

## **Board of Supervisors Ad Hoc & Standing Subcommittees**

### **Scope / Charge / Issue Assessment**

**Name of Subcommittee:** Rolling Hills Acres Flooding Subcommittee

**Type of Subcommittee:** Standing  Ad Hoc

**Subcommittee Members:** Supervisors Saylor and Barajas (Districts 2 and 5)

**County Staff Contact(s):** Nick Burton

**Description of Scope and Charge of the Subcommittee:** The Chickahominy Slough, Moody Slough, Dry Slough and Union School Slough watersheds all have floodplains that spread over a sizeable area of the watershed sweeping across agricultural fields, residential lots, and roads. The runoff continues downstream to areas of high population density, namely the City of Davis and the University of California at Davis where the cost of damages grows significantly. Due to recent complaints from West Plainfield residents, County staff coordinated an effort to evaluate this issue in greater detail. Funding through the Flood Safe Yolo 2.0 project, the County contracted with consultant to summarize and review relevant drainage reports and studies conducted over the last 40 years. The purpose of this effort was to understand if past hydrologic and hydraulic analysis could eliminate the need to commission new studies and/or modelling to implement specific improvements to reduce flood risk in the area. The findings from this report were summarized and taken to the Board who in turn requested at the October 12, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting that a Board Ad Hoc Subcommittee be formed with community stakeholders to investigate regional solution to the West Plainfield/Rolling Hills Acres flooding.

**Significant Actions and Events Over the Past Year:** The consultant evaluation of past studies resulted in an identified regional solution to the flooding problems that included diversion of surface water runoff from the impacted watersheds to Putah Creek. County staff and local residents concurred with the findings which the Board of Supervisors motioned to pursue. Staff noted that this effort will require partnerships with the stakeholders that include at a minimum the City of Davis, the University of California at Davis, and the Department of Water Resources. Each stakeholder will would then be able to put funding towards the preparation of the design and initial studies. Provided there is interest and financial commitment from all affected jurisdictions, and agencies, staff estimates that preparation of the study that will identify the actual project could take 18 months. Since there is no existing County funding source for building or operating and maintaining flood control improvements, a tax assessment and formation of a new district would need to be voted on by the property owners who would benefit, through a Prop 218 process and LAFCo consideration. Once a project is identified, maintenance funding is secured and the decision to move forward is made, a California Environmental Quality Act report must be prepared, which will take approximately 12 months. During this time staff would identify potential funding sources for construction. Final engineering and permits will take approximately 24 months. Construction timing is dependent on project design and scale but could take between 12 and 24 months. In total, staff estimates this approach to be in the 6 to 8-year timeframe. Until then, the status quo conditions would remain.

**Ongoing and Emerging Issues:** During the October 12, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting, it was mentioned that groundwater recharge should be considered as a solution which staff will continue to investigate. It should

be noted that past efforts to establish detention and retention basins for these watersheds have failed due to an absence of property owner willingness to sell real estate.

**Future Goals / Next Steps:** The Board of Supervisors during the October 12, 2021 meeting directed staff to pursue the regional project which first requires partnerships with the City of Davis, the University of California at Davis, and the Department of Water Resources for the funding of a regional hydrology and hydraulic study for the surface water bypass to Cache Creek.

**Anticipated Board Report, Dates and Actions:** The first Board Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting is anticipated to occur in November of 2021 with subsequent meeting held every 6 months until a funding partnership is formed for the hydrology and hydraulic study for the regional surface runoff diversion to Putah Creek.

**Anticipated Duration of Ad Hoc Effort:** It is anticipated that the Board Ad Hoc Subcommittee will be needed to establish the funding partnership for the hydrology and hydraulic study. This is anticipated to take about one year after which the Board can reexam the need for the subcommittee.

**Other Comments:** N/A