

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Barry Ng
Ray Riordan

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON COYOTE CREEK
FLOODING THREAT MATRIX
AND PREDICTED RAINS**

DATE: March 20, 2017

Approved



Date

3/20/17

INFORMATION

This memorandum is provided to update the City Council on plans for notifying the public should Coyote Creek threaten to flood again this winter. In the staff report and presentation for the March 9, 2017 Special Council meeting, staff presented a preliminary Threat Matrix to assess risk of flooding and trigger heightened levels of notification.

The National Weather Service (NWS) is predicting light to moderate rain this evening with showers and isolated thunderstorms possible into Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday is expected to be a dry day. However, a stronger storm is expected on Friday.

Staff has consulted with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), and the District stated in a Situation Report that current hydrological models “do not show any problems within our creeks. As of this Situation Report, Anderson Reservoir has more than double the capacity to capture all the estimated runoff volume from the storms which are currently estimated to end on Saturday March 25th, 2017. We will continue updating throughout the week and into the last expected storm.”

There are still several weeks left in the rainy season. As of March 20, 2017, Anderson Reservoir is at 86.5 percent of capacity and ten feet below spillway elevation. SCVWD states that it continues to drain water from the reservoir for flood protection.

Staff will be monitoring information from both the SCVWD and NWS closely over the coming week and through the remainder of the rainy season. Our goal is to provide timely notification to our residents about the threat of potential flooding along Coyote Creek.

Threat Matrix Development

The new Threat Matrix for potential flooding on Coyote Creek uses a three-tiered approach that includes the following threat levels:

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- **Level 1 – Flood Advisory** (Yellow Alert) issued 48-72 hours in advance of the possibility of flooding
- **Level 2 – Flood Warning** (Orange Alert) issued 12-24 hours in advance of the likelihood of flooding
- **Level 3 – Flood Evacuation** (Red Alert) issued 4-6 hours in advance of imminent flooding

Staff is developing emergency alert messaging, flyers and other materials, and communications protocols for each alert level. Messages will be in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Additional communication strategies for vulnerable or hard-to-reach populations, including homeless residents, are also being considered to ensure all members of the community receive emergency notification and alerts.

On Wednesday, March 15, 2017, staff met with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) to refine the Threat Matrix and ways the City and District will work together should Coyote Creek threaten to flood in the weeks left in the rainy season. In addition, we are committed to working together to develop an Emergency Action Plan for Coyote Creek, much like the plans that are in place for San Francisquito Creek in Palo Alto.

Since that meeting, the SCVWD has provided the City with additional information to help refine the Threat Matrix. The Threat Matrix will now take into account the following factors:

- Water height at key locations along the creek;
- Reservoir levels at Anderson Reservoir
- Flow levels
- Flow trends (are the waters rising, peaking or receding)
- Flow-time between observation points
- Visual cues for field staff (such as markers on bridge abutments, culverts or outfall pipes)

At each Threat Level, the City and District would initiate immediate consultation/coordination that could include, but is not limited to: technical analysis of data related to the threat, hydrologic forecast, deployment of reconnaissance teams, coordinating responses to the threat, sharing of resources, and public messaging.

With additional storms possible later this week, staff will monitor closely all factors and determine when there is a need to notify residents about the potential for flooding and need to evacuate.

/s/
BARRY NG
Director, Public Works

/s/
RAY RIORDAN
Director, Office of Emergency Services

For questions, please contact Ray Riordan, Director, Office of Emergency Services, at (408) 794-7050.