

**TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO**  
**STAFF REPORT**  
**October 18, 2016**

For the meeting of October 25, 2016

TO: Town Council

FROM: Sean Condry, P.E., Public Works Director

SUBJECT: San Anselmo Creek Restoration Project

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Town Council acknowledge and file the staff report on the San Anselmo Creek Restoration Project.

**BACKGROUND:**

The County's 2011 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Study identified more than 180 "in-channel" measures for practically maximizing the channel's flood flow capacity. The CIP's in-channel flow capacity improvement measures ranged from major public and private infrastructure projects (bridge replacements, bridge-building removal/modification, and sanitary sewer relocations), to moderate cost and complexity projects (primarily replacing numerous privately owned creek bank retaining walls encroached too far into the creek), to minor associated measures (removing abandoned concrete foundations, loose foreign concrete and rock debris, and one-time dredging deposits of oversize bed material accumulated over past decades). Implementing these measures would also serve to restore natural creek conditions – gravel bars, riffles, pools, and canopy-forming and nearshore riparian vegetation cover for improving aquatic habitat and fish passage suitability for steelhead.

Planning and design work is underway for replacing several bridges in Ross, San Anselmo and Fairfax potentially comprising about 40-45 of the 180+ CIP measures.

The Town partnered with the County Flood District in applying for a FEMA grant for implementing a project comprising about 6 of the 180+ CIP measures to remove one of the most severe obstructions, "Bridge-Building #2" (BB2). This grant has tentatively been moved from under review to being funded pending assessment of mitigation options for downstream.

With the removal of Memorial Park for flood control Town staff have been looking at other projects to decrease flooding in San Anselmo. Many of the 180 measures mentioned above are within Creek Park area and have a lot of potential for significantly reducing flooding in San Anselmo. With these potential Creek Park area projects and the migration of the grant for Memorial Park to other potential projects within Ross Valley staff is hoping to have a project or projects that may get funded in the near future. The Town of San Anselmo has hired Matt Smeltzer, Geomorph Design, to begin looking at a San Anselmo Creek Restoration Project that could have a major impact on reducing flooding.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The actual costs are unknown at this time but the engineers preliminary estimated total project and mitigation implementation cost is less than \$20 million which could be achievable if the BB2 grant and former Memorial Park Grant were used for this project along with County funds. Additional funding for this current study is required in the estimated amount of \$50,000 at the mid-year budget review and Town staff look forward to having the County contribute in the future.

Respectfully submitted,



Sean Condry, P.E.  
Public Works Director