

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: June 12, 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 twelve (12) offer packages to property owners for required easements. Of those 12 presented, six (6) of the easement agreements have been signed by the property owners. Two (2) easement offer packages remain to be issued to property owners, as they are being drafted by Hamner, Jewell & Associates. See the table below for a complete list of easements being pursued and their respective status.

Acquisition Type	APN	Address	Offer Packages Prepared	Offers Sent	Offer Signed
Permanent and Temporary Easements	002-482-007	304 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	No
Permanent and Temporary Easements	002-482-013	280 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	No
Permanent and Temporary Easements	002-482-017	284 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Permanent and Temporary Easements	002-482-023	292 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	No
Permanent and Temporary Easements	002-482-027	306 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Temporary Easement	002-482-015	300 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	No
Temporary Easement	002-482-021	390 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	No
Temporary Easement	003-711-024	264 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	No
Temporary Easement	004-741-001	23 South Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Temporary Easement	004-741-007	178 Brook Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Temporary Easement	004-741-008	180 Brook Street	Final	Yes	Yes

Temporary Easement	004-741-010	160 Brook Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Public Utility Easement	002-482-017	284 Higuera Street	Draft not complete	No	No
Public Utility Easement	002-482-024	286 Higuera Street	Draft not complete	No	No

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 Simonin 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 extend the funding agreement through March of 2026 to accommodate delays in the construction timeline.

Wallace Group's remaining final design work includes:

- 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)
- Building Permits: Grading and Demolition plan for building removal (in progress, PS&E are being revised based on comments)
- Final 100% contract documents to be received in early June (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: June 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Creek Maintenance Updates

The City is looking to continue the conversation with the agencies on the emergency projects and maintenance needs for those projects once permitted. Due to the storms from winter 2022/23, there is little accumulated debris in the creek channels since a major debris removal effort was undertaken after the January and March storms in 2023. The vegetation is continuing to regrow but has not gotten to a point of needing major trimming or removal work. The City is also working with a consultant to develop a project description for a creek maintenance program which will require agency permitting and we are continuing the discussions related to the description of the management types. A grant application will be submitted summer 2024 to the Coastal Conservancy for the City to develop a Vegetation Management Plan which will have an environmental document and permitting completed as part of that project as well. This will serve multiple benefits of flood control and fire prevention in the creek systems for community protection. The City is also looking at the need for us to maintain all the drainage easements that have been accepted by the City across private property over the years as a requirement to maintain them in a state "to prevent injury to a third party", a.k.a. the property owner or neighbor. This will be a significant workload increase and we are still evaluating how this will be implemented.

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee
FROM: Brendan Clark, County of San Luis Obispo
DATE: June 12, 2024
SUBJECT: Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study

Update:

GHD has completed a review of the limited 2015 study and records of past flooding. The detailed survey & easement mapping is complete as well. GHD is now evaluating several different options related to pump infrastructure (outfall & pipeline location, pump size, etc.) Once these options are complete, the project team will select a preferred pumping alternative and authorize preparation of a 30% design.

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.

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Jon Hall, Land Conservancy

DATE: June 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Arundo Removal Updates

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 2023 with removal of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the 0.77 acre infestation. This population will be the focus for efforts in 2024. We are working to secure another \$25,000 US Fish and Wildlife Service Grant to leverage more work with the Zone 9 funding. Target surveys and retreatment of previously controlled populations will also occur in August through October 2024.