents inside and outside the City limits.

FloodSAFE Yolo's goals have been developed by the City, County, District and State DWR partners. These goals are summarized below:

1. Reduce flood risk to the people of Yolo County; flood management, not prevention, is the key.
2. Create a sustainable flood management system; must provide operation and maintenance costs after the pilot program
3. Reduce adverse consequences of floods
4. Support flood management systems that enhance the environment of Yolo County
5. Support flood management systems that enhance the economy of Yolo County

The FloodSAFE Yolo program has benefited from the technical expertise of Fran Broccoli's service as project manager. Mr. Broccoli is highly regarded as a floodplain manager and knows the "lay of the land" within Yolo County. Flood Control and Irrigation District, State DWR, Woodland and Yolo County staff have also provided significant contributions to this effort.

Although the focus of the program is County-wide, there are specific issues related to Cache Creek that are being considered including among other issues the US Army Corps of Engineers' Lower Cache Creek Feasibility Study regarding barriers and set back levees, the Ford report providing hydrological analysis of Cache Creek including past storm events, the characteristics of the Cache Creek Settling Basin, and its impact on Cache Creek, the Yolo bypass and Yolo County.

One example of the potential community benefits of the FloodSAFE Yolo program is completion of the Cache Creek Hydrological Study. This project was incorporated into this year's Capital Budget. Successful completion of this Study has the potential to remove over 4,000 parcels from the mandatory flood insurance program. This will be a significant savings for the community if the results of this Study are accepted by the federal government. An example of interagency collaboration involves the Department of Water Resources floodplain mapping program. DWR plans to fly Yolo County in order to update topographical maps with one foot contours. FloodSAFE Yolo plans to coordinate this activity in order to obtain updated, very accurate maps.

Fiscal Impact

The City's annual cost of \$100,000 to continue support of this project was included in the FY09 Capital budget.

Public Contact

Posting of the City Council agenda, in addition, Flood SAFE Yolo plans to begin outreach activities to community groups on flooding in Yolo County.

Council Committee Recommendation

Status reports on the FloodSAFE Yolo program have been periodically provided to the 3x2x2 committee that represents the District Board of Directors, Woodland City Council and County Board of Supervisors.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council receive the presentation and affirm the City's continued participation in the program.

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Enclosure, exhibits & attachments required to support the report