

Agenda Date: April 16, 2024
Agenda No.:

Little Bear Creek Process for Creek

Preliminary Analysis Report Board Referral No. 2024.04



Presentation Overview

- Background
- Process
- Challenges
- Recommendations/Options

Background

➤ Board Referral No 2024.04

- Little Bear Creek (Santa Rita Creek in the jurisdiction of the City of Salinas) flows through the unincorporated community of Bolsa Knolls, northeast of the City of Salinas.
- Over the past decade, flooding has occurred in the unincorporated community of Bolsa Knolls.
- BR seeks to
 - 1) analyze and address floodplain issues in the Little Bear Creek area; and
 - 2) To address expedited permit processes for cleaning and long-term maintenance of Little Bear Creek.

Location Map

Process

- Define the floodplain issues that are to be addressed and set a goal for the project/plan.
- Identification of the relevant State and Federal Resource Agencies with jurisdiction;
- Meet and cogitate ideas for consideration/trial.
- Engaging with a consultant to perform the drainage study, and other necessary studies.
- Develop the scope of the project including implementation methodologies.
- Prepare the necessary project California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation to comply with State and local requirements.
- Prepare the necessary project National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation to comply with Federal requirements.

Process

- Acquire County approvals.
- Apply for approvals from the requisite permitting entities.
- Acquire Funding.
- Implement proposal.
- After trial period, assess the outcomes.

Process

- Resources Required:
 - Staffing – PWFP, HCD, WRA, Ag Comm, CC, CAO, RCD, and perhaps the City of Salinas.
 - The review time by any applicable state, federal or local permitting/regulatory entities is at their discretion.
 - Cost - Costs are not fully-determined at this time, but will consist primarily of staff time, consultant time, and mitigation costs and fees if necessary.
 - Salinas River Maintenance Plan – Was in the \$millions
- Schedule
 - Return to Board October 1, 2024

Challenges

- Permits
 - State, Federal, Local
 - Complex due to numerous entities involved with private property programs of this scale
 - Potential State and Federal Endangered Species Act considerations
 - Limited space available to perform activities within or near the Creek.
- Funding source

Past Example of Possible Challenges

- [Shaunna or WRA, could you please expand about the Salinas River Maintenance Plan experience?]

Recommendations / Options

- Continue with Process (Staff Recommendation)
 - Continue pilot ideas
 - Bring options back requiring Board Approvals
 - Time period and funding source
- Modify Referral/Request
- Rescind Referral/Request

Questions or Comments?

