



San Anselmo News

Debra Stutsman, Town Manager
dstutsman@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us

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Flood Risk Management Update

The Flood Control District continues to make progress mapping out a long range plan to reduce flood damages in the Ross Valley. Although the flood fee is being collected, the money is not being used due to the ongoing litigation that has now reached the state supreme court. That process is expected to take at least two years.

The ongoing work includes the following:

- A share of the \$1.3 million, 2-year budget approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2008 is funding the study that is looking at the feasibility of using large detention basins in the upper watershed to contain runoff during large rain storms; ways of maximizing flow in the creek channel; and finding practical and sustainable methods of removing sediment from the Kentfield/Larkspur reaches of the creek. The first technical memo by Stetson Engineers, giving a comprehensive overview of the problem and possible solutions can be found at www.rossvalleywatersheds.org. Look for the ***Ross Valley Flood Damage Reduction Feasibility Study***. The next technical memo is expected in Spring 2010. A summary of that memo will be presented at a future meeting of the Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board.
- The hydraulic model of the watershed, an expensive and indispensable tool for engineers, has been extended to a larger area of the watershed and up to Olema Rd. in Fairfax. The model can now be used to test possible solutions for reducing flood damage reduction.
- The same budget has also brought in more funds to the Ross Valley. The funds allocated to the Stetson contract also serve as part of the matching funds for a grant of \$650,000 given to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) to study how tidal marshlands can mitigate the effects of sea level rise. BCDC is conducting this research project in the Corte Madera Creek estuary. The research is meant to develop guidance for the entire Bay Area. The findings of this research are being coordinated with the Stetson study of sediment management in the tidal reaches of Corte Madera Creek as part of the ***Ross Valley Flood Damage Reduction Feasibility Study***.
- Another grant was awarded to the Urban Creeks Council based on the limited-funding effort we're making in Ross Valley. Our budget is funding a contract with the Urban Creeks Council, which is conducting a one-year program to assist private property

owners with creek bank erosion problems. Mailers were sent to over 2,000 property owners who own creekside property in the Ross Valley . To date, the UCC has met with over 75 of the approximately 130 homeowners who responded to the mailing. In San Anselmo, 45 property owners responded and the UCC intends to contact all of them. The original contract called for 50 consultations but this program has brought in additional funding to the Ross Valley via a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the San Francisco Estuary Project. This additional funding has allowed UCC to increase the number of consultations and can also be used as a partial monetary match for homeowners who elect to undertake the remedies suggested by the experts from the Urban Creeks Council. The District is hoping to continue this program next year if the budget will allow. The work designed and proposed by the UCC is being coordinated with the *Ross Valley Flood Damage Reduction Feasibility Study*.

- The District continues to work with the Friends of Corte Madera Creek in developing fish passage projects at Lansdale Ave. and Saunders Ave. that have benefits for both flood control and steelhead and coho salmon by restoring access to extensive habitat in the upper watershed. In most cases, redesign and reconstruction of fish ladders and/or fish passage barriers also reduce the water levels during large storms. Although funding for these projects is hard to come by in the current fiscal environment, the closer plans are developed to "shovel ready" status, the better chance there is of obtaining funds when they do become available.
- Based on the work we are doing and the research by BCDC, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has been awarded funding to install a sediment monitoring station in the Town of Ross. This sophisticated monitoring station is expected to go "live" any day. This instrument will assist the USGS, BCDC, and Stetson Engineers to determine how much sediment comes from the watershed and how much comes in with the tides. This will be very helpful in creating a sediment management program for the lower reaches of Corte Madera Creek.

Town Hall Holiday Hours

Town offices and the library will be closed for the holidays from Thursday, December 24, 2009 through Friday, January 1, 2010. Employees will be taking vacation days and other paid time off in addition to the regular holidays. While Town offices are closed for the holiday week, the Police and Fire Department are on duty and in touch with me and other department heads to ensure a quick and thorough response to any issue that may arise.

San Anselmo News, published weekly on Fridays, available at San Anselmo Town Hall, Library, on the Public Notice Bulletin Board, and in the Ross Valley Reporter. Also available on the Town's website, www.townofsananselmo.org, and by email subscription. To subscribe to the email list, send an email to townclerk@ci.san-anselmo.ca.us.