



City of Santa Barbara
Sustainability & Resilience Department

Memorandum

DATE: April 24, 2024

TO: Creeks Restoration/Water Quality Improvement Program
Citizen Advisory Committee

FROM: Erin Markey, Interim Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

SUBJECT: **Mission Creek at De La Vina Street Creek Restoration**

COMMITTEE DIRECTION – FOR DISCUSSION

That the Committee receive a presentation about the planned Mission Creek at De La Vina Street Creek Restoration Project.

DISCUSSION

Background

On March 11, 2016, the City's Public Works Department received authorization through Caltrans from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to initiate the engineering design phase for the De La Vina Bridge Replacement Project (Bridge Project). The De La Vina Street Bridge is currently designated as "structurally deficient," which indicates that a structure inadequacy exists and that elements of the structure are in poor condition. A structural evaluation indicated the structure is not suitable for rehabilitation and requires replacement. The Bridge Project has been designed to meet current seismic, safety, and design standards and will include realigning roadway approaches, removing building structures, abating hazardous building materials, relocating utilities including domestic water and sanitary sewer facilities, constructing channel walls, planting landscape materials, restoring creek and native riparian habitat, and adding storm water treatment facilities. Construction of the Bridge Project required acquisition of multiple real property interests, including three temporary construction easements, two minor partial acquisitions, one permanent access easement, and two full property acquisitions.

As part of the Bridge Project, the property located at 2726 De La Vina (051-220-015) was acquired on August 1, 2023, in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. The property will be used for construction staging and access but is in excess of the area required to be restored as compensatory mitigation by the City's Public Works Department as part of the Bridge Project. Typically, surplus property would go to auction,

but because of the location and nature of the property it provided an opportunity for additional creek restoration. On April 23, 2024, the Creeks Division requested that City Council approve a fund transfer of \$1,086,647, to the Public Works Department for the creek side parcel (051-220-015), as shown in the attached Location Exhibit, for the Mission Creek at De la Vina Street Restoration Project (Creek Restoration Project). This additional creek side habitat will be restored with native riparian plant species by the Creeks Division following the Bridge Project construction. The transfer will enable the Creeks Division to provide watershed protection and restoration along Mission Creek, in support of the Creeks Division mission to restore natural creek systems. The Creeks Division will be responsible for the long-term maintenance and monitoring of this site.

Current Status

The Creeks Division has been working with the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department to design the Creek Restoration Project for this property in conjunction with the Bridge Project designs. The restoration will include restored creek bank topography and planting of an additional 0.19 acres with native riparian trees and understory species beyond that required for the Bridge Project mitigation.

The Bridge Project is at 95 percent design and is in the process of finalizing right-of-way acquisitions and environmental permitting.

The land transfer to the Creeks Division will provide long-term watershed protection and restoration along Mission Creek. It will preserve this creek side property from future development while also providing an opportunity to restore native riparian habitat by planting native trees and understory species.

Budget

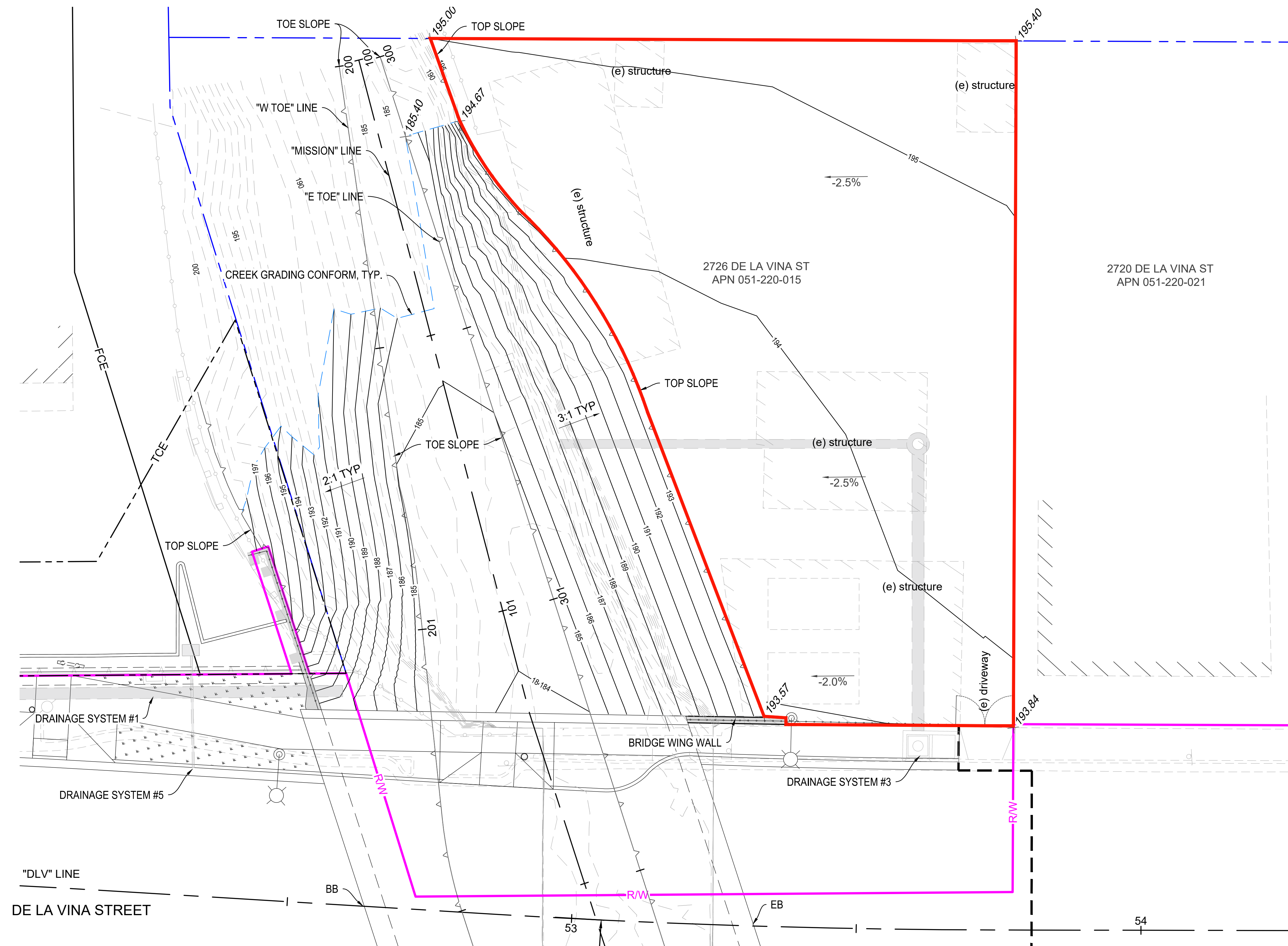
The interdepartmental fund transfer for the land transfer was funded by the Creeks Division's (Measure B) Capital Fund. The Public Works Department will use this as matching funds to construct the Bridge Project. The transfer amount was determined as a percentage of the acreage from the acquisition costs paid by the City. The 0.19 acres of the creek side habitat to be restored by the Creeks Division is 51% of the total parcel size of 0.37 acres, and the transfer amount equals the same percentage of the purchased parcel value. There are sufficient available funds in the Creeks Capital Improvement Program to complete the Creek Restoration Project.

Timeline

The phased Bridge Project construction is anticipated to start in spring 2025. The Creek Restoration Project is expected to follow bridge construction and be completed by the end of 2026.

cc: Alelia Parenteau, Sustainability & Resilience Director

Location Exhibit



LEGEND

- FLOOD CONTROL EASEMENT FCE
- TEMPORARY EASEMENT TCE
- CITY RIGHT OFF WAY R/W
- PROPERTY LINE
- CHANNEL WALL
- SAWCUT
- 2726 DE LA VINA ST. BOUNDARY LINE

EXHIBIT
SCALE: 1" = 10'

