

Questions and Answers about the Stinson Beach Flood Protection and Watershed Program

What is the Stinson Beach Flood Protection and Watershed Program?

The Watershed Program was initiated by the Marin County Board of Supervisors in 2009 to address chronic creek flooding and sedimentation issues along Easkoot Creek. The Program established stakeholder committees comprised of residents, agency staff, the National Park Service and the Stinson Beach County Water District to provide input on the development of creek and flood protection alternatives.

What is the Flood Study and Alternatives Assessment?

An important outcome of the Watershed Program was the development of the 2014 Stinson Beach Flood Study and Alternatives Assessment. It identified 10 alternatives to improve flood protection, restore habitat, and maintain emergency access. A computer model was developed to replicate the direction, depth and velocity of floodwaters across existing ground conditions. The study also quantified the flood benefits and costs of each alternative. The Flood Study, modeling results and meeting information are available at http://www.marinwatersheds.org/stinson_beach.html

Did the Watershed Program identify a solution to flooding in Stinson Beach?

The Flood Study and Alternative Assessment indicated that the most flood benefit is provided through a combination of a dredge, floodwater bypass, and a restored wetland (*Alternative 9 in the Flood Study -- Combined Dredge, Wetland Enhancement, and Bypass*). This alternative consists of dredging Easkoot Creek from Arenal Avenue to Calle del Arroyo and bypassing floodwaters at the creek bend downstream of Arenal Avenue to a restored wetland in the coastal dunes. This combined alternative shows an increase in flood protection for most of the community.

How has the Watershed Program involved the community?

Since 2009, the Program held 15 Flood Control Zone 5 Advisory Board meetings, three community meetings, and 12 Stakeholder group meetings. Presentations were made to the Stinson Beach County Water District Board, the Stinson Beach Village Association, the Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Committee, and the National Park Service. These meetings were used to draft and finalize the Flood Study, evaluate revenue options, and develop a funding strategy.

What is Flood Control Zone No. 5?

Flood Control Zone No. 5 is a special district established in 1961 to help address flooding due to the reduction in flow capacity of Easkoot Creek from accumulated sediment and debris within the waterway. The Board of Supervisors appoints the Flood Control Zone No. 5 Advisory Board. The Advisory Board reviews all Flood Zone projects and the annual budget.

Why is the Zone's revenue limited?

The Zone 5 tax rate was frozen at the levels set when Proposition 13 passed in 1978. The Zone's revenue can only be increased through a special election. As a special district, Zone 5 receives a small portion of the total property tax generated within its boundaries each year and this revenue amount cannot be changed without an election.

Currently, \$60,000 per year is collected via property tax or ad valorem revenue.

http://www.marinwatersheds.org/flood_control_zones.html

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How was the tax amount set?

An informal community survey was used to poll residents and property owners about the recommended alternatives and their support for a tax or fee to support implementation. Surveys were mailed to 673 residents and property owners and we received 318 completed surveys. The survey showed support from 72% of the community for a \$250 per parcel tax to improve flood protection. For the full survey results, please visit our website:

http://www.marinwatersheds.org/documents/2014.05_Surveyresults.pdf

How will sea level rise and coastal flooding be considered?

Sea level rise was considered for Bolinas Lagoon in our alternatives assessment. In addition, coastal flooding and sea level rise impacts will be factored into all future project planning. Complementary to the Flood Study were several efforts to model sea level rise and coastal flooding along Marin's coastline: 1) FEMA is updating flood mapping for coastal Marin, which accounts for increased wave hazards and 2) Our Coast Our Future (partnership of USGS and Point Blue) modeled sea level rise along the Marin coast.

How will work be funded?

A special tax election is planned for March 3, 2015 to address the project types described in the funding strategy below.

Purpose: Reduce riverine flooding risk for residents, visitors, and businesses; maintain natural creek functions; reduce sediment entering Bolinas Lagoon; and incorporate habitat enhancements for fish and wildlife.			
What can flood zone funds be used for?			Total cost
Dredge Easkoot Creek from Arenal to Calle del Arroyo (twice) Bypass flood flows Restore wetlands and riparian habitat Maintain channel conveyance through sediment removal at the bridges and sediment basin and continued annual vegetation maintenance.			\$5.7 million
Zone 5 parcel tax	65%	\$250 for improved parcels, \$50 for unimproved parcels	\$3.68 million
Private donations and grants share	35%		\$2.02 million

Why should I pay if I don't experience flooding?

Flooding may not directly affect your property, but it is a community wide issue for Stinson Beach. The Fire Department, Community Center, Health Center, Post Office, most businesses, and the major roadway in and out of town can be impacted by flooding. Repeated flood events are disruptive and negatively impact the local economy.