Valley Springs/West Calaveras County baseline information and community concerns:

A) Safety

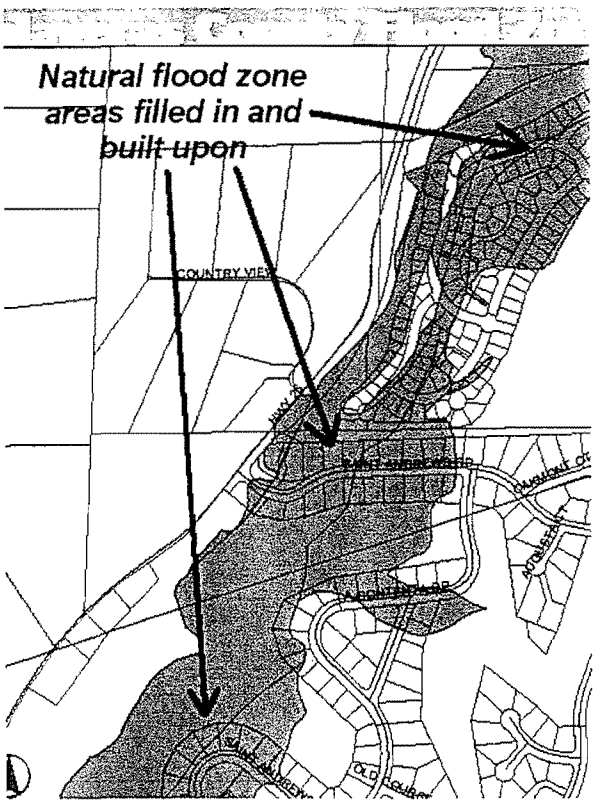
Issue: Flooding of Highway 26, Hogan Dam Road, other local roads in the Valley Springs area, and flooding of homes in Valley Springs and La Contenta by overflow from Cosgrove Creek, Spring Valley Creek, Indian Creek, and others. Flooding of sewage treatment pond for Valley Springs Public Utility District April 2006 and subsequent discharge of sewage into Cosgrove Creek. Threat of added flooding due to weakened earthen dam on golf course, and near-capacity Hogan Reservoir. Road safety and deterioration, property damage, public health risks. Flooding frequency and severity has increased due to increased runoff from developments built within the Cosgrove Creek/ Calaveras River watersheds and in the floodplain of Cosgrove Creek.

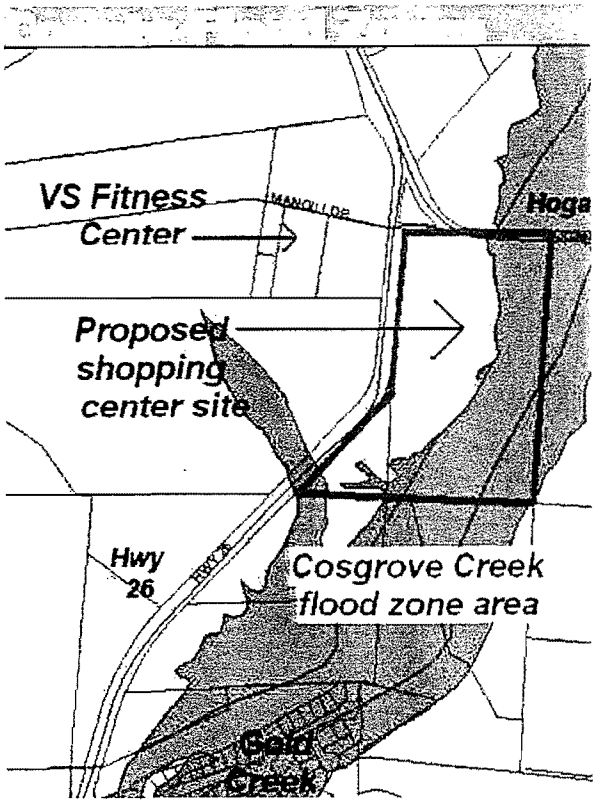
Constraints: No flood control agency or district to manage the area, no county policies in place addressing water resource management and land use. County has known about problem for years but no long-term action has been taken.

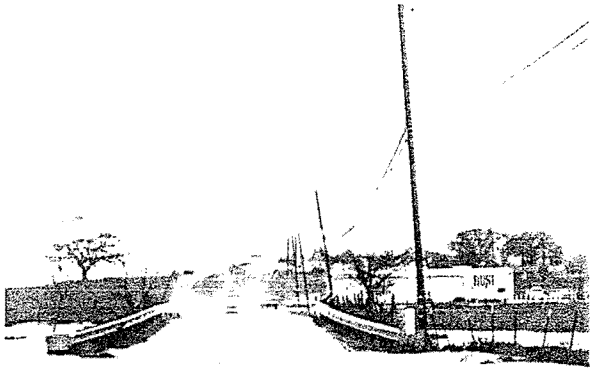
Documentation: Flooding photos, newspaper articles, and Calaveras County West Flood Protection Grant Application, Kawasaki, 11-17-03

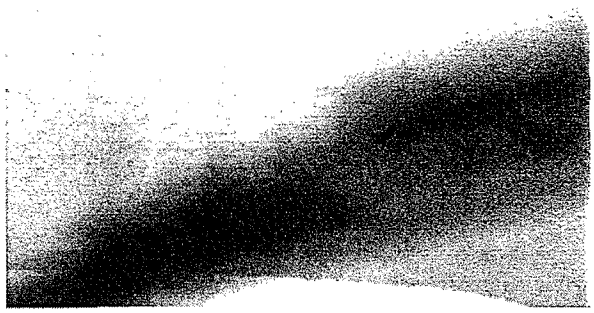
Opportunities: Adopt Local Government Commission land use/water resource policies listed in the Ahwahnee Water Principles (www.lgc.org); adopt Stormwater Management Plan; form county Flood Control District; work with ACE and CCWD on Cosgrove Creek Flood Control project.

FERRY TO MACKINAC ISLAND


Natural flood zone areas filled in and built upon
COUNTRY VIEW


VS Fitness Center
Proposed shopping center site
Hwy 26
Cosgrove Creek flood zone area
Gold Creek





Flood water could contain sewage

Published: April 11, 2006

By ABBE SMITH

Valley Springs utility officials met this morning to discuss how raw sewage from two storage ponds got into creek water that flooded dozens of homes in the La Contenta subdivision.

Cosgrove Creek rushed over the top of a levee maintained by the Valley Springs Public Utilities District for two hours last Tuesday and flooded two primary ponds that store sewage, utility General Manager Michael Fischer said this morning.

Residents yesterday and today were donning gloves and rubber boots to clean homes damaged and, in some cases, destroyed by the contaminated flood water.

Calaveras County Water District workers raced to prevent ponds storing treated wastewater from overflowing. One main pond in Copper Cove was inches from overflowing, Larry Diamond, interim general manager of the district, said yesterday.

Rapid housing and commercial development in the county is taking its toll on sewer systems, he said.

"The pace of growth in the Copper basin has pressed our need of expansion of certain facilities like the storage pond. That's on our list," Diamond said.

County Supervisor Victoria Erickson, whose district covers Valley Springs and Copper Cove, said if overdevelopment is a cause of sewer system failure, then CCDW has yet to alert the county.

"I think if development is taking a toll on the sewer system then it's up to the CCDW to let us know before we approve these development projects," she said.

Erickson said the overloading of sewer systems has more to do with recent heavy storms in the area.

"This year has been just an extremely wet year," she said.

Rainwater from last week's storms poured into CCWD sewer systems and overloaded them, Diamond said yesterday.

Ponds holding treated wastewater coming out of the overloaded system are dangerously close to overflowing because of the heavy rain.

But workers are making progress in lowering the water levels of those ponds by pumping water out and using it to irrigate golf courses and district-owned land.

"We're measuring our progress in inches," Diamond said.

Water levels in ponds in Copper Cove and Vallecito have dropped several inches.

A pond in La Contenta still is filling up but is not in imminent danger of spilling, he said.

Diamond stressed the difference between raw sewage that goes into the plant and the much safer treated wastewater that comes out of the plant and is stored in the ponds.

If any treated wastewater spills from the ponds, CCWD will be heavily fined by state regulatory agencies, Diamond said.

He added one positive effect of the rainwater is that it may dilute the wastewater.

Fischer echoed that sentiment when he compared the amount of raw sewage from his utility district that entered Cosgrove Creek to a "needle in a haystack."

He said the Valley Springs sewage plant usually has 200 gallons a minute entering. Last Tuesday, the plant had an addition 30,000 gallons a minute of creek water entering the plant.

While district workers focused on storage ponds and sewer systems yesterday, residents took clean-up measures into their own hands.

Chris Christensen, who owns Clean Pro Carpet Cleaning, lives and does business on St. Andrews Drive, one of the streets in the La Contenta subdivision most affected by the creek flooding.

Christensen said he was not aware of possible contamination in the flood water that filled homes he's been cleaning all week.

"Things got so crazy and so hectic around here, but I'm glad I know now," he said.

Jim Fox, owner of the 10th Green Inn on St. Andrews Road, said he was alerted about the contamination risk and was being cautious about clean-up.

Fox and his wife lost the entire bottom floor of their inn when the raging creek rushed across their property.

"We're real frustrated, but we're in the same boat as everyone else," he said.

County administrator Tom Mitchell said officials posted contamination warning messages at residents' homes.

Brian Moss, environmental health director for the county, recommended residents wear protective clothing, such as rubber boots and gloves, when they clean up from the flood in case there was any contamination.

"We want to make sure they're not exposed to bacteria or other organisms that can cause disease," he said.

When cleaning a home, residents should wash all areas touched by the flood with detergent and water and then rinse with a sanitizing solution of one tablespoon of household bleach to each gallon of water, he said.

Residents should be especially careful with cooking utensils, counters, cabinets and other works surfaces.

For more information, call the county Environmental Health Department at 754-6399.

Calaveras County awash in sewage-tainted water

ADDITIONAL WEBSITES

Calaveras county

Dana M. Nichols
Record Staff Writer
Published Saturday, Apr 8, 2006
SAN ANDREAS - Flooded Calaveras County residents should disinfect their wells and homes because raw sewage has mixed with the floodwaters that deluged the Valley Springs area earlier this week.

Meanwhile, the Calaveras County Water District declared a state of emergency and warned that sewage ponds close to overflowing could cause more trouble depending on rainfall from a new round of weekend storms.

"We are really weather-dependent," said Larry Diamond, interim manager for the CCWD.

Twenty Valley Springs homes flooded by Cosgrove Creek on Tuesday must be disinfected because the same flood washed through the San Andreas Public Utility District's raw sewage ponds just upstream.

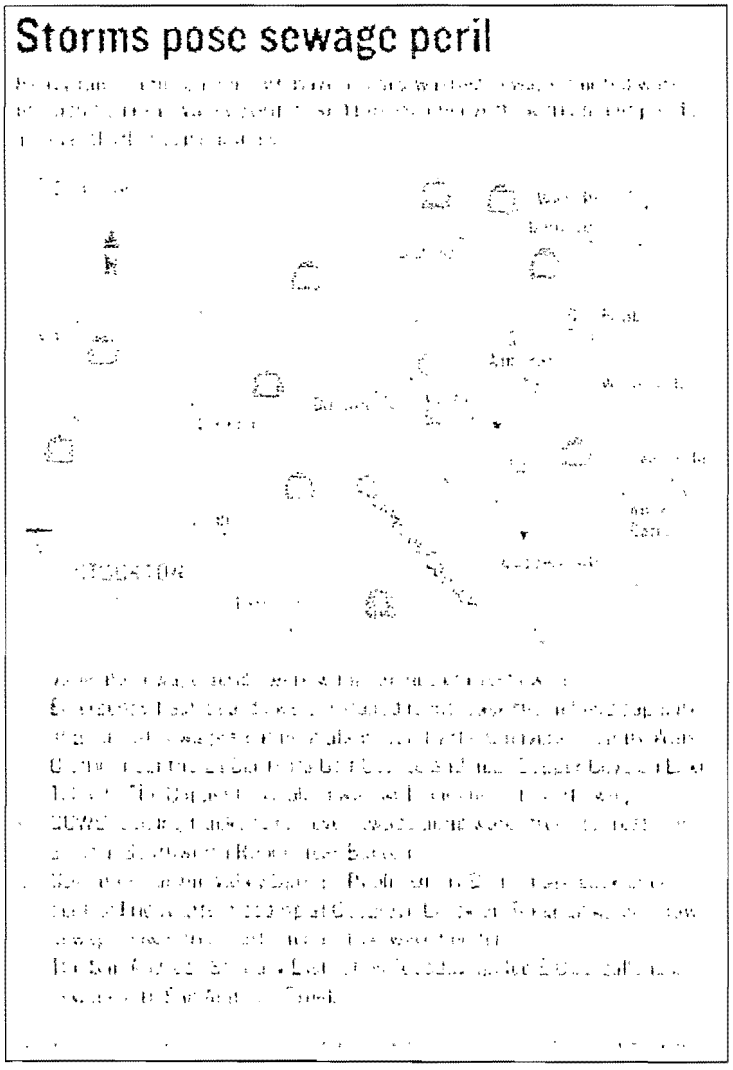
"We're going to have to spray bleach or something," said Diane White, 38, whose home on Grouse Drive was among those flooded. "And I am going to take my kids and get their shots."

Contaminated water can carry a number of deadly diseases, including dysentery and tetanus. White said her children - ages 7, 9, 10, and 13 - would get shots for tetanus and tuberculosis.

White said she and her husband Kevin, 40, finished stripping the home's carpets on Friday and were preparing to start removing damaged drywall.

The family is staying in an RV loaned to them by friends.

"It looks like we will be out of the house for two months," White said.


Storms pose sewage peril

CCWD officials also warned that scavengers who pick up flood-damaged furniture or carpeting could be exposed to disease as well.

The Valley Springs Public Utility District sewage plant was back in full working order Friday, said Mike Fischer, general manager of the district. "You couldn't even tell," he said.

At least four sewage treatment plants operated by the Calaveras County Water District, in contrast, had not yet spilled but were in danger of doing so, overwhelmed by rainwater pouring into the system.

Plants in Copper Cove and Vallecito, in particular, were within inches of overflowing, CCWD officials said. The ponds held their waste only because of hastily erected boards used to extend the height of retaining walls.

Officials said crews worked heroically to prevent sewage spills. CCWD Director Ed Rich, who represents Copperopolis and Copper Cove, said that when rising waters began to bend the emergency boards, district workers brought in truckloads of riprap and hand-placed the rocks to support the boards.

"It is still within an inch of the top. Hopefully, it will go down," Rich said of the ponds' height at an emergency meeting of CCWD directors Tuesday afternoon. The board voted unanimously to declare a state of emergency in the district, making it eligible for state and federal disaster funding should that become available.

Bill Perley, operations and maintenance superintendent for the CCWD, said the ponds are overflowing because of rain runoff that should not be entering the district's sewers in the first place. Some of it comes from sewer connection clean-out pipes that contractors on new home sites failed to cap. Other water comes when residents of subdivisions pull open utility hole covers and dump water into sewers that should go to creeks and storm drains.

"It's not from the old stuff; it's from the new stuff," Perley said of the county's housing tracts. "It's taken away all our storage capacity."

Perley said a crackdown by state pollution officials will soon require districts like the CCWD to seek out and fine people who flood the sewers by leaving clean-outs uncapped or by popping open utility hole covers.

But while families like the Whites disinfect their homes and get vaccinations, many are still mourning their losses. For the Whites, that loss was the family cat, Sydney.

"She got stuck under the house, and I could hear her meowing, and I couldn't get her," White said, describing the flood. "She was 13 years old. That's kind of hard on the family. We buried her yesterday."

Contact reporter Dana M. Nichols at (209) 754-9534 or dnichols@recordnet.com

April 7

Castle Rock Estates trailer park was under flood waters Tuesday afternoon.

Two-inch downpour in 30 minutes causes havoc

At least 15 homes damaged by flood

By Nick Baptista

A downpour of 2 inches within a 30-minute period Tuesday afternoon swelled already high creeks and streams rushing into Valley Springs and by the time the rain began to subside at least 15 homes along the Cosgrove Creek corridor had sustained significant damage.

In addition, residents in approximately 100 homes in La Contenta later that night were ordered to evacuate while nearby Peachtree Pond teetered on giving way and sending another wall of water downstream.

After nearly 10 inches of rain in March and another two the first three days of April, Valley Springs received nearly three inches of rain on Tuesday. Valley Springs Public Utility District General Manager Mike Fischer reported the treatment plant received nearly two inches of rain from approximately 1:30 to 2 p.m.

With the deluge, flooding began at the Castle Oak Estates trailer park, the VSPUD treatment plant. By 6 p.m., as much as 2 ½ feet of standing water had accumulated on local roadways surrounding La Contenta and several homes on Grouse Drive, Country View Drive and St. Andrews Road and St. Andrews Drive had flooded. Residents in more than a dozen homes in the area were ordered to evacuate and relocation centers were opened at Valley Springs Elementary School and the Veterans Memorial Hall.

See Friday's print edition for the entire article.

New Hogan Dam Expected To Cause Flooding

Friday, April 07, 2006 - 04:15 PM
Vanessa Turner
MML Calaveras Bureau

Valley Springs, CA -- As Calaveras County braces for the next storm it is already expecting flooding as New Hogan Dam reaches capacity.

The dam is three feet from spilling over. The Army Corps of Engineers is releasing water, which is creating high flows in the channels below.

A levee in the area west of the intersection of Milton and Jenny Lind Road is expected to fail within the next 24 hours.

Officials say when that happens it will mostly flood only farmland and orchards.

No homes are currently being threatened.

The heaviest rainfall of this next storm is expected at 10 p.m. Friday night. It is predicted to drop as much as 2 inches of rain.

Written by vanessa.turner@mlode.com.

Apr 5, 4:20 PM EDT

Floods, Weakened Dam Threaten Calif. Homes

By JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

MERCED, Calif. (AP) -- Deputies evacuated about 100 homes early Wednesday because a storm-weakened earthen dam appeared close to rupturing, threatening a flood. Two levees had broken a day earlier in the Central Valley, and homes were evacuated near San Francisco because of a threat of landslides from the heavy rain.

The 12-foot earthen dam is at a golf course near Valley Springs in the Sierra foothills, surrounded by a semi-residential area of ranch homes and horse properties.

Up to 4 inches of rain had fallen in 24 hours in the area, weakening the dam, said Angus Barkhuff, a forecaster with the National Weather Service in Sacramento. If the dam were to fail, water would drain into a smaller pond that will likely overflow into the Calaveras River.

Teams from the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department began evacuating homes during the night, and the weather service posted a flash flood warning for the area.

Rain has been falling on Northern California for the past month and meteorologists predict continued wet weather for two more weeks.

The two levee breaks Tuesday in the agricultural Central Valley forced evacuations of residential areas and inundated farmland.

"The bad news is rain stays in the forecast basically until further notice," said Ryan Walbrun, lead forecaster at the weather service office in Monterey. The weather service has been holding regular conference calls with state disaster-management officials.

Southern California has also been getting drenched. Two people had to be rescued from swollen creeks on Tuesday: One was a man whose pickup was swept off a road into a creek in Ventura County, and the other was a 12-year-old boy who fell into a flood control channel in Los Angeles County's San Fernando Valley.

Tuesday's 1.43 inches of rain in downtown Los Angeles broke a record set in 1929, although the city's total since July 1 is only 11.85 inches, 2.3 inches below normal.

Some criticize flood plan as not being aggressive enough

Dana M. Nichols
Record Staff Writer
Published Wednesday, Apr 12, 2006

VALLEY SPRINGS - The good news is that someday, maybe in only a few years, local and federal officials may fire up a bunch of bulldozers and build basins and berms designed to tame Cosgrove Creek, which last week flooded 20 homes with sewage-tainted water.

The bad news is the project most likely to be built will only weaken the floods, not prevent them. And though residents say the April 4 flood was deeper and faster than any in the past 30 years on Cosgrove Creek, it was nowhere near the level engineers predict is likely to happen sooner or later.

That's why some leaders, builders and residents advocate a much more aggressive project that would include additional dams and work beyond what has been given an initial blessing by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"Eventually we are going to get (a flood) bigger than we've ever seen," said Jeff Davidson, who represents Valley Springs on the board of the Calaveras County Water District. On Tuesday he toured flood damage along Cosgrove Creek. "It's a miracle someone hasn't died in this."

The April 4 flood peaked at a flow of about 3,000 cubic feet per second - or enough water to fill a home swimming pool every second. It put up to 21/2 feet of water inside living rooms on St. Andrews Road and Grouse Drive. Residents say the flood was 18 inches or more deeper than the one in 1997 and the strongest on Cosgrove Creek in 30 to 50 years.

But it wasn't close to the biggest flood likely to hit the area. A study prepared last year by the Army Corps of Engineers said a 50-year flood - one with about a 1-in-50 chance of happening in any given year - would peak at about 3,900 cfs. A 100-year flood would send about 4,600 cfs raging down the creek.

Detention basins proposed along Hogan Dam Road east of Highway 26 are the most ambitious flood-control project deemed cost effective by an initial Army Corps study on Cosgrove Creek. Those basins could reduce the flood flows by 800 to 900 cfs. That means that a 50-year flood would still be as damaging as the one April 4, and a 100-year flood would be significantly worse.

Davidson said that's why the Cosgrove flood-control effort ultimately should include dams on upper Cosgrove Creek and Spring Valley Creek. "If we do the project right, it is really going to be a huge benefit to Valley Springs," Davidson said.

At least one major builder said he would be happy to pay the per-home fees needed to do a thorough flood-control project along the creek, and he wishes authorities would move aggressively to take necessary steps, such as forming a flood-control district.

"Everybody in the county just keeps putting this off and assuming it will take care of itself," said Ryan Voorhees, owner of CRV Enterprises Inc., the builder of the Gold Creek Estates subdivision in Valley Springs.

Unlike the older subdivisions downstream, homes in Gold Creek avoided damage last week because of a berm between homes and the creek and because the homes are elevated above the flood plain.

It is not yet clear what agency will take the lead to get the project done. Although both Calaveras County Water District - which owns the land where the detention basins could be built - and Calaveras County are partners, they are still negotiating with the Army Corps on whether either of them will take the lead role.

Local and federal officials hope to sort out the lead-agency question by the fall. Then they could sign an agreement to split the $700,000 cost of a formal feasibility study to determine exactly what should be built.

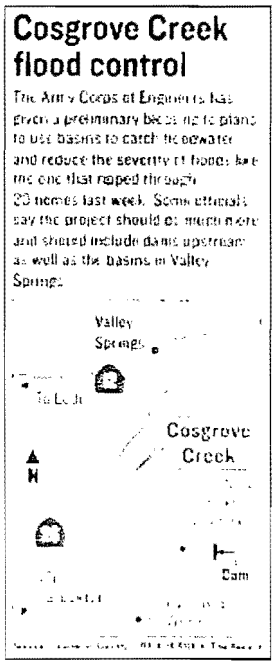
Of course, communities can build flood-control projects on their own if they want to pay for them. The Army Corps can pay only 65 percent of the cost for a project where its analysis finds a federal interest in reducing flood damage. The proposed detention basins would cost about $5million.

Davidson said that ultimately, it is the thousands of homes likely to be built along the creek in the coming decades that should fund the more-ambitious projects, although no flood-control agency exists to assess those fees.

Betty Snyder, 81, said some government agency has to step in to take care of the job.

Snyder has been watching floods on upper Cosgrove Creek for 63 years from the Snyder Ranch, on Paloma Road north of Valley Springs. She said the berms and detention basins proposed along New Hogan Dam Road would be only a "Band-Aid."

Contact reporter Dana M. Nichols at (209) 754-9534 or dnichols@recordnet.com



[Source: DWR website]
17 Nov 03

II. General Information

Project Name: Calaveras County West Flood Protection I

Project Location: Valley Springs County: Calaveras

Name and address of sponsoring agency or non-profit organization:
Calaveras County Public Works Department, 891 Mountain Ranch Rd., San Andreas, CA 95249

Name of Project Manager (contact): Robert Kawasaki, Director

Phone Number: 209-754-6402 E-mail Address: bkawasaki@co.calaveras.ca.us

Grant Request Amount: $600,000

Project Objective(s): Briefly describe your project and explain how it will advance FPCP goals. Please also include a detailed map of the immediate project site and another that shows its location within your geographical area.

The project will be for the acquisition of land in Valley Springs to reduce flood damages, restore wetlands and riparian habitat In Cosgrove Creek and provide recreation within the floodplain by developing suitable playing fields. This phase of the project will initiate efforts to eliminate the potential for flood damage to residential, commercial and agricultural properties. We will advance the FPCP goals by the protection, creation, and enhancement of flood protection corridors in western Calaveras County.

_____

Project Manager Title

_____

Date

III. Minimum Qualifications

Project proposals that do not meet the minimum qualifications will not be accepted.

A. ☐ The project proposes to use any granted funds for protection, creation, and enhancement of flood protection corridors *[Water Code Section 79037(b)]*.

B. ☐ A local public agency, a non-profit organization, or a joint venture of local public agencies, non-profit organizations, or both proposes the project *[Water Code Section 79037(a)]*.

C. ☐ The project will use the California Conservation Corps or a community conservation corps whenever feasible *[Water Code Section 79038(b)]*.

D. ☐ If it is proposed to acquire property in fee to protect or enhance flood protection corridors and floodplains while preserving or enhancing agricultural use, the proponent has considered and documented all practical alternatives to acquisition of fee interest *[Water Code Section 79039(a)]*.

E. ☐ Holders of property interests proposed to be acquired are willing to sell them *[Water Code Section 79040]*.

F. ☐ If it is proposed to acquire property interests, the proposal describes how a plan will be developed that evaluates and minimizes the impact on adjacent landowners prior to such acquisition and evaluates the impact on the following *[Water Code Section 79041]*:

- ▶Floodwaters including water surface elevations and flow velocities
- ▶The structural integrity of affected levees
- ▶Diversion facilities
- ▶Customary agricultural husbandry practices
- ▶Timber extraction operations

The proposal must also describe maintenance required for a) the acquired property, b) any facilities that are to be constructed or altered.

G. ☐ The project site is located at least partially in one of the following:

1. A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), or
2. An area that would be inundated if the project were completed and an adjacent FEMA SFHA were inundated, or
3. A FEMA SFHA, which is determined by using the detailed methods identified in FEMA Publication 37, published in January 1995, titled "Flood Insurance Study Guidelines and Specifications for Study Contractors", or
4. A floodplain designated by The Reclamation Board under Water Code Section 8402(f) *[Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Division 2, Section 497.5(a)]*, or a
5. Locally designated Flood Hazard Area, with credible hydrologic data to support designation of at lease one in 100 annual probability of flood risk. This is applicable to

locations without levees, or where existing levees can be set back, breached, or removed. In the latter case, levee setbacks, removal, or breaching to allow inundation of the floodplain should be part of the project.

IV. (340 points) Flood Protection Benefits

A. Existing and potential urban development in the floodplain (50)

1. Describe the existing and potential urban development at the site and the nature of the flood risk.

The Area is rapidly becoming urbanized and consists of residential, and agriculture properties. The properties to be purchased are situated at the north and central portions of the flood plain. The potential for continued development near these areas creates concern in relation to establishing a riparian corridor. The area in the central portion of the flood plain is currently being considered for development. There are approximately 82 damageable structures within the flood plain.

The nature of the flood risk is creek over flows caused by 10- and 100-year flows on Cosgrove Creek of 2,220-cfs and 3,950-cfs, respectively.

2. How often has flooding occurred historically?

Flooding has occurred three times in the past ten years.

3. Discuss the importance of improving the flood protection at this location. Include the number of people and structures that are affected by the flood hazard, and the flood impacts to highways and roads, railroads, airports and other infrastructure, and agriculture.

The importance of protection at this area is for elimination of property damage, accessibility, and associated health risks, avoidance of road surface deterioration, stream bank and riparian corridor protection and infrastructure impacts.

The number of people that are within the area impacted is approximately 417.
A recent floodplain evaluation identified approximately 102 damageable structures in the 100-year flood plain.

B. Flood damage reduction benefits of the project (100)

1. Does the proposed project provide for transitory storage of floodwaters? What is the total community need for transitory storage related to this watercourse and what percentage of the total need does this project satisfy? What is the volume of water and how long is it detained?

Yes, an attenuation pond will be constructed. It, along with a dyke and possibly elevating flood prone structures, will satisfy 100% of the need. Water storage will be approximately 1,000-acre feet of water and detain water for less than 48 hrs.

2. Describe any structural and non-structural flood damage reduction elements of the project. (Examples of structural elements are levees, weirs, detention/retention basins, rock slope-protection, etc. Examples of non-structural elements are acquisition of property for open space, acquisition of land for flood flow easements, transitory storage,

relocation of structures and other flood prone development, elevating flood prone structures, flood proofing structures, etc.)

The plan is to construct a 600 to 1,000 acre-foot attenuation pond. The pond would be approximately 15 feet below grade with 3:1 side slopes. Acquisition is required to develop the basin and widen the creek to increase flow capacity in lieu of an inlet structure. The non-structural would be property acquisition for the basin.

3. By what methods and by how much dollar value will the project decrease expected average annual flood damages?

The methods employed will be installation of a ½ mile X 5-foot dyke and an attenuation pond. The approximate dollar value decrease is $200,000 +/-.

4. How does the project affect the hydrologic and hydraulic conditions at the project site and adjacent properties?

Flows will be detained in a manner that will allow for natural flows in the watershed but flows will be controlled as the stream enters the developed areas by use of the attenuation pond.

a) Will the project reduce the magnitude of a flood flow, which could cause property damage and/or loss of life?

Yes - they will be eliminated.

b) What are the effects of the project on water surface elevations during a flood event which could cause property damage and/or loss of life?

The project will eliminate water surface elevations that have caused damage. Water will not overtop the banks of the existing creek.

c) How are flow velocities impacted by the project during a flood flow, which could cause property damage and/or loss of life?

Flow velocities will be the same but maintained downstream from the attenuation pond to avoid flooding.

C. Restoration of natural processes (60)

1. Describe how any natural channel processes will be restored (for example: for channel meander, sediment transport, inundation of historic floodplain, etc.) and describe how these natural processes will affect flood management and adjacent properties.

The problems will be solved by enhancement to the riparian corridor. We will not disturb the stream corridor and flooding will be controlled.

2. Describe any upstream or downstream hydraulic or other effects (such as bank erosion or scour, sediment transport, growth inducement, etc.).

By controlling the stream velocities, we will reduce bank erosion, and provide some soil stabilization in the downstream corridor. The stream will maintain current hydraulic state.

3. If the project includes channel modification or bank protection work, will riprap or dredging be part of the design? If so, provide an analysis of potential benefits and impacts.

Dredging has been suggested by the local homeowners and will be considered in final design efforts. Riprap could play a vital role in developing the dyke next to the mobile home park.

D. Project effects on the local community (60)

1. How will the project impact future flooding on and off this site?

Flooding will be eliminated.

2. How will the project affect emergency evacuation routes or emergency services and demands for emergency services?

Emergency services will be able to readily access the needs in this area with no restrictions.

3. Explain how the project will comply with the local community floodplain management ordinance and the floodplain management criteria specified in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program (FEMA's NFIP).

The project will comply and receive a high rating from FEMA. The FEMA 100-year flood plain will be changed in a positive manner.

E. Value of improvements protected (70)

1. What is the assessed value of structural improvements that will be protected by the project?

The value of personal and public properties is approximately $27 million.

2. What is the estimated replacement value of any flood control facilities or structures protected by the project?

There currently has been minor stream protection work done at the lower portion of the flood zone. These improvements included riprap and some excavation. Estimated value would be $60,000.

V. (340 points) Wildlife and Agricultural Land Conservation Benefits

Proponent should provide a statement of the relative importance of the project's wildlife and agricultural land conservation benefits. DWR will use the statement and all other project materials to assign a fraction of the total benefits to each type (wildlife (F_w) or agricultural land conservation (F_a)) so that the fractions total unity. Actual points scored for each type of resource will be multiplied by the respective fraction for each resource, and the wildlife and agricultural scores resulting for each type of resource will be added together.

A. (340xF_w points) Wildlife Benefits

Habitat values refer to the ecological value and significance of the habitat features at this location that presently occur, have occurred historically, or will occur after restoration.
Viability refers to the site's ability, after restoration if necessary, to remain ecologically viable with minimal on-site management over the long-term, and to be able to recover from any natural catastrophic disturbances (fire, floods, etc.).

A1. Importance of the site to regional ecology (70)

1. Describe any habitat linkages, ecotones, corridors, or other buffer zones within or adjacent to the site. How are these affected by the project?

This corridor will provide enhanced habitat linkages and become an improved green belt. The creek acts as a natural habitat corridor, which will positively be affected by the project.

2. Is the site adjacent to any existing conservation areas?

No

3. Describe any plans for aquatic restoration resulting in in-stream benefits.

Part of the plan will be exploring opportunities for habitat enhancements along the streams utilizing State Department of Fish and Game, Central Sierra RC&D, USDA and county environmental services.

4. Discuss any natural landscapes within the site that support representative examples of important, landscape-scale ecological functions (flooding, fire, sand transport, sediment trapping, etc.)?

The stream acts as some protection from sediment transport through riparian functions.

A2. Diversity of species and habitat types (70)

1. Does the site possess any:
   i. areas of unique ecological and/or biological diversity?
   ii. vegetative complexity either horizontally or vertically?

Yes - Some wetlands are found along the corridor and oak woodlands occur near the southern end of the corridor.

Please see attached 'Federal Endangered and Threatened Species'.

Due to the extensive historical grazing in the area, most of the foothill woodland vegetation has diminished. Our project will also focus on restoration of the riparian corridor to enhance flora and fauna.

2. Describe habitat components including year-round availability of water, adequate nesting/denning areas, food sources, etc.

The current conditions are minimal for adequate year round water, nesting and food sources. This will be restored with the proposed project.

3 Describe any superior representative examples of specific species or habitats.

Listed and sensitive species are on the attached document. No current biological assessments have been made in the flood zone.

3. Does the site contain a high number of species and habitat types? List and describe.

Please see attached 'Federal Endangered and Threatened Species'. It has not been determined if high numbers occur in the area.

5. Does the site contain populations of native species that exhibit important subspecies or genetic varieties historically present prior to European immigration?

Undetermined.

A3. Ecological importance of species and habitat types (100)

1. Discuss the significance of habitat types at this location and include any local, regional, or statewide benefits received by preserving or improving the area.

No formal studies or surveys have been conducted. Local benefits will be appreciated by the restoration of the Cosgrove Creek corridor. Enhancement of flora and fauna plus the creation of flood control appurtenances will greatly enhance the region. In addition, the need for sports fields has been a local concern for many years. The proposed basin will provide for this much needed recreation.

2. Does the site contain any significant wintering, breeding, or nesting areas? Does it fall within any established migratory corridors? What is the level of significance? How are these affected by the project?

In addition to the listed species discussed above, the riparian forest adjacent to the stretches of Grayson and Murderers' Creeks are also nesting habitat for a number of migratory birds and raptors covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. No studies or surveys have been conducted yet to determine the extent of nesting activity within the trees that may be affected. The project will not cause detrimental impacts to the wildlife.

3. Describe any existing habitats that support any sensitive, rare, "keystone" or declining species with known highly restricted distributions in the region or state. Does the site contain any designated critical habitat? How are these affected by the project?

The following species could be the most likely to occupy the area: *Rana aurora draytonii* - California red-legged frog (T), *Spea hammondii* - western spadefoot toad (SC), *Clemmys marmorata marmorata* - northwestern pond turtle (SC), *Agelaius tricolor* - tricolored blackbird (SC), *Carduelis lawrencei* - Lawrence's goldfinch (SC), *Cypseloides niger* - black swift (SC), and the *Selasphorus rufus* - rufous hummingbird (SC)

These species plus those indicated on the attached species lists will be reviewed for appropriate habitat types. We will work with the USDA and USF&WL Service to implement vegetation appropriate to re-introducing as many species as possible into the area.

What is the amount of shaded riverine aquatic (SRA) and riparian habitat to be developed, restored, or preserved?

We hope to set the stage to restore a healthy riparian corridor throughout the channel. Efforts will be made to educate the public on valuable riparian corridors and their related benefits.

The actual canopy creation will occur around the attenuation pond (distance yet to be determined) and we will vegetate areas along the ½ mile dyke.

A4. Public benefits accrued from expected habitat improvements (60)

1. Describe present public use/access, if any. For instance, does or will the public have access for the purpose of wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, photography, picnics, etc.

There is no public use in the areas to be purchased. The proposed improvements will be utilized by the public for viewing adjacent flora and fauna. The attenuation basin will also provide for a multiple of recreational uses such as soccer, football, softball and open field sports.

2. Discuss areas on the site that are critical for successfully implementing landscape or regional conservation plans. How will the project help to successfully implement the plans?

The plan calls for ecosystem restoration, as needed, along the creek and basin area next to the stream. The intent is to revegetate/preserve vegetation along the creek and maintain nature viewing from trails along the creek.

3. Describe the surrounding vicinity. Include the presence or absence of large urban areas, rapidly developing areas, and adjacent disturbed areas with non-native vegetation and other anthropogenic features. Do any surrounding areas detract from habitat values on the site?

The area is bordered by housing at the southern end of the flood plain near the golf course. A mobile home park located to the south of the stream occupies the northern area. Most of the area is open field grazing with no cattle exclosures. The current habitat values are diminished due to the unchecked grazing.

4. Describe compatibility with adjacent land uses.

The area is compatible with the typical low-land foothill woodland terrain and associated vegetation. A mix of commercial, residential and ag use all seem to compliment one another in the Valley Springs Area.

A5. Viability/sustainability of habitat improvements (40)

1. Describe any future operation, maintenance and monitoring activities planned for the site. How would these activities affect habitat values?

USDA staff and the county will monitor improving the creek and adjacent riparian corridor. We will insure that vegetative plantings are replaced, as needed, and protection of the plants from animals will be maintained. Stream flow gauges will be installed and monitored. Area utilized for sports fields will be mowed and seeded as required.

The habitat values will be improved by the riparian plantings and possibly stream flow will be controlled to allow for anadromous fish at the western terminous of the flood zone. Local schools in cooperation with DF&G and the ACOE could release fish.

2. Does the site contain large areas of native vegetation or is it adjacent to large protected natural areas or other natural landscapes (for example, a large stand of blue-oak woodland adjacent to public land)?

No - but the area lies between to major reservoirs (Hogan and Pardee) which are protected and provide habitat for significant flora and fauna.

3. Is the watershed upstream of the site relatively undisturbed or undeveloped and likely to remain so into the foreseeable future? Describe its condition.

Yes - potable water has been an on-going concern in the upstream area. The majority of growth is occurring south and west of the site.

4. Describe any populations of native species or stands of native habitats that show representative environmental settings, such as soil, elevations, geographic extremes, or climatic conditions (for example, the wettest or most northerly location of a species within the state.)

NA

B. (340xF_a points) Agricultural Land Conservation Benefits

B1. Potential productivity of the site as farmland (120)

1. Describe the quality of the agricultural land based on land capability, farmland mapping and monitoring program definitions, productivity indices, and other soil, climate and vegetative factors.

The land is currently utilized for grazing. The grazed area satisfies dry land grazing and appropriate AUM's are managed in the area.

There are no soil maps reflecting land capabilities.

2. Are projected agricultural practices compatible with water availability?

Yes - current practices will continue.

3. Does the site come with riparian, mineral, and/or development rights?

No

4. Is the site large enough to sustain future commercial agricultural production?

No

5. Does the site contain any adverse or beneficial deed restrictions affecting agricultural land conservation?

No

6. Describe the present type of agricultural use including the level of production in relation to the site's productivity potential. What is the condition of the existing infrastructure that supports agriculture uses?

The land is currently utilized for dry land grazing. The grazed area satisfies appropriate AUM's. The area is predominantly laced with rocky, shallow soils typical of the low land regions of the Sierra Foothills. Intermittent streams traverse the site.

B2. Farming practices and commercial viability (40)

1. Does the area possess necessary market infrastructure and agricultural support services?

No

2. Are surrounding parcels compatible with commercial agricultural production?

Some areas yes and some areas No.

3. Is there local government economic support in place for agricultural enterprises including water policies, public education, marketing support, and consumer and recreational incentives?

Yes – The Foothills Recreation Association is comprised of local special interest groups that need sports fields for youth and adults of the area.

4. Describe any present or planned future environmentally friendly farm practices (no till, erosion control, wetlands avoidance, eco-friendly chemicals, recycling wastes, water conservation, biological pest control).

We plan to provide erosion control in the form of vegetative plantings

B3. Need and urgency for farmland preservation measures (70)

1. Is the project site under a Williamson Act contract?

No

2. Describe the surrounding vicinity. Include the presence or absence of large urban areas, rapidly developing areas, low density ranchette communities, and adjacent disturbed areas with non-native vegetation and other human-induced features. Do any surrounding areas detract from agricultural values on the site?

The area is rapidly becoming urbanized within and adjoining to open space grazing lands. Homes continue to be built at La Contenta Golf Course and many existing structures are currently in the flood plain. The area includes commercial and light industry. Typical non-native plantings occur within residential areas located in the flood plain.

The surrounding areas do not detract from agriculture values.

3. What types of conversion or development are likely on neighboring parcels? What are the land uses of nearby parcels? Describe the effects, if any, of this project to neighboring farming operations or other neighboring land uses.

The demand for housing continues to spiral. With residential housing comes the need for commercial services. These two couple and require additional land. The nearby parcels include a trailer park, commercial property, residential, agriculture and recreation (golf course).

The effects to the grazing lands by this project will be an increase in productivity by water retention within the attenuation pond. Continued siltation will be prevented and plantings along the corridor will assist in soil stabilization and soil building.

4. Describe the relationship between the project site and any applicable sphere of influence.

The project site is located on the grazing portion of the Ag lands adjacent to the proposed development and existing neighborhoods. Sphere of influence will be significant due to the inclusion of open sports fields within the flood zone for all county residents to use.

5. Is the agricultural land use on the project site consistent with the local General Plan? Does the General Plan demonstrate commitment to long-term agricultural conservation.

Yes

B4. Compatibility of project with local government planning (50)

1. Is the agricultural land use on the project site consistent with the local General Plan? Does the General Plan demonstrate commitment to long-term agricultural conservation?

Yes - The county board of supervisors has determined the need for flood protection in this area and they also realize the need for public recreation. Agriculture and recreation needs are compatible within the flood zone and the county will continue to insure this compatibility.

2. What is the present zoning and is the parcel developable?

Rural Residential and Commercial. Yes, they are developable.

3. Is there an effective right to farm ordinance in place?

Yes

4. Is the project description consistent with the policies of the Local Agency Formation Commission?

Yes

5. Will the project as proposed impact the present tax base?

Yes - It will most likely attract more development to the area as the greenbelt is enhanced.

B5. Quality of agricultural conservation measures in the project (50)

1. For agriculture lands proposed for conservation, describe any additional site features to be conserved that meet multiple natural resource conservation objectives, including wetland protection, wildlife habitat conservation, and scenic open space preservation where the conservation of each additional site feature does not restrict potential farming activities on the agriculture portions of the site.

The proposed vegetative plantings near the attenuation ponds and riparian corridor will not interfere with current grazing practices. The plantings will enhance wildlife values and reduce erosion.

2. What are the present biological/ecological values to wildlife? How are these values affected by the proposed project?

Current open space is grazed thus values evolve around sedge and grasses only. These will be enhanced by extensive riparian plantings and water quantity control for improved ground water and grazing.

3. Is the project proponent working with any local agricultural conservancies or trusts?

No

4. Does conservation of this site support long-term private stewardship of agricultural land? How does this proposal demonstrate an innovative approach to agricultural land conservation?

Yes - Our approach is to work with the neighboring cattlemen for flood protection and soil stabilization. We feel that by providing recreational sports fields, we actually rotate use for the benefit of the public and agriculture.

5. Without conservation, is the land proposed for protection likely to be converted to non-agricultural use in the foreseeable future?

No - the project area will be dedicated to open space, riparian and recreational public use.

VI. (320 points) Miscellaneous Benefits and Quality of Proposal

A. Size of request, other contributions, number of persons benefiting, cost of grant per benefited person (40)

Estimated Total Project Cost	$2.5M
Amount of FPCP Grant Funds Requested	$600,000
Amount of Local Funds Contributed	
Amount of In-kind Contributions	$ 80,000
Additional Funding Sources	$1.8M
Number of persons expected to benefit	1,000+
Flood Protection Corridor Funds per person benefited.*	$800+

(* Count as beneficiaries those receiving flood benefits, recreational users of habitat areas protected by the Project, and consumers of food products from agricultural areas conserved by the Project.)

B. Quality of effects on water supply or water quality (90)

1. Will water stored by the project provide for any conjunctive use, groundwater recharge, or water supply benefit?

Some ground water recharge is expected.

2. Does the project fence cattle out?

Only as needed for plant protection

3. Does the project pass water over newly developed fresh water marsh?

Yes - part of the project is to develop fresh water marshes.

4. Does the project trap sediments?

Yes

C. Quality of impact on underrepresented populations or historic or cultural resources (60)

1. Does the project benefit underrepresented populations? Explain.

Yes - All ethnic populations living in the area will benefit.

2. Are historical or cultural resources impacted by the project? Explain.

No - to the best of our knowledge.

D. Technical and fiscal capability of the project team (60)

1. Does the project require scientific or technical expertise, and if so, is it provided for in the grant proposal?

Yes

2. Grant funds will be available in phases. What monitoring and reporting mechanisms are built into your administrative plan to track progress, initiation, and completion of successive phases?

We will establish a project flow chart with associated tasks, responsibilities and time frame for completion. This will be done in cooperation with the USDA and County Planning Department.

3. Please outline your team's management, fiscal and technical capability to effectively carry out your proposal. Mention any previous or ongoing grant management experience you have.

The County Department of Public Works Engineering team which would be assigned responsibility for this type of project would include both the Director and Deputy Director (licensed Professional Engineers), the County Deputy Surveyor (licensed Professional Land Surveyor), and professional support staff as necessary. The Department has extensive experience in providing project management functions for a large variety of public works projects including parks, buildings, bridges, and roads as well as ancillary features associated with the noted features. If consultants would provide necessary, additional support retained for aspects requiring specialized expertise not available in-house.

The County Department of Public Works has staff that is familiar with grant processes from initiation through final reports and any requested financial audits. We have recently concluded an eighteen-month Office of Traffic Safety grant valued at $47,000. Additionally, the Department, over a period of 10-years has successfully implemented and administered approximately 19 Department of Conservation and California Integrated Waste Management Board grants of various categories for a value exceeding $1,070,000.00 in actual monies granted. As a result the Department is comfortable with this type of project and is qualified to develop and implement the proposed grant-funded project

E. Coordination and cooperation with other projects, partner agencies, and affected organizations and individuals (80)

1. List cost sharing and in-kind partners and any other stakeholders involved with your project and indicate the nature of their contribution, if any. Address the team's ability to leverage outside funds.

The U.S.D.A has and will continue to assist in habitat identification, soils analysis, wildlife enhancement and flood control/engineering issues. The U.S.D.A has been cooperative in sharing technical advice and we hope to solicit additional funds from them for this project. We will also apply for funds under the Urban Stream Restoration Grant Program through the state. National Grant Services will continue to solicit funds from state, federal and private sources.

2. Does your project overlap with or complement ongoing activities being carried out by others (such as CALFED, the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study, the Delta levee program, local floodplain management programs, the Reclamation Board's Designated Floodway program, or a multiple objective regional or watershed plan)? If so, indicate any coordination that has taken place to date or is scheduled to take place in the future.

No

3. Will this application, if approved, begin the next phase of a previously approved project or advance an ongoing project substantially toward completion?

The county has proposed projects in their capital improvement plans but lack funds to implement. If this project is approved, we will move ahead to acquire the necessary properties and develop plans for floodwater retention.

4. Describe how the proposal demonstrates a coordinated approach among affected landowners, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. If other entities are affected, is there written support for the proposal and a willingness to cooperate?

The coordinated approach is with the residents of the impacted area, the rancher, USDA and the county. All have been apprised of the project improvements and are anxious to see implementation. Written support is available upon request.

County to get hazard money from OES

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By KATY BRANDENBURG

The Union Democrat

A recent grant will allow Calaveras County agencies to assess natural disaster hazards and take aim at reducing them — including how to keep Cosgrove Creek from flooding again.

The county received $70,000 through the California Office of Emergency Services to create a pre-disaster mitigation plan, required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a county to be eligible for other types of federal relief funding.

Undersheriff Michael Walker said Calaveras County has applied for the emergency services grant three times since 1996. Last year's flood might have moved the county up on the priority list. Of the 210 agencies the federal government funded this year, only 17 were in California.

"We're shooting this application with a shotgun ... blasting everything to get it done," Walker said. "We want all agencies to have some input into making this plan."

The county Department of Public Works will hire a

consultant and work concurrently with agencies including the Calaveras County Water District, Sheriff's Office and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (now called Cal Fire) to map out areas in the county that could be subject to various hazards. One of the county's biggest threats is fire, Walker said, and the plan will include areas of historically significant fires, like the Old Gulch fire, the Pattison fire and the Darby fire.

Floodplains, such as Cosgrove Creek, drought areas and other water issues will be included as well.

In January, county efforts to clear sediment and debris from Cosgrove Creek were stalled due to the potential presence of the red-legged frog, tiger salamander and other endangered species in the creek bed.

An informal field-reconnaissance survey failed to turn up any visible endangered creatures, according to a memo from the Public Works Department in January, but the state Department of Fish and Game and federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service require the county to get permits and do more surveying.

To properly clean up and restore the waterway without disturbing any threatened ecosystems might cost as much as $5 million, said District 2 Supervisor Steve Wilensky, referring to a preliminary estimate the board discussed earlier this year. The pre-disaster plan grant might help cover the cost of early

studies and assessments required to proceed.

"For public safety we have a need to fix this," he said. "We can all talk about how we got there, by not considering the cumulative impacts of development runoff into a small creek ... and that's good to learn a lesson from it, but it doesn't change the fact that we have people in harm's way."

Future funding through state and federal sources might be available to help solve the problem once the Department of Fish and Game gives the go-ahead to begin, said District 5 Supervisor Russ Thomas.

Until then, the county could be far from the point of actually putting workers and equipment anywhere near Cosgrove Creek.

"Mitigation plans go back over 10 years, but there's never been a comprehensive cleaning of the channel," Thomas said. "It's paradoxical that a species standing in the way (of cleanup) doesn't protect the people living there."

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