



# COUNTY OF SONOMA

575 ADMINISTRATION  
DRIVE, ROOM 102A  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

## SUMMARY REPORT

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**Agenda Date:** 12/3/2024

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**To:** Board of Directors, Sonoma County Water Agency  
**Department or Agency Name(s):** Sonoma County Water Agency  
**Staff Name and Phone Number:** Grant Davis, 547-1911  
**Vote Requirement:** 4/5th  
**Supervisorial District(s):** Second

**Title:**

Completion of Emergency Work to Repair Retaining Wall and Channel Liners in Washington Creek

**Recommended Action:**

Receive Report and Make Findings to Terminate Emergency Need to Repair Retaining Wall and Channel Liners in Washington Creek. (Second District) (4/5<sup>th</sup> Vote Required)

**Executive Summary:**

This item requests the Board of Directors (“Board”) for the Sonoma County Water Agency (“Sonoma Water”) receive a report of completed emergency work to stabilize dangerous conditions on Washington Creek and make findings that there is no longer a need to suspend competitive bidding for emergency repairs.

**Discussion:**

In 2023, Sonoma Water staff began planning efforts to address the leaning retaining wall and slipping concrete channel liners in Washington Creek, located immediately adjacent to East Washington Boulevard and upstream of North McDowell Boulevard. A consultant was hired to generate an Engineering Evaluation Report in late 2023. It appeared the retaining wall and channel liner panels were failing due to inadequate drainage. After the rainy season of 2023/2024, conditions on Washington Creek degraded significantly. In response, Sonoma Water hired a Geotechnical Consultant to evaluate the soil conditions and determine if the retaining wall and liner panels would withstand another rainy season.

The consultant found: “If not mitigated prior to the next rainy season, there is a significant risk that continued and accelerated failure of these structures could occur and result in damage to the surrounding residential properties and adjacent roadway infrastructure.” Therefore, immediate mitigative action was required prior to the next rainy season to prevent or mitigate imminent harm to public safety, public services, and property. Collapse of the wall or channel liner panels could result in failure of the upstream slope, damage to nearby residence, damage to the adjacent box culvert and roadway, and/or subsequent blockage of the channel, during a major storm event, resulting in flood damage and significant public safety hazard. □

On July 11, 2024, the General Manager of Sonoma Water, pursuant to authority delegated in Resolution # 06-0649, declared the existence of an emergency for Sonoma Water due to failing infrastructure assets on Washington Creek.

Based upon the above, there was an urgent need to repair these structures of Washington Creek. The normal

contracting process takes two to three months from a minimum advertising period through assessing bids and awarding and executing contracts. This delay meant that it would not be possible to perform necessary preventative measures to protect public health and safety before the next rainy season.

Public Contract Code section 22050 authorizes Sonoma Water to enter into contracts for public projects as may be necessary to mitigate emergency conditions without giving notice for bids. Additionally, pursuant to Public Contract Code section 22035, emergency work may proceed without adopting plans or specifications. The Board is obligated to terminate the waiver of the bid process at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant so that the remainder of the work may be completed under the bid process.

On July 16, 2024, the Board approved the following actions:

- A) Made findings of an emergency need to stabilize dangerous conditions resulting from failing infrastructure assets on Washington Creek; and
- B) Suspended competitive bidding requirements; and
- C) Authorized the General Manager of Sonoma Water to execute contracts, not to exceed \$750,000, necessary to stabilize dangerous conditions resulting from failing infrastructure assets on Washington Creek; and
- D) Ratified any emergency contracts entered into by the General Manager of Sonoma Water relating to these issues.
- E) Adopted a Resolution authorizing adjustments to the Board Adopted Budget for FY 2045/2025 for the Flood Control Zone 2A in the amount of \$447,100.

California Environmental Quality Act

This section of Washington Creek is located within Sonoma Water’s Stream Maintenance Program (SMP). The “in kind” repair and replacement of failing concrete structures that require bank stabilization within SMP channels is included in the Stream Maintenance Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR). On June 23, 2009, Sonoma Water’s Board of Directors certified the SMP EIR and approved the project in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality. □

Progress to date:

In early November 2024, the curing of poured concrete for both the new retaining wall and channel liners was completed sufficiently to allow removal of the dewatering system used to keep the concrete dry.

The contractor completed the installation of a new fence adjacent to newly constructed retaining wall. This marked the end of construction activities for both the retaining wall and two channel liners and termination of any need for continuing emergency work. □

**Strategic Plan:**

N/A

**Racial Equity:**

**Was this item identified as an opportunity to apply the Racial Equity Toolkit?**

No

**Prior Board Actions:**

See Attachment

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

| <b>Expenditures</b>                | <b>FY24-25<br/>Adopted</b> | <b>FY25-26<br/>Projected</b> | <b>FY26-27<br/>Projected</b> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Budgeted Expenses                  |                            |                              |                              |
| Additional Appropriation Requested |                            |                              |                              |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>          |                            |                              |                              |
| <b>Funding Sources</b>             |                            |                              |                              |
| General Fund/WA GF                 |                            |                              |                              |
| State/Federal                      |                            |                              |                              |
| Fees/Other                         |                            |                              |                              |
| Use of Fund Balance                |                            |                              |                              |
| General Fund Contingencies         |                            |                              |                              |
| <b>Total Sources</b>               |                            |                              |                              |

**Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:**

The current authorized expenditure for emergency-related procurements of equipment, material, and services is \$900,000 pursuant to the 7/16/2024 Board action for this project. Expenditures for completed emergency-related procurements of equipment, material, and services will remain under the authorized amount.

| <b>Staffing Impacts:</b>                       |  |                               |                               |
|--|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Position Title (Payroll Classification)</b> | <b>Monthly Salary Range<br/>(A-I Step)</b> | <b>Additions<br/>(Number)</b> | <b>Deletions<br/>(Number)</b> |
|  |  |                               |                               |
|  |  |                               |                               |
|  |  |                               |                               |

**Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):**

N/A

**Attachments:**

Prior Board Actions

**Related Items "On File" with the Clerk of the Board:**

None.