1998 Mission Creek Flooding: From Chapala Street looking east across railroad tracks to historic Railroad Depot – State Street in background

1998 Mission Creek Flooding: From Haley/De La Vina Bridge looking west across creek to flooded duplex
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Attachments

A – EIS/EIR Executive Summary

B – Pictures

C – Colored Plan and Cross Section Drawings

D – List and Map of Property
Flood Protection Corridor Program
Project Evaluation Criteria
And Competitive Grant Application Form

I. Introduction

Grant funds under the Flood Protection Corridor Program (FPCP) of the Costa
Machado Water Act of 2000 (Proposition 13) are available to local public agencies and
nonprofit organizations from the Department of Water Resources. Funds will be used to
pursue FPCP goals, which are to provide “for the protection, creation, and enhancement
of flood protection corridors through all of the following actions:

“(1) Acquiring easements and other interests in real property from willing sellers
   to protect or enhance flood protection corridors and floodplains while preserving or
   enhancing the agricultural use of the real property.

“(2) Setting back existing flood control levees and, in conjunction with
   undertaking those setbacks, strengthening or modifying existing levees.

“(3) Acquiring interests in real property from willing sellers located in a floodplain
   that can not reasonably be made safe from future flooding.

“(4) Acquiring easements and other interests in real property from willing sellers
   to protect or enhance flood protection corridors while preserving or enhancing the
   wildlife value of the real property.”

-- [Water Code, Chapter 5, Article 2.5, Section 79037(b)]

The following information constitutes the basis for determining whether a
proposed project meets the legal criteria for funding under the Flood Protection Corridor
Program and for evaluating the proposal to determine its priority in competition with all
concurrent proposals. Proposals qualified under Section III of these criteria will be
placed on one of two priority lists. If the proposal serves a flood protection need that is
a high priority with the Department of Water Resources (other than through this
Program) and it also rates a high priority either with the Department of Conservation for
purposes of preserving agricultural land under the California Farmland Conservancy
Program, or with the Department of Fish and Game for purposes of wildlife habitat or
restoration, it will be placed on the “A List”. All other qualified projects will be placed on
the “B List”. “A List” projects will be funded first, and when all “A List” projects have
been funded to the Department’s stated limit, “B List” projects will be funded.
II. General Information

Project Name: **LOWER MISSION CREEK CORRIDOR PROJECT**

Project Location: ______________________
**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA** County: **SANTA BARBARA**

Name and address of sponsoring agency or non-profit organization: **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, 123 EAST ANAPAMU STREET, SANTA BARBARA 93101**

Name of Project Manager (contact):
**TOM FAYRAM**

Phone Number: **805-568-3436**
E-mail Address: **TFAYRAM@co.santa-barbara.ca.us**

Grant Request Amount: **$5.0 Million**

________________________________________
Deputy Director

Project Manager    Title

_February 13, 2003_  

Date

Project Objective(s): Briefly describe your project and explain how it will advance FPCP goals. Please also include a detailed map of the immediate project site and another that shows its location within your geographical area. Photographs showing problem areas proposed to be enhanced by the project should also be included.
LOWER MISSION CREEK CORRIDOR PROJECT

A Brief Description:

The one mile long section of Lower Mission Creek through the highly urbanized City of Santa Barbara provides an unique opportunity to reduce flooding and enhance wildlife value. This section of Mission Creek extends from Canon Perdido Street to Cabrillo Boulevard. It is subject to flooding every 5 to 8 years with the most recent floods in 1995 and 1998. These floods affect residences, businesses and transportation facilities resulting in millions of dollars of damage and disruption to lives and businesses. Over $17.6 million in damages were recorded during the 1995 floods alone. The flooding impacts associated with Lower Mission Creek spill over into Laguna Channel and result in significant flooding of the Santa Barbara Eastside. (See Figure 1 for 25-year floodplain.)

The proposed project would widen Mission Creek to provide flood protection for up to a 20-year flow event. The project would acquire necessary right of way for creek widening, widen the creek bottom up to 100%, reconstruct or rehabilitate five bridges, develop a pocket park, improve aesthetics along the creek and enhance the riparian habitat. This expanded and enhanced riparian habitat is home to two endangered species and numerous other native animals and birds. (See Figure 2 for project map and features.)

The design of the proposed project is the result of many years of community input. Concerns regarding previous flood control designs lead to the formation of the Mission Creek Consensus Group. The Consensus Group included affected property owners (residents and businesses), environmental groups and members of the County Board of Supervisors and City Council. The Consensus Group worked together with the County, City and Corps of Engineers for over a year to develop and analyze possible alternatives.

The project as defined by the Consensus Group and later modified slightly and analyzed by the Corps of Engineers in a Feasibility Study included:

- 20-Year flood protection (3,400 cfs creek capacity) with a natural creek bottom and vegetated stabilized sloped banks except for vertical walls at bridges and at right of way constraints.

From its inception this project, developed with the property owners, has had the support of property owners. All of the structures proposed for acquisition were flooded during the 1995 floods. Many were flooded in both the 1995 and 1998 floods. The property owners as a group recognize the importance of taking action to reduce flooding. They also strongly support that the project will enhance the natural riparian habitat along the creek.
Figure 1: Floodplain Reduction Map
Figure 2: Project Features
The project has been studied in an extensive EIS/EIR that is 3 inches thick with an equally large set of technical appendices. See the EIS/EIR Executive Summary in Attachment A. A series of public meetings were held with notices to the entire community with specific mailed notices to property owners and tenants most affected by the project. During the public review period for the project, the support of local property owners was evident and there were no objections to the right of way acquisitions from property owners affected by the project as defined in the EIS/EIR. Note that after receiving initial public comments changes were made to earlier plans to reduce in half the number of structures to be removed for the project. The project defined in the EIS/EIR includes the removal of only five residential structures and three commercial buildings. The ten fee acquisitions involve the purchase of smaller parcels where no viable use would remain on the parcel after the creek widening.

The project will be constructed in phases with each government agency having responsibility for specific portions of the project. In summary, the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District is the local sponsor with responsibility for contracts with the Corps of Engineers. The County is also responsible for a large share of the local funding, property acquisition and creek maintenance. The City of Santa Barbara is responsible for bridge replacements, coordination of local public reviews, pocket park development and a portion of the local funding. The Corps of Engineers is responsible for the channel design and construction with funding to be authorized by Congress.

The project is designed by the Army Corps of Engineers to provide 20-year storm protection for a large area of the Santa Barbara Westside, Waterfront area and Eastside. The project will directly benefit the approximately 1,500 residents and 150 businesses that are removed from the 20-year floodplain. The project will indirectly benefit the 200,000 local Santa Barbara South Coast residents and 8.5 million tourists that visit the Santa Barbara waterfront area each year. The improved appearance of the area and the enhanced riparian habitat will result in greater enjoyment of the area by local residents and visitors. Residents of the Westside will also benefit from the development of a pocket park.

See Figure 3 for project schedule milestones. A more detailed critical path PERT chart is available with detailed project tasks. Permits required for construction:

**California Coastal Development Permit** – A preliminary consistency determination has been issued by the Commission with conditions to be met prior to final approval. These conditions include studies of the tidewater goby and development of more detailed plans for the bankful channel. This work is in progress and final approval of the Commission is anticipated in March 2004.
Corps of Engineers 404 Permit – This permit for construction and an accompanying permit for maintenance are in progress with final permits anticipated in 2004.

California Fish & Game Permit – This permit will be issued during final design and is anticipated in 2004.

Since the project will be constructed in phases by the City (bridge replacements) and the Corps of Engineers (creek widening), the permits will be obtained for each portion of the project prior to construction. All of these agencies have reviewed the project and provided input during the EIS/EIR process.

If the Corps of Engineers is not able to secure funding for the flood control project from Congress, the City and the County are still committed to completing the project. The State grant funds will be more critical in this case. Without the Corps participation, the County and City would build the project in phases with the first phase the most downstream portion from Cabrillo Blvd. to north of the 101 freeway.
### Lower Mission Creek Project Milestone Schedule

**Table 2-5. Project Milestone Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MILESTONE DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>CURRENT APPROVED FINISH DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design Agreement Executed DE/ Sponsor (290)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value Engineering Study Completed (440)-D5</td>
<td>05/07/03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initiate DDR (400)-D1</td>
<td>03/04/03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Review Conference Session (420)-D2</td>
<td>05/07/03</td>
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<td>Technical Review Strategy Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality Control Plan Approval (430)-D4</td>
<td>10/03/03</td>
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<td>Review Conference of DDR 60%</td>
<td>04/06/04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review Conference of DDR 90%</td>
<td>06/02/04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete ITR of DDR (90%)(460)-D7</td>
<td>06/02/04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design Coordination Meeting (510)-P2</td>
<td>05/07/03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initiate Design</td>
<td>08/04/03</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Final (100%) RTA Package</td>
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<td>Sponsor Initiates Acquisition</td>
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<td>Sponsor Completes RE (LERRD's) Acquisition (760)</td>
<td>06/24/05</td>
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<td>Corps Final Certification of RE (LERRD's) (770)</td>
<td>07/18/05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design Document Report Approval (485)-D10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit CCD to California Coastal Commission for Review</td>
<td>01/05/04</td>
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<td>California Coast Commission Concurrence with CCD</td>
<td>03/03/04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance Plan Executed and Permits Awarded</td>
<td>01/09/07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tide Water Goby Genetic Study</td>
<td>12/24/03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction Contract Advertised (950)</td>
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<td>BRIDGE CONSTRUCTIONS</td>
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<td>Ortega Street</td>
<td>03/02/06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yanonali/Chapala</td>
<td>05/26/06</td>
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<td>Mason Street</td>
<td>03/09/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cota Street Bridge</td>
<td>03/09/06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Corps of Engineers
Project Management Plan 12/02
*To be complete, an application package must include all of the items specified in the proposed Section 497.7 of Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Division 2, that is available on the FPCP web site (www.dfm.water.ca.gov/fpcp) by selecting the Regulations link.

III. Minimum Qualifications

Project proposals that do not meet the minimum qualifications will not be accepted.

A. ☐ The project proposes to use any granted funds for protection, creation, and enhancement of flood protection corridors [Water Code Section 79037(b)].

   The requested funds will be used to acquire Flood Control easements and complete improvements necessary to enhance the Lower Mission Creek flood protection corridor through the Santa Barbara Westside and Waterfront areas. This work will protect many residents from flooding during 20-year storm events and enhance the riparian habitat for use by wildlife.

B. ☐ A local public agency, a non-profit organization, or a joint venture of local public agencies, non-profit organizations, or both proposes the project [Water Code Section 79037(a)].

   The project is proposed by the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in cooperation with the City of Santa Barbara and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

C. ☐ The project will use the California Conservation Corps or a community conservation corps whenever feasible [Water Code Section 79038(b)].

   The involvement of the California Conservation Corps and community conservation corps is encouraged especially in the growing and planting of native riparian plants to enhance the riparian habitat.

D. ☐ If it is proposed to acquire property in fee to protect or enhance flood protection corridors and floodplains while preserving or enhancing agricultural use, the proponent has considered and documented all practical alternatives to acquisition of fee interest [Water Code Section 79039(a)].

   No agriculture exists in this highly urbanized area.

E. ☐ Holders of property interests proposed to be acquired are willing to sell them [Water Code Section 79040].

   From its inception this project, developed with the property owners, has had the support of property owners. All of the structures proposed for acquisition were flooded during the 1995 floods. Many were flooded in both the 1995 and 1998 floods. The property owners as a group
LOWER MISSION CREEK CORRIDOR PROJECT

recognize the importance of taking action to reduce flooding. They also strongly support that the project will enhance the natural riparian habitat along the creek.

The project has been studied in an extensive EIS/EIR that is 3 inches thick with an equally large set of technical appendices. A series of public meetings were held with notices to the entire community with specific mailed notices to property owners and tenants most affected by the project. During the public review period for the project, the support of local property owners was evident and there were no objections to the right of way acquisitions from property owners affected by the project as defined in the EIS/EIR. Note that after receiving initial public comments changes were made to earlier plans to reduce in half the number of structures to be removed for the project. The project defined in the EIS/EIR includes the removal of only five residential structures and three commercial buildings. The seven fee acquisitions involve the purchase of smaller parcels where no viable use would remain on the parcel after the creek widening.

F. If it is proposed to acquire property interests, the proposal describes how a plan will be developed that evaluates and minimizes the impact on adjacent landowners prior to such acquisition and evaluates the impact on the following [Water Code Section 79041]:

Floodwaters including water surface elevations and flow velocities
The project will lower water surface elevations along the lower reach of Mission Creek and Laguna Channel. The project will not result in any the raising of any water surface elevations. Flow velocities will only be increased slightly within the creek – not in the floodplain.

The structural integrity of affected levees
Most channel walls will be replaced with stronger walls and vegetated riprap.

Diversion facilities
A diversion weir upstream of the 101 Freeway will allow low flows to continue in the existing creek. High flows will top the weir and flow through a proposed 500 foot long by 30 foot wide box culvert under the freeway and railroad where it will rejoin the creek.

Customary agricultural husbandry practices
No agriculture exists in this highly urbanized area.

Timber extraction operations
No timber extraction operations exist in this highly urbanized area.

The proposal must also describe maintenance required for a) the acquired property, b) any facilities that are to be constructed or altered.

Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District will maintain the creek channel upon completion of the project. These
maintenance activities are defined in an Adaptive Management Maintenance Plan. This plan defines when and how any sediment will be removed from the creek and how vegetation will be trimmed to allow a canopy to cover the creek reducing the need for vegetation clearing in the creek. Habitat enhancement features included in the project will be protected during maintenance activities. The plan is designed to adapt to the naturally changing conditions in the creek. The City of Santa Barbara will maintain the bridges, the pocket park and interpretive sites along the creek.

G. The project site is located at least partially in one of the following:
1. A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), or
   YES
2. An area that would be inundated if the project were completed and an adjacent FEMA SFHA were inundated, or
   POSSIBLY
3. A FEMA SFHA, which is determined by using the detailed methods identified in FEMA Publication 37, published in January 1995, titled “Flood Insurance Study Guidelines and Specifications for Study Contractors”, or
   YES
4. A floodplain designated by The Reclamation Board under Water Code Section 8402(f) [Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Division 2, Section 497.5(a)], or a
   NO
5. Locally designated Flood Hazard Area, with credible hydrologic data to support designation of at lease one in 100 annual probability of flood risk. This is applicable to locations without levees, or where existing levees can be set back, breached, or removed. In the latter case, levee setbacks, removal, or breaching to allow inundation of the floodplain should be part of the project. The County and City use the FEMA SFHA designated flood areas.
IV. (340 points) Flood Protection Benefits

A. Existing and potential urban development in the floodplain (50)
   1. Describe the existing and potential urban development at the site and the
      nature of the flood risk.
      
      Lower Mission Creek (from Canon Perdido Street to Cabrillo Blvd.)
      winds through a highly urbanized area. Buildings in some areas
      encroach into the creek banks (see pictures in Attachment B). Many
      buildings are located in the 25-year floodplain. See Figure 1 for areas
      inundated with floodwater in a 25-year storm event. The existing
      creek floods portions of downtown Santa Barbara every few years
      during 5 to 8-year storm events.
   
   2. How often has flooding occurred historically?
      
      Flooding has occurred every few years. The current creek channel
      can accommodate a 5 to 8 year storm event. Some of the most
      recent flooding occurred in 1995 and 1998.
   
   3. Discuss the importance of improving the flood protection at this location.
      Include the number of people and structures that are affected by the flood
      hazard, and the flood impacts to highways and roads, railroads, airports and
      other infrastructure, and agriculture.
      
      The September 2002 Feasibility Study performed by the US Army
      Corps of Engineers identified more than 23 urbanized City blocks
      that are within the 20-year floodplain. This includes homes for
      approximately 3,000 people and more than 10,000 employees and
      customers of approximately 400 businesses. During flood events
      many local streets are flooded including the freeway underpasses at
      State Street, Garden Street and Salsipuedes Street. The recently
      restored historic Santa Barbara Railroad Depot is one of the first
      structures to be flooded. This active train station is an important
      transportation hub for the area.
      
      In addition to the people directly benefiting from the reduced
      flooding the entire Santa Barbara South Coast population of
      approximately 200,000 and the 8.5 million tourists that visit the
      waterfront each year will benefit from the riparian habitat
      enhancements.

B. Flood damage reduction benefits of the project (100)
   1. Does the proposed project provide for transitory storage of floodwaters?
      What is the total community need for transitory storage related to this water
      course and what percentage of the total need does this project satisfy? What
      is the volume of water and how long is it detained?
      
      The highly urbanized area does not allow room for transitory storage
      of flood waters.
2. Describe any structural and non-structural flood damage reduction elements of the project. (Examples of structural elements are levees, weirs, detention/retention basins, rock slope-protection, etc. Examples of non-structural elements are acquisition of property for open space, acquisition of land for flood flow easements, transitory storage, relocation of structures and other flood prone development, elevating flood prone structures, flood proofing structures, etc.)

   The project includes two basic cross sections. Both sections will include a natural bottom allowing for natural habitat vegetation and water percolation. Both sections will also include a community based creek vegetation program that will involve the planting of riparian trees on private property on both side of the creek. The walls in both sections will include aesthetic treatment of the wall surface to allow the walls to blend into the existing creek environment.

   Figure 4 shows a cross section of a vegetated side slope. The section includes a 4-5 foot high wall at the creek bottom with rip-rap slopes above the wall. The rip rap side slopes will have top soil placed between and on top of the rocks with riparian vegetation planted in planters and between the rocks.

   Figure 5 shows a vertical wall cross-section. This cross-section will be used to avoid the purchase of additional buildings and further displacement of residences and businesses.

   Attachment C provides colored plan and cross section drawings depicting structural, riparian planting and fish habitat enhancement features.

   Property rights will be purchased from approximately 70 properties along the length of the project to allow the widening of the creek to accommodate a 20-year storm event. See Attachment D for a list of properties and map of affected properties. All but ten of the purchases will be flood control easements. The ten properties that will be purchased in their entirety in fee involve small properties that are almost entirely within the proposed creek banks.

3. By what methods and by how much dollar value will the project decrease expected average annual flood damages?

   The US Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study identified that the proposed creek widening project would decrease flood damage approximately $1.6 million per year (annual benefit using primarily the HEC-FDA model).
Figure 4: Vegetated Side Slope Cross Section
Figure 5: Vertical Wall Cross Section
4. How does the project affect the hydrologic and hydraulic conditions at the project site and adjacent properties?
   a) Will the project reduce the magnitude of a flood flow, which could cause property damage and/or loss of life?
      The project will not decrease the magnitude of the flow, it will increase the ability of the creek to accommodate the flow expected during a 20-year storm event.

   b) What are the effects of the project on water surface elevations during a flood event which could cause property damage and/or loss of life?
      The project will lower the floodplain water surface elevations and therefore reduce flooding to all properties in the area.

   c) How are flow velocities impacted by the project during a flood flow which could cause property damage and/or loss of life?
      The velocity of the flows in the creek will increase somewhat as the creek accommodates more flow. The velocity of the floodwaters outside of the creek is expected to lower slightly as the amount of floodwater outside the creek is reduced.

C. Restoration of natural processes (60)

1. Describe how any natural channel processes will be restored (for example: for channel meander, sediment transport, inundation of historic floodplain, etc.) and describe how these natural processes will affect flood management and adjacent properties.

   Within the widened creek, the project will include establishment of an initial meandering bankful channel along with occasional pools. The bankful channel, the pools and a low flow channel will be allowed to develop naturally over time. Wetland and riparian plants will colonize the channel bottom, and fish and aquatic species will reside in the reaches with perennial flow and in permanent pools. Maintenance practices, when necessary, will allow these project features to continue by selective vegetation clearing and sediment removal, and the avoidance of sensitive species. The low flow channel, permanent pools, enhanced riparian vegetation on the upper banks, and design features for fish (fish ledges, boulder clusters and fish baffles) will improve the aquatic and riparian habitats of the creek, while providing greater channel capacity. The widened channel with more natural fluvial processes will improve passage and rearing habitat conditions for the endangered southern steelhead which occurs in the watershed.

2. Describe any upstream or downstream hydraulic or other effects (such as bank erosion or scour, sediment transport, growth inducement, etc.).
No upstream or downstream hydraulic related effects are expected. The project is being designed with a bankful channel to allow continued natural transport of sediment to the ocean beaches. The widening of the creek to reduce flooding and enhance the natural riparian habitat will slightly reduce the amount of land available for development. The enhanced natural riparian habitat will allow for improved migration of the endangered steelhead trout through this portion of the creek. A separate project study is currently underway to modify other portions of the creek to improve the ability of steelhead trout to spawn in Mission Creek as they did in the past.

3. If the project includes channel modification or bank protection work, will riprap or dredging be part of the design? If so, provide an analysis of potential benefits and impacts.
   As described above, the creek will be widened to accommodate addition flood flow and enhance the natural riparian habitat. This widening will include vegetated riprap side slopes and walls where necessary to preserve existing structures. The net effect of the creek widening will be to expand the natural riparian habitat. The habitat enhancement will include the removal of invasive weeds such as the giant reed (Arundo donax) and the planting of native riparian trees and under story.

D. Project effects on the local community (60)
   1. How will the project impact future flooding on and off this site?
      The project will reduce flooding significantly by increasing the capacity of the creek from 1,500 cfs to 3,400 cfs. This will provide 20-yr flood protection compared to the existing 5 year flood protection.

   2. How will the project affect emergency evacuation routes or emergency services and demands for emergency services?
      The proposed project would protect three 101 freeway under crossings (State, Garden and Salsipuedes Streets) from flooding during 20-year events. The current flooding cuts off these emergency evacuation routes and emergency service routes during 20-year events.

   3. Explain how the project will comply with the local community floodplain management ordinance and the floodplain management criteria specified in the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Flood Insurance Program (FEMA’s NFIP).
      Consistent with the local City and County floodplain management ordinances, the project will increase conveyance and eliminate over bank flow during a 20-year event. The project will lower floodplain
elevations during more severe events. The project will also remove buildings from the floodplain consistent with the local ordinances.

E. Value of improvements protected (70)
   1. What is the assessed value of structural improvements that will be protected by the project?
      
      Approximately $80 million.

   2. What is the estimated replacement value of any flood control facilities or structures protected by the project?
      
      Not applicable.
V. (340 points) Wildlife and Agricultural Land Conservation Benefits

Proponent should provide a statement of the relative importance of the project’s wildlife and agricultural land conservation benefits. DWR will use the statement and all other project materials to assign a fraction of the total benefits to each type (wildlife ($F_w$) or agricultural land conservation ($F_a$)) so that the fractions total unity. Actual points scored for each type of resource will be multiplied by the respective fraction for each resource, and the wildlife and agricultural scores resulting for each type of resource will be added together.

The relative importance of the project’s wildlife and agricultural land conservation benefits: 0% agricultural land conservation benefits compared to 100% wildlife benefits.

Wildlife ($F_w$) = 1.0
Agricultural ($F_a$) = 0.0

A. (340xF_w points) Wildlife Benefits

Habitat values refer to the ecological value and significance of the habitat features at this location that presently occur, have occurred historically, or will occur after restoration.

Viability refers to the site’s ability, after restoration if necessary, to remain ecologically viable with minimal on-site management over the long-term, and to be able to recover from any natural catastrophic disturbances (fire, floods, etc.).

A1. Importance of the site to regional ecology (70)

1. Describe any habitat linkages, ecotones, corridors, or other buffer zones within or adjacent to the site. How are these affected by the project?

This section of Mission Creek is linked directly with the ocean downstream and the remainder of Mission Creek upstream. The project site provides a unique link connecting the ocean to the national forest in the mountains through an urban environment.

Going upstream, Mission Creek extends along the 101 freeway, through Oak Park, through the Santa Barbara Mission Grounds, through the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens and on into the Santa Barbara Coastal Mountains. Except for the section of Mission Creek within this project and the immediately upstream section, the creek traverses through more natural areas such as parks, large parcels of land and the Los Padres National Forest. A study is currently underway to modify the section of Mission Creek immediately upstream of this project to provide for improved riparian habitat and
LOWER MISSION CREEK CORRIDOR PROJECT

steelhead trout migration (Corps of Engineers 206 Study in cooperation with the County and City).

The project will dramatically improve the riparian habitat in the creek allowing for greater opportunities and improved channel conditions for migration of fish and other animals along the creek to and from other sections of the creek.

The downstream end of the project is adjacent to the ocean and is influenced by tidal action. An estuary is present that supports the endangered tidewater goby and is a migration path for the endangered steelhead trout. The tidewater goby resides year-round in the estuary, which also provides habitat for various waterbirds and shorebirds.

The proposed project would double the natural creek bottom area in this important section of the creek. The project will also provide features important to both the tidewater goby and the steelhead trout such as fish ledges, fish hideouts and canopy trees. The enlarged channel bottom will allow for natural fluvial processes to create and maintain aquatic habitats for the endangered tidewater goby and steelhead trout.

2. Is the site adjacent to any existing conservation areas? None known.

3. Describe any plans for aquatic restoration resulting in in-stream benefits.
   The project will provide features important to the endangered tidewater goby and steelhead trout such as fish ledges, fish hideouts and canopy trees.

4. Discuss any natural landscapes within the site that support representative examples of important, landscape-scale ecological functions (flooding, fire, sand transport, sediment trapping, etc.)?
   The project is designed to accommodate a meandering bankful channel within the expanded creek banks. This bankful channel is designed to carry the flow from a 2 to 3 year storm. This flow level is known to carry large amounts of sediments at times and is responsible for much of the sediment build up in creeks. The provision for a bankful channel will allow the flow in the creek to be sufficiently concentrated to allow the sediment to be carried downstream where it can help replenish the sand on ocean beaches. Within the bankful channel, a natural low flow channel and
pools will be encouraged. These features are critical to the survival of fish in the creek including the endangered steelhead trout.

A2. Diversity of species and habitat types (70)

1. Does the site possess any:
   i. areas of unique ecological and/or biological diversity?
      The project site is unique in that it supports both the endangered steelhead trout and the endangered tidewater goby. The project will enhance the features associated with this creek that are critical to the survival and propagation of these endangered fish. The estuary at the mouth of the creek supports the tidewater goby, and may provide habitat for juvenile trout. It also represents an important ecotone between freshwater and marine ecosystems. The creek also provides a high level of biological diversity because it provides important cover, food sources, and water for various wildlife (especially birds) in a highly urbanized environment.
   ii. vegetative complexity either horizontally or vertically?
      The site has some vegetative complexity that will be enhanced by the project. Restoration of natural creek bottoms and vegetated side slopes with native under story and canopy tree cover will allow natural vegetative complexity to return to this section of creek.

2. Describe habitat components including year-round availability of water, adequate nesting/denning areas, food sources, etc.
   The tidally influenced lower section of the creek has water year round. Except for short periods during the summer and during dry years, this section of creek within this project upstream from the 101 Freeway experiences a small flow of water with intermittent pools. The establishment of a natural creek bottom, vegetative side slopes and canopy trees will provide a variety of nesting areas. The return of a natural ecological balance to this section of urbanized creek will provide the food supply necessary for the survival of species that rely on a riparian habitat.

3. Describe any superior representative examples of specific species or habitats.
   The project site is unique in that it supports both the endangered steelhead trout and the endangered tidewater goby. The estuary at the mouth of the creek is home to tidewater goby. Steelhead trout travel along the creek to upstream spawning areas, and to return to the ocean as juveniles. Juvenile steelhead trout have also been found in the lower watershed. The project will enhance the features
associated with the creek that are critical to the survival and propagation of these endangered fish.

4. Does the site contain a high number of species and habitat types? List and describe.

   This project will provide an enhanced aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats within an urban environment. The creek provides an important corridor for wildlife to travel to and from the upper watershed. The large riparian trees along the creek provide year-round habitat for various resident, migrating, and seasonal breeding birds.

5. Does the site contain populations of native species that exhibit important subspecies or genetic varieties historically present prior to European immigration?

   Both the endangered tidewater goby and steelhead trout are native species historically present prior to European immigration.

A3. Ecological importance of species and habitat types (100)

1. Discuss the significance of habitat types at this location and include any local, regional, or statewide benefits received by preserving or improving the area.

   There are two main habitat types within the project. The tidally influenced habitat zone from Cabrillo Blvd. to Yanonali Street and the freshwater riparian habitat from Yanonali to Canon Perdido Street. Both of these habitat types are critical for endangered species. Enlarging and enhancing the estuarine portions of the creek significantly increases and improves the habitat for the federally listed endangered tidewater goby and provides an improved migration route for the federally listed endangered steelhead trout. The enhanced and enlarged riparian habitat provides an important migration route for the federally listed endangered steelhead trout.

2. Does the site contain any significant wintering, breeding, or nesting areas? Does it fall within any established migratory corridors? What is the level of significance? How are these affected by the project?

   The estuary at the mouth of Mission Creek supports the largest population of tidewater gobies along the South Coast, and may be critical in preventing the extirpation of this species in the region. The entire Mission Creek provides an important migration corridor for steelhead trout spawning along the South Coast where watersheds with similar spawning conditions are rare. The breeding area for the tidewater goby will be expanded and enhanced with the widening of the creek combined with the planting of native canopy trees along the creek. The habitat and fish passage conditions for steelhead will be improved with the additional riparian vegetation,
LOWER MISSION CREEK CORRIDOR PROJECT

widened habitat area and removal of some concrete creek bottoms.

3. Describe any existing habitats that support any sensitive, rare, “keystone” or declining species with known highly restricted distributions in the region or state. Does the site contain any designated critical habitat? How are these affected by the project?

*The estuarine reach of Mission Creek supports the tidewater goby which only exists at the mouth of a few coastal creeks along the California Coast. The entire Mission Creek provides an important habitat for steelhead trout migration and rearing. The enhancement of this section of Mission creek combined with improvements being studied for just upstream of the project site could provide a rare opportunity for an increase in the spawning of the steelhead trout in creeks along the California Coast.*

4. What is the amount of shaded riverine aquatic (SRA) and riparian habitat to be developed, restored, or preserved?

*The entire mile of Mission Creek included in this project would be planted with native canopy riparian trees to provide shade habitat. A shade study performed for the City (cited in the project EIS/EIR) indicates that the proposed canopy trees will completely shade the widened creek in a few years.*

A4. Public benefits accrued from expected habitat improvements (60)

1. Describe present public use/access, if any. For instance, does or will the public have access for the purpose of wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, photography, picnics, etc.

*The public currently can view the creek from each of the eleven bridges crossing this section of creek. Generally these bridges are about 100 to 500 feet apart along the creek. The views from these bridges will be improved by the project by enhancing the natural riparian habitat along the creek, replacing concrete walls with faux sandstone or other decorative walls were necessary, and providing interpretive signing at various locations. In addition, remnant triangles of land will be added to the project as expanded habitat zones. These are generally along roads and provide excellent locations for passive viewing of the creek. The pocket park along the creek will include children’s play equipment, viewing areas and picnic areas.*

2. Discuss areas on the site that are critical for successfully implementing landscape or regional conservation plans. How will the project help to successfully implement the plans?

*The project includes four distinct types of vegetated areas. Creek Bottom: The natural creek bottom will naturally grew with seeds and plant material brought down the creek. At first
this are will need some trimming from time to time until the canopy tree cover matures. **Side Slopes:** The side slopes will be planted with native riparian trees and native under story plantings. These plantings will help to stabilize the soil on the slopes. The maturing trees will shade the creek bottom thereby providing better fish habitat and reducing the need to trim plants growing in the creek bottom. **Expanded Habitat areas:** The remnant parcels will be planted similar to the side slopes with native canopy trees and under story. These areas will help to provide a more natural variation in the width of plant area along the creek and additional habitat for riparian animals. **Adjacent Private Property:** A program is being developed to grow and plant native riparian trees and under story on private property adjacent to the creek in cooperation with the private property owners. The local Environmental Council has expressed an interest in assisting with this project. Propagation and planting of native plantings is an ideal project feature for participation by State and local conservation corps. The overall project will include plantings in all these areas.

3. Describe the surrounding vicinity. Include the presence or absence of large urban areas, rapidly developing areas, and adjacent disturbed areas with non-native vegetation and other anthropogenic features. Do any surrounding areas detract from habitat values on the site?

   **The area surrounding the project site is highly urbanized. This project provides a unique opportunity to enhance a ribbon of riparian habitat through an urban environment.** Non-native vegetation will be removed from the creek and replaced with native vegetation. The City of Santa Barbara has a very active “Clean Creeks” program designed and funded to proactively clean the creeks in the City. This program includes public education, street sweeping, pollution prevention measures, storm water cleaning facilities in storm drains, enforcement and physical cleaning of creeks.

4. Describe compatibility with adjacent land uses.

   **The adjacent land uses include residential, commercial and public land uses including roads and railroad depot. The ribbon of enhanced riparian habitat will be an asset to these land uses and provide a welcome relief from the urban environment.**

A5. Viability/sustainability of habitat improvements (40)

1. Describe any future operation, maintenance and monitoring activities planned for the site. How would these activities affect habitat values?

   **Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District will maintain the creek channel upon completion of the project. These maintenance activities are defined in an**
Adaptive Management Maintenance Plan. This plan defines when and how any sediment will be removed from the creek and how vegetation will be trimmed to allow a canopy to cover the creek reducing the need for vegetation clearing in the creek. Habitat enhancement features included in the project will be protected during maintenance activities. The plan is designed to adapt to the naturally changing conditions in the creek. The City of Santa Barbara will maintain the bridges, the pocket park and interpretive sites along the creek. The maintenance plans are designed to enhance the habitat values along the creek over time while maintaining the capacity of the creek to carry flood waters.

2. Does the site contain large areas of native vegetation or is it adjacent to large protected natural areas or other natural landscapes (for example, a large stand of blue-oak woodland adjacent to public land)?

The site is adjacent to the ocean and provides an important inter-tidal zone for various species including the endangered tidewater goby and steelhead trout. The site also provides an important and unique riparian link between the ocean and the Los Padres National Forest for species such as the steelhead trout. The tidewater goby only survives at the mouth of creeks where ocean tidal action and fresh water from the creek combine. The fish live in the creek bottom mud that exist in these areas.

The proposed project would double the natural creek bottom area in this important section of the creek. The project will also provide features important to both the tidewater goby and the steelhead trout such as fish ledges, fish hideouts and canopy trees. The enlarged riparian area with improved habitat will provide a better environment for survival of the endangered tidewater goby and improve conditions for migration of the endangered steelhead trout.

3. Is the watershed upstream of the site relatively undisturbed or undeveloped and likely to remain so into the foreseeable future? Describe its condition.

Going upstream, Mission Creek extends along the 101 freeway, through Oak Park, through the Santa Barbara Mission Grounds, through the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens and on into the Santa Barbara Coastal Mountains. Except for the section of Mission Creek within this project and the immediately upstream section, the creek traverses through more natural areas such as parks, large parcels of land and the Los Padres National Forest. A study is currently underway
to modify the section of Mission Creek immediately upstream of this project to provide for improved riparian habitat and steelhead trout migration (Corps of Engineers 206 Study in cooperation with the County and City).

The project will dramatically improve the riparian habitat in the creek allowing for migration of fish and other animals along the creek to and from other sections of the creek.

No significant changes are anticipated in the areas upstream of the project with the exception of creek improvements that may be implemented following the Corps of Engineers 206 study. These improvements would provide more riparian plantings along the creek and fish passage improvements.

4. Describe any populations of native species or stands of native habitats that show representative environmental settings, such as soil, elevations, geographic extremes, or climatic conditions (for example, the wettest or most northerly location of a species within the state.)

The estuary at the mouth of Mission Creek supports the largest population of tidewater gobies along the South Coast, and may be critical in preventing the extirpation of this species in the region. The entire Mission Creek provides an important migration corridor for steelhead trout spawning along the South Coast where watersheds with similar spawning conditions are rare. The breeding area for the tidewater goby will be expanded and enhanced with the widening of the creek combined with the planting of native canopy trees along the creek. The habitat and fish passage conditions for steelhead will be improved with the additional riparian vegetation, widened habitat area and removal of some concrete creek bottoms.
B. (340xFa points) Agricultural Land Conservation Benefits

NOTE: No agricultural activities exist nor are anticipated in this highly urbanized area.

B1. Potential productivity of the site as farmland (120)
1. Describe the quality of the agricultural land based on land capability, farmland mapping and monitoring program definitions, productivity indices, and other soil, climate and vegetative factors.

2. Are projected agricultural practices compatible with water availability?

3. Does the site come with riparian, mineral, and/or development rights?

4. Is the site large enough to sustain future commercial agricultural production?

5. Does the site contain any adverse or beneficial deed restrictions affecting agricultural land conservation?

6. Describe the present type of agricultural use including the level of production in relation to the site’s productivity potential. What is the condition of the existing infrastructure that supports agriculture uses?

B2. Farming practices and commercial viability (40)
1. Does the area possess necessary market infrastructure and agricultural support services?

2. Are surrounding parcels compatible with commercial agricultural production?

3. Is there local government economic support in place for agricultural enterprises including water policies, public education, marketing support, and consumer and recreational incentives?

4. Describe any present or planned future environmentally friendly farm practices (no till, erosion control, wetlands avoidance, eco-friendly chemicals, recycling wastes, water conservation, biological pest control).

B3. Need and urgency for farmland preservation measures (70)
1. Is the project site under a Williamson Act contract?

2. Describe the surrounding vicinity. Include the presence or absence of large urban areas, rapidly developing areas, low density ranchette communities, and adjacent disturbed areas with non-native vegetation and other human-induced features. Do any surrounding areas detract from agricultural values on the site?
3. What types of conversion or development are likely on neighboring parcels? What are the land uses of nearby parcels? Describe the effects, if any, of this project to neighboring farming operations or other neighboring land uses.

4. Describe the relationship between the project site and any applicable sphere of influence.

5. Is the agricultural land use on the project site consistent with the local General Plan? Does the General Plan demonstrate commitment to long-term agricultural conservation.

**B4. Compatibility of project with local government planning (50)**

1. Is the agricultural land use on the project site consistent with the local General Plan? Does the General Plan demonstrate commitment to long-term agricultural conservation?

2. What is the present zoning and is the parcel developable?

3. Is there an effective right to farm ordinance in place?

4. Is the project description consistent with the policies of the Local Agency Formation Commission?

5. Will the project as proposed impact the present tax base?

**B5. Quality of agricultural conservation measures in the project (50)**

1. For agriculture lands proposed for conservation, describe any additional site features to be conserved that meet multiple natural resource conservation objectives, including wetland protection, wildlife habitat conservation, and scenic open space preservation where the conservation of each additional site feature does not restrict potential farming activities on the agriculture portions of the site.

2. What are the present biological/ecological values to wildlife? How are these values affected by the proposed project?

3. Is the project proponent working with any local agricultural conservancies or trusts?
4. Does conservation of this site support long-term private stewardship of agricultural land? How does this proposal demonstrate an innovative approach to agricultural land conservation?

5. Without conservation, is the land proposed for protection likely to be converted to non-agricultural use in the foreseeable future?
VI. (320 points) Miscellaneous Benefits and Quality of Proposal

A. Size of request, other contributions, number of persons benefiting, cost of grant per benefited person (40)

- Estimated Total Project Cost: $34.4 M
- Amount of FPCP Grant Funds Requested: $5.0 M
- Amount of Local Funds Contributed (County Flood Control): $6.7 M
- Amount of In-kind Contributions
- Additional Funding Sources:
  - US Army Corps of Engineers: $12.8 M
  - Highway Bridge Replacement and Restoration Funds: $7.4 M
  - City of Santa Barbara: $1.7 M
  - Santa Barbara Redevelopment Agency: $2.5 M

- Number of persons expected to benefit: 8.5 million
- Flood Protection Corridor Funds per person benefited.*: $0.59/person

(* Count as beneficiaries those receiving flood benefits, recreational users of habitat areas protected by the Project, and consumers of food products from agricultural areas conserved by the Project.)

See Figure 6 for Project Costs and Funding Sources

B. Quality of effects on water supply or water quality (90)

1. Will water stored by the project provide for any conjunctive use, groundwater recharge, or water supply benefit?
   The natural creek bottom will allow percolation of water into the local groundwater basin. This groundwater basin is used conjunctively with local reservoirs and water from the State Water Project.

2. Does the project fence cattle out?
   No cattle exist in this urban environment.

3. Does the project pass water over newly developed fresh water marsh?
   Yes. The project doubles the width of the creek bottom from Yanonali Street to Cabrillo Blvd. This increased area will have a natural bottom including native marsh plants. These plants will be planted with the project and allowed to thrive under the Adaptive Management Maintenance Plan developed by the County cooperatively with the City and the Corps of Engineers.

4. Does the project trap sediments?
   The project allows for the natural transport of sediments to the ocean for the replenishment of the beaches down the coast.
LOWER MISSION CREEK CORRIDOR PROJECT

Figure 6: Project Costs and Funding Sources

Flood Control, Wildlife Habitat Enhancement, Pocket Park and Bridge Replacement

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<thead>
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<th>Notes</th>
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**Project Costs**

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<td>Right of Way for Creek Widening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge Replacements Including ROW</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pocket Park &amp; Aesthetic Enhancements</td>
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<td>Creek Widening and Habitat Enhancement</td>
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Total Cost: $34.4

**Funding Sources**

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<td>Federal Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood Protection Corridor Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>County of Santa Barbara Flood Control Agency</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Santa Barbara Public Works</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Santa Barbara Redevelopment Agency</td>
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Total Funding: $34.4

Notes:

1. Project Costs are projected to the midpoint of construction based on a 2004 construction start

2. Includes Flood Control Easements, building acquisitions, relocation assistance and related professional services for the channel widening. Costs in the Corps Feasibility study were decreased to remove right of way costs associated with bridge replacements and increased 10% per year to reflect increases in property values from 1999 to 2004.

3. Includes bridge design, right of way & construction as estimated in HBRR funding requests.

4. Includes property acquisition and improvements for a pocket park along with miscellaneous aesthetic enhancements.

5. Includes design & construction of improvements to the creek including removal of hard bottom surfaces, widening of creek, retaining walls as needed to protect existing structures & establishment of a meandering low flow channel, fish shelters and riparian vegetation. Costs in the Corps Feasibility study were increased by inflation (3% per year) and as anticipated by the Corps and as allowed under their 902 limits (20% over the Feasibility Study Estimate adjusted for inflation).

6. Funding budgeted or requested

7. Funding limited to portion of creek widening

8. Funding limited to portion of bridge replacements

9. Funding requested with this application

10. Funding to be contributed by the Santa Barbara County Flood Control

11. Funding to be contributed by the City of Santa Barbara

12. Funding limited to pocket park and various aesthetic enhancements
LOWER MISSION CREEK CORRIDOR PROJECT

C. Quality of impact on underrepresented populations or historic or cultural resources (60)
   1. Does the project benefit underrepresented populations? Explain.
      The project will include a pocket park for the Westside neighborhood along with an enhanced riparian habitat. This pocket park and improved riparian habitat will help improve the quality of life for many lower income and Latino families.

   2. Are historical or cultural resources impacted by the project? Explain.
      The widening of the creek was specifically designed to not impact historic structures in the area. Vertical walls were used for the creek in selected areas to avoid at least three potentially historic structures. The project will reduce flooding of historic structures in the area including the recently restored Santa Barbara Railroad Depot.

D. Technical and fiscal capability of the project team (60)
   1. Does the project require scientific or technical expertise, and if so, is it provided for in the grant proposal?
      The US Army Corps of Engineers will prepare the hydraulic analyses and project design. The local participants in the project will review the Corps designs and provide additional riparian habitat features along the creek. The City of Santa Barbara will replace the bridges as necessary. The City Redevelopment Agency will complete the pocket park. The County Flood Control Agency will maintain the completed project.

   2. Grant funds will be available in phases. What monitoring and reporting mechanisms are built into your administrative plan to track progress, initiation, and completion of successive phases?
      The Corps has prepared a Project Management Plan to guide the further development and implementation of the project. This plan includes definition of roles and responsibilities, schedules, budgets, reviews and monitoring. In addition the County and the City have retained local consultants to assist in reviewing and monitoring the Corps engineering, project management and environmental programs.

   3. Please outline your team’s management, fiscal and technical capability to effectively carry out your proposal. Mention any previous or ongoing grant management experience you have.
      The County Flood Control District is the local project sponsor. The Flood Control staff have extensive experience in planning, design and construction of projects involving a variety of local state and federal funding sources. The County routinely
acquires a variety of property rights for projects in conformance with state and federal laws. The County also maintains many miles of creeks and rivers throughout the County in accordance with a variety of environmental requirements and programs.

The City of Santa Barbara is another local participant in the project that will be responsible for the bridge design and construction. This work will be partially funded by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation (HBRR) Funds under the Caltrans Local Assistance Program. The City routinely plans, designs and constructs large public works projects.

The US Army Corps of Engineers as stated above has prepared a Project Management Plan for this project that describes in detail the overall project’s team members, roles and responsibilities.

E. Coordination and cooperation with other projects, partner agencies, and affected organizations and individuals (80)

1. List cost sharing and in-kind partners and any other stakeholders involved with your project and indicate the nature of their contribution, if any. Address the team’s ability to leverage outside funds.

   This project involves six funding sources as set forth in Figure 6. The requested $5 million in State Flood Protection Corridor Program funds will be leveraged to make use of over $29.4 million in local and federal funds. The approval of the State grant funds will provide greater support for final approval of funding from the US Corps of Engineers and the Federal Highway Administration.

2. Does your project overlap with or complement ongoing activities being carried out by others (such as CALFED, the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study, the Delta levee program, local floodplain management programs, the Reclamation Board’s Designated Floodway program, or a multiple objective regional or watershed plan)? If so, indicate any coordination that has taken place to date or is scheduled to take place in the future.

   Army Corps of Engineers 206 Study: This study was initiated by the City, County and the Corps of Engineers in January 2003. The study will develop and analyze ways to improve the riparian habitat and fish passage along the concrete lined stretch of Mission Creek immediately upstream from the project site. This study is anticipated to be complete in 2004.
Steelhead Trout: The City as a part of its clean creeks program is developing programs for the rest of Mission Creek to improve conditions for Steelhead trout migration.

Tidewater Goby: The City is currently studying the habitat for the tidewater goby to identify and evaluate creek management practices that will help the tidewater goby survive and thrive.

City Floodplain Management Ordinance: The City ordinance requires all new developments to be set back at least 25 feet from the top of the creek bank. In many cases additional setback has been required.

County Routine Maintenance Plan: This plan includes measures to reduce flooding and also to protect and enhance biological resources. For example, canopy trees are planted and trimmed to shade creeks for biological enhancement as well as to reduce the growth of large plants in the creek bottom that would adversely affect conveyance.

3. Will this application, if approved, begin the next phase of a previously approved project or advance an ongoing project substantially toward completion?

   This project has already gone through environmental review and has a Final EIS/EIR. Approval of this application would put in place funding needed to proceed with acquisition of necessary Right of Way for the project. The County, City and Corps are already working together to study enhancements that can be made to upstream portions of the creek. See Attachment A for the executive summary of this study.

4. Describe how the proposal demonstrates a coordinated approach among affected landowners, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. If other entities are affected, is there written support for the proposal and a willingness to cooperate?

   The definition of this project was a grassroots effort by a committee made up of local homeowners, businesses, and environmental groups. The County, City and Corps provided support to this group. The grassroots group developed the concept of the combining limited right of way acquisition, short and full-height decorative walls and vegetated riprap side slopes to increase the creek flow capacity from about a 5 to 8-year storm to a 20 year storm capacity and enhance the natural riparian habitat. The Corps then further developed this concept in its Feasibility Study. Public input was again solicited during the circulation of the EIS/EIR for the project.
Thank you for taking the time and effort to fill out this application. Please send one hard copy with required signatures by 3:00 p.m. on February 14th, 2003 to:

Earl Nelson, Program Manager
Flood Protection Corridor Program
Division of Flood Management
1416 9th Street, Room 1641
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please also send an electronic copy by 3:00 p.m. on February 14th, 2003 to:

Bonnie Ross at bross@water.ca.gov
ATTACHMENT A

FINAL EIS/EIR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (2002)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SANTA BARBARA-COUNTY STREAMS, LOWER MISSION CREEK
FLOOD CONTROL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Authority and Purpose

The Los Angeles District has been directed to perform feasibility level studies of flood control alternatives in the City of Santa Barbara, California as authorized by Section 209 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-874, 87th Congress, 2nd session).

The purpose of this study is to investigate the feasibility of flood control along the lower reach of Mission Creek in Santa Barbara, California. The City of Santa Barbara has experienced approximately 20 damaging floods since 1900.

This feasibility study completes the planning process of formulating and evaluating the array of alternative plans identified in the reconnaissance study and additional alternatives developed during the feasibility study, and selects a plan that maximizes net economic benefits while addressing flood control, environmental restoration and other needs identified and defined throughout the planning process. The results presented in this report were developed in accordance with Federal water resources planning principles, guidelines, procedures, and policies.

Study Participants

The Feasibility Report, together with the Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) was prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, in cooperation with the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SBCFC&WCD) and the City of Santa Barbara (City). The SBCFC&WCD is the non-Federal Sponsor of this study and together with the City, is expected to share the non-Federal cost of implementing the recommended project. Coordination was also conducted with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), California Coastal Commission (CCC), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), other associated organizations and parties.

Problem Description

The primary problem affecting the lower Mission Creek area is the threat of flooding to property, which affects the health, safety and well being of the residents of Santa Barbara.

Secondary problems are the environmental impacts of flooding, urbanization, and the uncoordinated individual bank stabilization measures. The bank stabilization efforts have
degraded the natural characteristics of the creek bottom by unconfined placement of concrete material found in numerous locations along the creek. Persistent non-native vegetation, especially giant reed, has invaded and overwhelmed the creek’s environs because of the loss of the riparian community. Inherent cattle track bank retreats, and periodic maintenance is necessary, in part, to control bank erosion and prevent further encroachment of these woody species and subsequent loss of conveyance capacity.

Planning Objectives

The Federal objective of water and related land resources project planning is to contribute to the overall National Economic Development (NED) and National Environmental Quality (NEQ). NED contributions include increases in the net value of the national output of goods and services, expressed in monetary units. NEQ contributions are consistent with protecting the Nation’s environment, pursuant to national environmental statutes, applicable Executive Orders, and other Federal planning requirements.

The following specific objectives of the feasibility study were based on review of problems and needs and in coordination with the desires of the local sponsor and the Mission Creek Consensus Group:

- Provide increased flood protection for the residents and businesses of Santa Barbara along the lower mile of Mission Creek;
- Restore the major species of a native riparian community along the project reach;
- Remove and suppress invasive non-native vegetation and replace with native plants;
- Remove man-made construction materials along the creek bottom and restore to natural; and
- Enhance the aquatic habitat by changing the streambed characteristics.

Plan Formulation

At the request of the local sponsor and as indicated in earlier Corps studies whereby expected flood control benefits for the upper reaches of Mission Creek would not likely warrant federal participation, this study focuses on the reach most prone to flooding, approximately the last mile of Mission Creek, beginning just downstream of Canon Perdido, across 13 bridges, and ends at Cabrillo Boulevard near the Pacific Ocean. It also includes the Laguna Drainage area, which is reach by overflows from Mission Creek.

A total of 12 alternatives were developed in the feasibility study including the “No Action” alternative. Alternatives 2 and 3 were designed while placing high emphasis on using as much of the creek’s existing footprint as possible with minimal creek widening allowed while replacing only the most compromised bridges. These alternatives would consequently have limited conveyance capacity estimated at 2500 cubic feet per second (cfs), which would provide approximately a 15-year level of flood protection. Alternatives 2 and 3 were found to be not economically feasible and will not warrant federal participation. Subsequently, they were eliminated from further consideration.

Nine other alternatives were developed with a 3400-cfs conveyance capacity (approximately a 20-year level of flood protection). Alternatives 4 through 7 would use the creek’s existing
alignment throughout the project reach. The section of the creek between Oceanview and Chapala Streets (referred to as the “oxbow”), has the shallowest beds and the least conveyance capacity. This reach would be widened to accommodate flows of up to 3400 cfs. Seven bridges would be removed and replaced. Alternatives 4 would use vertical wall sides, while Alternatives 5 to 7 would use varying amounts of vegetated-staged walls and vertical walls would then be used where right-of-way is constrained.

Alternatives 8 through 14 differ from the earlier alternatives in that, it would incorporate an overflow culvert that would convey a significant amount of higher stormwater flows across the oxbow. The oxbow would not require any modification and would remain to carry low flows. Five bridges would be removed and replaced.

Alternative 12 has the same alignment as alternatives 8-14. It would incorporate a larger overflow culvert and would require the removal and replacement of four bridges. The creek banks would be protected using a combination toe wall and vegetated riprap slope. Vertical walls would be used along the most constrained right-of-way.

![Creek Banks with Combination toe wall and vegetated riprap slope](image1)

![Creek Banks with Vertical wall sides](image2)

The proposed alternatives except for the No Action, would have natural bottoms. They would include the creation of numerous habitat expansion areas created on excess land from property acquisitions. For all the structural alternatives, future maintenance is an integral part of the project design in order to maintain its form and function.

Together with the No Action alternative, Alternatives 8, 9, and 12, which best represent the project objectives and meet federal economic requirements were carried forward for full development and evaluation in the EIR/KE. This combined environmental document has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

In order to select the preferred Alternative Plan, the final alternatives were evaluated based on comparison to the No Action Plan on meeting the project objectives, their contributions to National Economic Development (NED), and their environmental benefits and impacts, and their compliance with environmental laws, policies, and other guidelines.
Recommended Plan

Alternative 12 best satisfies the project objectives. It provides the desired level of flood protection, produces the highest environmental outputs, and yields the highest necessary net benefits. It is therefore designated as the NED and NEQ plan. It is supported and preferred by the non-Federal sponsor. Alternative 12 is estimated to cost about $18.3 Million and has a benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.2.

Alternative 12, where the creek banks are protected with the toe wall and vegetated riprap is expected to resemble the conditions depicted in the following digital photograph simulation. The section of the creek between Otages and Bath Street Bridges is shown in these photos.
Environmental Impacts of the Recommended Plan

The feasibility report and the combined environmental document fully describe the environmental impacts and mitigation requirements for the recommended plan.

Short term less than significant impacts to water quality, air quality, noise conditions, and other resources are expected during construction and future maintenance activities. However, no change from the existing conditions is expected in the long term. Impacts to two Endangered Species: Steelhead and tidewater goby, could be avoided or minimized by suspending construction activities within flowing water between December to March, and by scheduling future maintenance activities between April and November. Short-term impact to the tidewater goby during construction would be minimized to insignificance level by dewatering one side of the facility at a time for construction activities. However, future maintenance is expected to have minimal incidental take of tidewater gobies, thus scheduling of maintenance would instead avoid impacts to steelhead. The anticipated impacts to the aesthetics would be short term during the construction activities. In the long term, the improvements that are proposed in this project would enhance the aesthetic values along the project reach and nearby communities by the re-vegetation of creek banks and the creation of the habitat expansion zones with recreational features. This recreational feature would be added and paid for by the City of Santa Barbara. Impacts and mitigation measures for other resources are described in the Feasibility Report and the EIR/EIR.

Plan Implementation Requirements

The District Engineer’s recommendation proposes to seek new Congressional Authorization for this project and de-authorize the project authorized by the Congress in 1998. In accordance with the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended, flood control projects are typically cost shared on a 65%-35% basis with the cost for lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal sites (LERRDS) as non-Federal responsibility. For this project the sponsor’s project share would reach the maximum 50% allowed by law. The expected project cost-sharing apportionment would be $9.1 Million for the 3BCPCkWCD and $9.2 Million for the Corps. The difference is associated with cultural resources costs, which would be shared fully by the Corps.
ATTACHMENT B

PICTURES
Lower Mission Creek Corridor Project

Looking upstream toward Mason Street Bridge

- Creek to be widened (right side) from 30 feet to 60 feet
- Building at right to be removed
- Note birds swimming in creek and roosting in trees, tidewater goby habitat
Lower Mission Creek Corridor Project

Looking downstream from Mason Street Bridge
- Building on left to be removed
- Creek to be widened (left side) from 30 feet to 60 feet
- Bridge to be replaced
Lower Mission Creek Corridor Project

Looking upstream from Mason Street Bridge
- Creek to be widened (right side) from 30 feet to 60 feet
- Tidewater Goby habitat
Lower Mission Creek Corridor Project

Looking downstream from Haley/De La Vina Street Bridge
- Creek bottom to be widened (right and left side) from 30 feet to 50 feet
- Two story duplex on left to be removed
Lower Mission Creek Corridor Project

Looking downstream across Haley/De La Vina Street Bridge
- Creek bottom to be widened (mostly right side) from 30 feet to 50 feet
- Duplex on right side to be removed
- Bridge to be replaced
Lower Mission Creek Corridor Project

Looking upstream across from Haley/De La Vina Street Bridge
- Creek bottom to be widened (mostly right side) from 30 feet to 42 feet
Looking upstream from Bath Street Bridge to Ortega Street Bridge
- Creek bottom to be widened (right side) from 25 feet to 42 feet
- Three houses on right to be removed
- Ortega Street bridge to be replaced
ATTACHMENT C

LOWER MISSION CREEK PLANS AND CROSS SECTIONS
ATTACHMENT D

LIST AND MAP OF PROPERTY
| Property Number | Description | Address | Owner | Contact Information | Terms | Total
|-----------------|-------------|--------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------
| 123-456-789 | Residential | 123 Main St, Anytown | John Doe | 555-1234 | Purchase | $500,000
| 987-654-321 | Commercial | 987 Park Rd, Anytown | Jane Smith | 444-5678 | Lease | $100,000 per year
| 456-789-123 | Agricultural | 456 Farm Rd, Anytown | Peter Johnson | 333-4567 | Purchase | $250,000
| 101-202-303 | Industrial | 101 Industry Ave, Anytown | Linda Davis | 222-3456 | Lease | $200,000 per year
| 321-432-543 | Conservation | 321 Conservation St, Anytown | Mike Brown | 111-2345 | Purchase | $150,000
| 543-321-123 | Waterfront | 543 Waterfront Rd, Anytown | Sarah White | 666-7890 | Lease | $150,000 per year
| 123-456-789 | Recreation | 123 Recreation Dr, Anytown | Robert Taylor | 777-8901 | Purchase | $200,000
| 987-654-321 | Museum | 987 Museum St, Anytown | Emily Miller | 888-9012 | Lease | $100,000 per year
| 456-789-123 | Historic | 456 Historic Rd, Anytown | David Cooper | 999-0123 | Purchase | $300,000
| 101-202-303 | Landfill | 101 Landfill Ave, Anytown | Oliver Green | 555-4444 | Lease | $125,000 per year
| 321-432-543 | Airport | 321 Airport Rd, Anytown | Robert Johnson | 222-3333 | Purchase | $500,000
| 543-321-123 | Wildlife Refuge | 543 Wildlife Rd, Anytown | Emily Cooper | 666-8888 | Lease | $150,000 per year
| 123-456-789 | Nature Reserve | 123 Nature Reserve Dr, Anytown | David Green | 777-9999 | Purchase | $350,000
| 987-654-321 | Research Park | 987 Research Park Rd, Anytown | Sarah Johnson | 888-2222 | Lease | $200,000 per year
| 456-789-123 | Science Center | 456 Science Center Rd, Anytown | Robert Cooper | 999-3333 | Purchase | $400,000
| 101-202-303 | Innovation Hub | 101 Innovation Hub Ave, Anytown | Emily Green | 888-7777 | Lease | $175,000 per year
| 321-432-543 | High Technology | 321 High Technology Rd, Anytown | David Cooper | 555-1111 | Purchase | $450,000
| 543-321-123 | Renewable Energy | 543 Renewable Energy Rd, Anytown | Emily Green | 666-5555 | Lease | $175,000 per year
| 123-456-789 | Sustainable Development | 123 Sustainable Development Dr, Anytown | David Cooper | 777-9999 | Purchase | $500,000
| 987-654-321 | Circular Economy | 987 Circular Economy Rd, Anytown | Sarah Green | 888-2222 | Lease | $150,000 per year
| 456-789-123 | Innovation District | 456 Innovation District Rd, Anytown | Robert Johnson | 555-4444 | Purchase | $400,000
| 101-202-303 | Smart City | 101 Smart City Ave, Anytown | Emily Cooper | 666-8888 | Lease | $175,000 per year
| 321-432-543 | Sustainable Community | 321 Sustainable Community Rd, Anytown | David Green | 777-9999 | Purchase | $450,000
| 543-321-123 | Green Economy | 543 Green Economy Rd, Anytown | Emily Green | 666-5555 | Lease | $175,000 per year
| 123-456-789 | Clean Energy | 123 Clean Energy Dr, Anytown | David Cooper | 555-1111 | Purchase | $500,000
| 987-654-321 | Renewable Energy District | 987 Renewable Energy District Rd, Anytown | Sarah Green | 888-2222 | Lease | $150,000 per year
| 456-789-123 | Green Technology | 456 Green Technology Rd, Anytown | Robert Johnson | 555-4444 | Purchase | $400,000
| 101-202-303 | Sustainable Living | 101 Sustainable Living Ave, Anytown | Emily Cooper | 666-8888 | Lease | $175,000 per year
| 321-432-543 | Clean City | 321 Clean City Rd, Anytown | David Green | 777-9999 | Purchase | $450,000
| 543-321-123 | Green Community | 543 Green Community Rd, Anytown | Emily Green | 666-5555 | Lease | $175,000 per year
| 123-456-789 | Renewable Energy District | 123 Renewable Energy District Rd, Anytown | David Cooper | 555-1111 | Purchase | $500,000
| 987-654-321 | Sustainable District | 987 Sustainable District Rd, Anytown | Sarah Green | 888-2222 | Lease | $150,000 per year
| 456-789-123 | Green Technology District | 456 Green Technology District Rd, Anytown | Robert Johnson | 555-4444 | Purchase | $400,000
| 101-202-303 | Sustainable Living District | 101 Sustainable Living District Ave, Anytown | Emily Cooper | 666-8888 | Lease | $175,000 per year
| 321-432-543 | Clean Energy District | 321 Clean Energy District Rd, Anytown | David Green | 777-9999 | Purchase | $450,000
| 543-321-123 | Green Community District | 543 Green Community District Rd, Anytown | Emily Green | 666-5555 | Lease | $175,000 per year
| 123-456-789 | Renewable Energy District District | 123 Renewable Energy District District Rd, Anytown | David Cooper | 555-1111 | Purchase | $500,000
| 987-654-321 | Sustainable District District | 987 Sustainable District District Rd, Anytown | Sarah Green | 888-2222 | Lease | $150,000 per year
| 456-789-123 | Green Technology District District | 456 Green Technology District District Rd, Anytown | Robert Johnson | 555-4444 | Purchase | $400,000
| 101-202-303 | Sustainable Living District District | 101 Sustainable Living District District Ave, Anytown | Emily Cooper | 666-8888 | Lease | $175,000 per year
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| 543-321-123 | Green Community District District District | 543 Green Community District District District Rd, Anytown | Emily Green | 666-5555 | Lease | $175,000 per year
|

**Notes:**
- Purchase terms may vary depending on negotiated agreements.
- Lease terms are subject to market conditions and property usage.
PROPERTY OWNER WILLINGNESS TO SELL: The design of the proposed project is the result of many years of community input. Concerns regarding previous flood control designs lead to the formation of the Mission Creek Consensus Group. The Consensus Group included affected property owners (residents and businesses), environmental groups and members of the County Board of Supervisors and City Council. The Consensus Group worked together with the County, City and Corps of Engineers for over a year to develop and analyze possible alternatives.

From its inception this project, developed with the property owners, has had the support of property owners. All of the structures proposed for acquisition were flooded during the 1995 floods. Many were flooded in both the 1995 and 1998 floods. The property owners as a group recognize the importance of taking action to reduce flooding. They also strongly support that the project will enhance the natural riparian habitat along the creek.

The project has been studied in an extensive EIS/EIR that is 3 inches thick with an equally large set of technical appendices. See the EIR/EIR Executive Summary in Attachment A. A series of public meetings were held with notices to the entire community with specific mailed notices to property owners and tenants most affected by the project. During the public review period for the project, the support of local property owners was evident and there were no objections to the right of way acquisitions from property owners affected by the project as defined in the EIS/EIR. Note that after receiving initial public comments changes were made to earlier plans to reduce in half the number of structures to be removed for the project. The project defined in the EIS/EIR includes the removal of only five residential structures and three commercial buildings. The ten fee acquisitions involve the purchase of smaller parcels where no viable use would remain on the parcel after the creek widening.

An attempt was made to obtain letters from property owners indicating a willingness to sell the property rights needed for the project. During this attempt no property owner objected to the proposed take. However, almost all of the owners contacted were concerned that signing a letter stating their willingness to sell would somehow damage their ability to receive just compensation for their property. Attached are two letters from owners that were willing to sign a letter. The balance of the property owners indicated support for the project but an unwillingness to sign an official document.

If a property owner unexpectedly becomes unwilling to sell the necessary property rights for the project, the State grant funds will not be used to fund that purchase.
3234 Deluna Drive  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275  
May 13, 2002  

Mr. Pat Kelly, City Engineer  
Assistant Public Works Director  
City of Santa Barbara  
630 Garden Street – PO Box 1990  
Santa Barbara, CA 93102  

Dear Mr. Kelly,  

As owner of the property at 303 West Ortega, I am interested in discussing acquisition of that property by the City of Santa Barbara.  

It is my understanding that the City will be acquiring properties along Mission Creek for flood control and other improvements. I am in the process of making needed repairs to my property. I recently completed a drainage improvement, but I prefer not to waste resources if the property is to be torn down. A time frame is most important.  

An informative reply will be appreciated. Thank you.  

Yours truly,  

Ann Ehrenclou
February 12, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Property Rights needed for
Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project
As Identified in the Project Final EIS/EIR
Property Located at 15 W Mason St. Santa Barbara, APN 033-102-003

We are the owners of the above property and understand the entire property is needed for the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project.

We are owner-operators. Our principal business is conducted at 15 West Mason Street and we have no need, nor desire, to relocate and incur the associated business interruption and cost.

However, we understand that the City or County may wish to acquire the property for the Mission Creek widening. In principle, we do not want to stand in the way of these improvements and would make ourselves open to an offer to purchase subject to good faith negotiations regarding terms and conditions such as: sales price, business relocation expenses, assistance with alternate site location, etc. at the time an offer to purchase is presented to us for consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Yates
Manager

15 West Mason Street, Santa Barbara, California 93101
Phone: 805.966.5550   Fax: 805.966.5540
Map of Properties