



City of Santa Barbara
Airport Department

DATE: January 20, 2016

TO: Airport Commission

FROM: Hazel Johns, Airport Director

SUBJECT: Las Vegas and San Pedro Creeks Capacity Improvement Project

RECOMMENDATION:

That Commission receive a presentation from Santa Barbara County Flood Control on the Las Vegas and San Pedro Creeks Capacity Improvement Project.

DISCUSSION:

The Las Vegas and San Pedro Creeks Capacity Improvement Project is a multi-jurisdictional project between the Flood Control District, Caltrans, UPRR and the City of Santa Barbara Airport Department to combat episodic flooding along San Pedro and Las Vegas Creeks during major storm events which have occurred over the course of the last decade.

Flooding has typically occurred at the HWY 101 and Calle Real crossings for both creeks. Several businesses and residences as well as HWY 101 became inundated during these events. The project is designed to increase the hydraulic capacity of the two creek systems (culvert and channel improvements) from approximately a 10-year to approximately a 25-year flood event, significantly reducing flooding to the area.

Additional benefits of the project include the removal of several barriers to steelhead migration. Project improvements are as follows:

- Sub-element A is the replacement of the U.S. 101 culverts on Las Vegas and San Pedro Creeks with bridges. This element also includes extension of these improvements under Calle Real on San Pedro Creek. This work is funded by Caltrans and construction has commenced.
- Sub-element B is the replacement of the UPRR bridges over San Pedro and Las Vegas Creeks. This element also removes a vertical drop fish passage barrier at the San Pedro Creek UPRR Bridge. This work is funded by the District.
- Sub-element C consists of channel improvements downstream of the UPRR Bridges on San Pedro and Las Vegas Creeks and the construction of a floodwall along the west side of San Pedro Creek to compensate for water surface elevation increases resulting from upstream capacity improvements. This work is funded by the District.
- A fourth element of the project is referred to as the "Transition Structure," and is a component of both sub-elements A and B. The timing of the work will be coordinated with Caltrans and related to when Caltrans is constructing San Pedro Creek at Calle Real.