



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
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# pájaroriver flood protection

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

## LIST OF TERMS

- BCR: Benefit-to-Cost Ratio
- EIR: Environmental Impact Report
- EIS: Environmental Impact Statement
- GRR: General Re-evaluation Report
- LERRDS: Lands, Easements, Right-of-Ways, Relocation, Disposal and Borrow Sites
- LPP: Locally Preferred Plan
- LOP: Level of Protection
- NED: National Economic Development
- O & M: Operations and Maintenance

## corp of engineers planning process overview

### Corps of Engineers EIS/EIR & GRR Major Milestones

Identify Alternatives for Further Study



#### Army Corps of Engineers Evaluation of Project Alternatives



Further Hydraulic Analysis



Cost Estimating of Alternatives



Benefit/Cost Analysis



Preliminary Environmental Analysis



Consultation with Regulatory & Resource Agencies

Selection of a Recommended Plan



Summer 2003

Selection of a Locally Preferred Plan



Fall 2003

Public Review of Draft EIR/EIS



Summer 2004

Final Environmental Review and Analysis



Fall 2004

### Stakeholder and Public Input

Stakeholder Meeting



March 28, 2002

Newsletter



Stakeholder Meeting



Sept. 12, 2002

Newsletter



Stakeholder Meeting



May 12, 2003

2002

2003

# stay informed! planning process update

As a part of the on-going Community Planning Process sponsored by Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, this newsletter is intended to update stakeholders and community members with current information about proposed flood protection alternatives for the Pajaro River and creeks. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) held its eighth Stakeholder Meeting on May 12, 2003 and presented new information about the development and analysis of effective flood protection alternatives. The Corps also provided stakeholders and community members with information about the project schedule, including the initiation of the environmental impact report/statement (EIR/EIS) and local sponsors' plan selection process.



If you would like to provide comments for the alternatives being evaluated during the environmental review process, please forward your comments to:

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## community planning process status

Since April 2001, when Congressman Farr initiated the Pajaro River Flood Protection Community Planning Process, eleven public meetings and ten focus groups were convened to assist the Corps and Counties identify flood protection alternatives. Through this process, nineteen different alternatives were evaluated by the project team including geotechnical, hydraulics and design engineers; plan formulation and real estate specialists; fisheries experts; biologists; hydrologists; and economists. Today, several mainstem and tributary alternatives remain for final evaluation because these select alternatives achieve 100-years level of protection (LOP) throughout the planning area while meeting Federal eligibility criteria.

# Mainstem alternatives identified for environmental review...

The EIR/EIS process is scheduled to begin this summer and will include further evaluations of the following alternatives:

## Alternative 2A: 100' Setback

**New levee height: 10'** (existing levee 6' plus additional 4')

**Setback: 100' on both sides**

**Vegetation (Reach 2): n = 0.04**

**LOP = 100 years**

## Alternative 3: 225/100' Setback

**New levee height: 10'** (existing levee 6' plus additional 4')

**Setback: 225/100' on both sides**

**Vegetation (Reach 2): n = 0.04 – 0.06**

**LOP = 100 years**

Using the same criteria as the mainstem alternatives, several alternatives for the tributaries were identified for environmental review. The tributary alternatives consist of a variety of features including u-channels, culverts, ring levees, levees, floodwalls and levee/floodwall combinations. Alternative T-3—hybrid with 225' setback on one side only—would

## combinations with best potential preliminary estimates (dollar amounts in millions)

	Alt. 2A & T4	Alt. 3 & T3	Alt. 2A & T3	Alt. 3 & T4
Setbacks	100'	225'	100' (MS) 225' (T)	225' (MS) 100' (T)
Total Project	\$217.7	\$218.3	\$215.3	\$220.7
Net Benefits	\$24.8	\$24.9	\$25.0	\$24.7
Non-Federal	\$57.9	\$58.8	\$58.0	\$58.7
LOP	100 yrs	100 yrs	100 yrs	100 yrs
Land Impacted	358 acres	405 acres	365 acres	398 acres

impact 75 acres including 11 structures. Alternative T-4—hybrid with 100' setback on one side only—would impact 68 acres also including 11 structures.

The above preliminary cost estimates, presented to stakeholders at the May stakeholder meeting, illustrate the total project costs for mainstem/ tributary alternative combinations.

provide comments and the Counties will meet with each other to discuss various opportunities for managing the project together.

Additionally, Action Pajaro River, a local non-profit facilitating dialogue on land use issues in the Pajaro Valley, has initiated a series of focused meetings, bringing in a broad coalition of individuals to continue building consensus and agreement for the levee construction on the Pajaro River.

The EIR/EIS process will also include a public review period and public hearings during May and June of 2004. The Corps and local sponsors will coordinate with stakeholders and community members about the most appropriate time to schedule these hearings. Potential modifications to the National Economic Development (NED) plan, or the plan that can be funded by the Corps, may be implemented based on findings from the EIR/EIS process.

## responses to key questions raised at the MAY 2003 stakeholder meeting

### What funding mechanism for the local share will be used and how will agricultural land values for necessary land acquisitions be established?

The approved NED project will determine the number of acres of land impacted and where land acquisition, by the local sponsor, is necessary. However, without project easements there is no new project. Land values will be determined once the Corps, counties, resources agencies, and landowners complete the final development of the alternatives. Local support will be necessary to build a new Flood Control Project; the process for raising the local cost share could involve a vote by landowners, and hence a comprehensive look at funding options and local land values, including current sales involving a willing seller.

### How will the Counties split the non-federal costs for the project (e.g., 50/50, 40/60, etc.)?

Discussions about splitting local costs have not yet commenced—again, a project must first be identified. Once a project is identified, the local sponsors can then identify fair and equitable cost share responsibilities based on specific project benefits. Several mechanisms will be considered such as a split based on the proportional benefit for each parcel of land within the project area or number of river miles with constructed project levees.

### After the completion of project construction, will maintenance be done to uphold a roughness value of n=0.04?

Channel roughness, or the level of vegetation in the channel, will need to be approved by the resource agencies prior to project approval and construction. Once a roughness value is approved, maintenance work will be done to achieve the identified roughness.

Upon the completion of project construction, operations and maintenance (O&M) responsibilities are transferred to the Counties.

At that point, a responsible party will be identified for the maintenance requirements

in both Counties. The Corps does annual inspections to check on how well the Counties are meeting their O&M responsibilities while annual maintenance is subject to regular review by the permitting agencies. A flood would have to be shown to be a direct result of poor O&M before any liability issues would be considered. While the project will greatly reduce the chances of flooding, flooding is possible even with a perfectly maintained project.

### Does the Corps plan to include other counties (i.e., San Benito and Santa Clara Counties) with jurisdiction in the watershed in the alternative development process and cost share responsibilities?

Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, in which the existing project lands lie, currently share the maintenance responsibilities and are expected to receive the project benefits through reduced flooding potential.

Upstream detention features are expensive and, alone, will not provide significant amounts of flood protection to the lower Pajaro River. The current retention capacity offered by the upstream watershed, however, must be maintained and any future development needs to be controlled through good land use planning practices.

As part of its relinquishment process, Santa Cruz County has asked the State Water Resources Department to develop an assessment area (for future levee maintenance costs) that will include all four counties' watersheds. The authorized watershed study can help guide land use planning and is currently being considered by the four counties through their Flood Prevention Authority, FPA.

### Will the Corps accept and implement the majority opinion of stakeholders?

The Corps, local sponsors, stakeholders and community members have been engaged in the community planning process for over two years to assist in the development of the federal NED plan. The input received throughout the planning process will continue to be

incorporated into proposed flood control project alternatives during the final development of the NED plan and upcoming LPP development processes in both counties.

The Corps' effort is currently focused on identifying the NED plan, which will be the basis for Federal participation (i.e. it will set the limit on Federal investment). While the NED plan does need to be acceptable by both counties, it is not necessarily the result of consensus. The local sponsors have the opportunity to recommend an LPP that is based on consensus—provided it meets Federal criteria for national economic development and environmental quality. The local sponsors will receive the recommended draft alternatives from the Corps this summer and can then begin the process of identifying an LPP for Board approval and public comment in September 2003.

### Some cost estimates for alternative combinations (mainstem and tributaries) include a non-federal cost share that is more than 25% of the total cost while others are 25%. Why is the non-federal cost share different across alternatives?

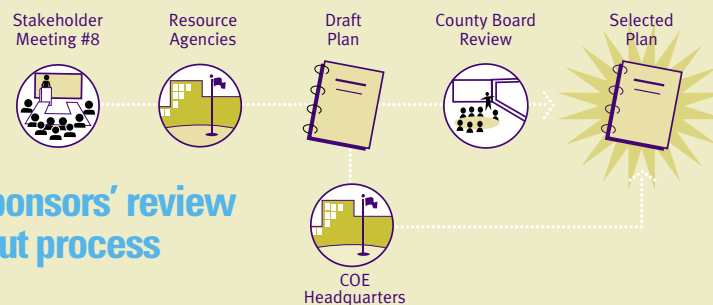
The non-federal cost share for flood damage reduction projects is a minimum of 25% and a maximum of 50% of project costs. The non-funded cost-share includes lands, easements, right-of-ways, relocation, and disposal and borrow sites (LERRDS), plus 5% of construction costs. If this amount is less than the 25% minimum required, then the cost sharing proportion is 25%. If this amount is greater than 50%, then the cost share is 50%. If this amount falls somewhere between 25% and 50%, then the cost share is whatever the percentage calculation is. This calculation results in a higher percentage for the tributary alternatives in comparison to the mainstem alternatives. However, the overall cost share for the combined mainstem and tributary projects is 25%.

To view all questions and responses from the May 2003 Stakeholder Meeting, visit the project website at [www.pajaroriver.com](http://www.pajaroriver.com).

## Next steps

The Corps and local sponsors continue to work together with federal, state and local resource agencies on plans to help create a sustainable channel that would require minimal mitigation and maintenance costs and assist in the conservation of steelhead and the red-legged frog.

Each of the Counties is beginning the process of identifying a locally preferred plan (LPP). The local sponsors will consider all input, including the results of stakeholder meetings, and submit their recommended plan to their respective Board of Supervisors by September 2003. During this time, the public will be invited to



local sponsors' review and input process