

Zone 9 Advisory Committee
Ongoing Updates

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Shelsie Moore, Supervising Civil Engineer, City of San Luis Obispo
Kate Shea, Principal Environmental Specialist, County Public Works

DATE: February 14, 2024

SUBJECT: Mid-Higuera Bypass Project Updates

During September 2021, the County of San Luis Obispo Water Conservation and Flood Control District (District), in coordination with the City of San Luis Obispo (City), applied for several permits in compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act. Listed below are the current statuses with each agency:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Section 1600
 A final Streambed Alteration Agreement was issued 8/3/2023.
- Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Section 404
 A final Nationwide Permit was issued on 12/20/23.
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Section 401
 This permit was issued 9/22/22.

The City is making progress on securing permanent easements and temporary construction easements. So far, the City with consultant services from Hamner, Jewell & Associates has presented ten (10) offer packages to property owners for required easements. Of those 10 presented, four (4) of the easement agreements have been signed by the property owners. Four (4) easement offer packages remain to be issued to property owners, as they are being revised or drafted by Hamner, Jewell & Associates. See the table below for a complete list of easements being pursued and their respective status.

Acquisition Type	Address	Offer Packages Prepared	Offers Sent	Offer Signed
Permanent and Temporary Easements	304 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	
Permanent and Temporary Easements	280 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	
Temporary Easement	300 Higuera Street	Draft		
Permanent and Temporary Easements	284 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Temporary Easement	390 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	
Permanent and Temporary Easements	292 Higuera Street	Draft		
Permanent and Temporary Easements	306 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Temporary Easement	264 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	

Temporary Easement	23 South Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Temporary Easement	178 Brook Street	Final	Yes	
Temporary Easement	180 Brook Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Temporary Easement	160 Brook Street	Final	Yes	
Public Utility Easements	284 Higuera Street 286 Higuera Street	Pending Utility Designs		

A standard Caltrans Encroachment Permit Application was submitted on May 17, 2023, by City Staff for the portion of work that overlaps with Caltrans' property and has been reviewed by Caltrans staff. The project plans are being revised to incorporate all of Caltrans' comments.

In October of 2023, staff pursued additional negotiating authority from City Council to pursue public utility easements on the Madonna Property (284 Higuera) and the Jones Family Property (286 Higuera) to accommodate the relocation of overhead and buried utilities associated with the project. Staff also pursued additional negotiating authority to pursue a relocation agreement for the tenant at 306 Higuera (CoastRiders Powersports).

Additionally, on March 14, 2023, the City entered into a funding agreement with the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) to provide an amount of \$6,078,707 to be used for construction of the project through the end of 2024. Staff are working with DWR staff to explore the potential of extending the funding agreement through 2025 to accommodate delays in the construction timeline.

Remaining final design work continues as follows:

- Legal descriptions for property negotiations (in progress, additional legal descriptions are being drafted)
- Utility letters and coordination (in progress, letters have been sent by the City and staff are coordinating with utility companies)
- Right of entry and construction easement exhibits (completed)
- Building Permits: Grading and Demolition plan for building removal (in progress, PS&E are being revised based on comments)
- Final 100% contract documents (in progress, PS&E are being revised based on 95% comments)

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Freddy Otte, Biologist, City of San Luis Obispo

DATE: February 14, 2024

SUBJECT: Creek Maintenance Updates

Ongoing monitoring of the creek system has occurred, but no large problem areas have been identified. The California Conservation Corps completed 3 weeks of debris removal and vegetation management in East Fork SLO Creek downstream of Buckley Road to continue work completed in 2022 and the Buckley Road Bridge was inspected and vegetation management was completed by the City's Flood Control Tech's to ensure for proper function. Based on the amount of debris removal work completed in response to the 2023 storms, the creek channels are still functioning well with good capacity.

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Jon Hall, Land Conservancy

DATE: February 14, 2024

SUBJECT: Arundo Removal Updates

*No new updates for February

Previous update:

The largest remaining population of *Arundo donax* in the SLO Creek watershed is at the intersection of Los Osos Valley Road and San Luis Creek. Control of this population began in August with a California Conservation Corps and Field Crew of the Land Conservancy manually removing .19 acres of the 0.77 acre infestation (approximately ¼ of the population). Follow-up herbicide treatment was made a month later to the entire 0.77 acre population. In addition, all previously treated populations in the watershed were surveyed and treated if still alive. Work for the season will be complete by early October.

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Joshua Porter, County of San Luis Obispo

DATE: February 14, 2024

SUBJECT: Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study

Update:

MBS Land Surveys has conducted an initial topographic survey. Additional points must be surveyed for the final draft so a secondary survey will be conducted. After the survey is finalized, GHD will complete the drainage model and prepare preliminary designs for the preferred alternative for feedback from County Environmental and Stormwater divisions respectively.

Background:

The Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) Staff is currently working with a consultant (GHD) on a drainage study to perform an alternatives analysis and identify a preferred solution to reduce the risk of flooding to homes, businesses, roads, and the public parking lot near First Street in Avila Beach. With the area being located at a low point, it experiences frequent flooding during storm events as well as nuisance water which tends to occur year-round. The in-depth study will identify a feasible solution to the problem and develop the scope and budget in order to seek funding and ideally move towards a project. The preferred solution will ideally aim to minimize O&M staff response and in turn, decrease operational costs for the County long term. The study is currently funded entirely by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and has received a total of \$200,000 in funds for design.