Project Overview

The primary goal of the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project (project) is to reduce the frequency and severity of flooding and to protect human life and property in the communities of Ross and Kentfield along Corte Madera Creek. The project will make modifications to the existing work that was completed by the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) in the 1970s, that included construction of a concrete channel that starts in the Town of Ross and ends at the earthen channel in Kentfield. The project will increase the capacity of the channel and remove impediments to flow to keep more flood waters in the creek. The flood reduction measures include removing the fish ladder, widening and removing portions of the concrete channel along Corte Madera Creek to create a flood plain and riparian corridor, installing flood walls adjacent to the banks, and stabilizing creek slopes.

The USACE is the lead agency conducting the feasibility study and environmental review of the project as well as providing federal funds for the effort. These funds are being matched by the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) with monies from the Flood Control Zone 9 Flood Storm Drainage Fee and a Department of Water Resources Proposition 1E grant.

Environmental Review

The project is currently undergoing environmental review by the USACE, the lead agency (federal) for purposes of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the District is the lead agency (state) for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Under these regulations, a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) is being prepared to evaluate assess the project’s environmental impacts on a broad range of topics.

There are five main stages of the joint EIS/EIR process including 1) public noticing in the form of a Notice of Preparation/Intent and Scoping, 2) preparation of the Draft EIR/EIS, 4) development of the Final EIR/EIS, and 5) the governing bodies of the lead agencies consider Certification/Record of Decision on the adequacy of the document.

The project completed stage 1, the USACE and District issued a Notice of Preparation/Intent of a Joint EIS/EIR (December 23, 2015) and held a public scoping meeting (January 28, 2016) to describe the process, provide an overview of initial project alternatives to be studied or screened out, and to take comments from the community on potential environmental effects to be included in the EIS/EIR. Following the scoping stage and through fall 2018, USACE used community input, cost benefit analysis, and a number of scientific and engineering studies to evaluate the feasibility and environmental effects of an array of project alternatives.

The project will enter stage 2 of the EIS/EIR process with the release of the Joint Draft EIS/EIR on October 12th for a 45-day comment period, ending on November 27, 2018. The Draft EIS/EIR analyzes environmental impacts of five potential alternatives and a no-project alternative. After comments are collected, USACE will develop a Final EIS/EIR that will address all public comments received on the Draft EIS/EIR and conduct further detailed study of the preferred alternative/s. The USACE estimates that the Final EIS/EIR will be ready for public review in September 2019.

How to Provide Your Public Comments on the Draft EIS/EIR

The USACE is collecting public comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIS/EIR for 45 days, through November 27, 2018. These comments will be put into the administrative record and formally addressed in the Final EIS/EIR. Comments can be provided in writing (mail/email) or orally at the designated public hearing.
as outlined below. Comment letters should include the commenter’s physical mailing address, the project title, and in the subject line.

- Written comments submitted by mail should be postmarked on or before November 27, 2018 and addressed to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, ATTN: Cynthia Jo Fowler, 1455 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-1398.

- Written comments submitted by email should be addressed to Cynthia Jo Fowler, Corte.Madera@usace.army.mil.

- Oral comments will be recorded and written comments will be received at the Draft EIS/EIS Public Hearing scheduled for November 13, 2018, see meeting details below.

Upcoming Community Meetings
USACE and the District will hold a series of community workshops and a public hearing to discuss project findings and address questions from the community. Visit the Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program website (www.RossValleyWatershed.org) or call the District at 415-473-2941 to confirm meetings as dates, times and locations may change.

It is important to note that the community workshops listed below will not record any oral public comments as part of the official EIS/EIR process, however written comments submitted at the workshops will be collected and included in the Draft EIS/EIR record. Please see “How to Provide Your Public Comments on the Draft EIS/EIR”, above.

- Community Workshop #1, Town of Ross Residents - October 24, 2018, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Ross Town Hall, 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Ross: Focused on project elements that may be of most concern to residents within the immediate, affected project area in the Town of Ross.

- Community Workshop #2, Commercial Businesses - October 24, 2018, 10:00 am – 11:30 am, Ross Town Hall, 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Ross: Focused on project elements that may be of most concern to commercial businesses within the immediate, affected project area in the Town of Ross.

- Community Workshop #3 - Kentfield and Unincorporated County - October 25, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Ross Town Hall, 31 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Ross: Focused on project elements that may be of most concern to residents and businesses within the immediate, affected project area in Kentfield and along lower Corte Madera Creek in Unincorporated Marin County.

- Community Workshop #4 – Ross Valley Watershed, To Be Scheduled in November - An additional community meeting is currently being scheduled that will present a broader view to the larger Ross Valley community and is open to all members of the public. Meeting information will be shared at www.RossValleyWatershed.org.

- Public Hearing - November 13, 2018, 5:30 pm, Board of Supervisors Chambers (Room #330 - Administration Building) Civic Center, San Rafael: A public hearing on the adequacy of the Draft EIS/EIS conducted by the Marin County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors and USACE representatives, open to all members of the public. Oral and written comments on the Draft EIS/EIR may be submitted at this meeting.

For More Information and to Sign up for Email Updates: www.RossValleyWatershed.org

The District project contact is Tonya Redfield, Capital Planning & Project Manager, tredfield@marincounty.org.