

Citizen Participation Plan Final Write-up For:

The City of Encinitas
Case # CPP-5276-2022

Lake Drive Storm Drain Improvements Project

Public Workshop: April 25, 2022

The meeting was held at 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM on April 25, 2022, in the Poinsettia Room at the City of Encinitas. Matt Widelski hosted the public meeting with Tamara O'Neal (NV5), Michael Rocco (NV5), Scott Rothberg (Nature Collective) and Vanessa Scheidel (Dudek). Roughly 5 citizens signed the attendance sheet and were present. The meeting began with Matt Widelski presenting on the project background and proposed improvements. Photos of existing conditions and the proposed design plans were provided in the presentation. Matt Widelski followed with information on project coordination, project impacts, and the tentative project schedule. After Matt Widelski finished his presentation, a question-and-answer session with the public was held. All citizens left after the questions and comments were answered or compiled.

25 specific questions were raised during the discussion or were emailed before or after the meeting.

Question No. 1: What is the estimated time for construction of the project?

Response: The City estimates the construction should take between 8 to 10 months.

Question No. 2: What funding is currently available for this project?

Response: The City currently has funding secured for the design and permitting of the project. The City will need to secure construction funding once the design and permitting for the project are complete.

Question No. 3: What does it mean for the project to need to perform A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)?

Response: Based upon the project impact, the project will need to prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration in order to be in compliance with California Environmental Rules and Regulations.

Question No. 4: Is the proposed detention basin concrete or earthen materials?

Response: The proposed detention basin will be earthen materials with vegetation and hydroseeding along the side slopes.

Question No. 5: How does overflow water from the basin enter the storm drain system?

Response: Storm water runoff from the surrounding neighborhood and streets will collect at the curb inlet on Lake Drive and then be directed into the new detention basin. Once the water level gets above the installed riser level, water will enter the newly installed concrete storm drain pipes to be constructed with the project.

Question No. 6: What type of heavy vehicles does the City anticipate on-site during construction?

Response: The City expects bulldozers, back hoes, excavators, dump trucks and cranes to be on-site during the construction.

Question No. 7: Has the City considered opening the gap in the street between Wales Drive and Crest Drive to facilitate construction traffic?

Response: The City will discuss this with the Traffic Division and see if this is viable and possible.

Question No. 8: Post construction, will the canyon and trails be revegetated?

Response: Yes, native planting and hydroseeding will be implemented after the storm drain pipes and the detention basin have been installed. The existing trails will be reconnected in order to allow pedestrian access and maintenance. The City will work with the agencies and Nature Collective to ensure that the habitat restoration is satisfactory upon completion of construction.

Question No. 9: The path closed signs have been removed or are missing. Will the City return these signs for public safety?

Response: Yes, thank you for informing us of this condition.

Question No. 10: Will the detention basin have a “natural” look similar to the property on the east side of Lake Drive as you head north towards Birmingham Drive?

Response: Yes, this detention basin will have vegetation and earth to blend in with the existing vegetation. No concrete slopes will be constructed.

Question No. 11: Was relining the existing CMP storm drain an option?

Response: Yes, there were a few options studied in the initial phases of the project. The current proposed design was evaluated to be the best solution to the problem due to the severity of the damage to the pipe and because this option would blend in best with the community and open space.

Question No. 12: Where does the water travel when the storm drain system meets the freeway?

Response: Water will enter the existing storm drain pipes underneath Interstate 5 after leaving this project site. After Interstate 5, the water flows into a concrete basin at the northern end of the Ocean Cove Drive Development. After that basin, the water flows south in storm drain pipes to the San Elijo Lagoon. The water crosses underneath Manchester Avenue just west of the freeway on/off ramp and it flows into San Elijo Lagoon.

Question No. 13: What is the estimated construction cost of the project? Does the City plan to seek grants or money from other sources?

Response: The estimated construction cost for the project is around \$5 million. Yes, the City will look to pursue grant funding and other source funding in order to support this project.

Question No. 14: Will the detention basin be fenced off?

Response: Yes, the basin will need to have a fence installed around the top for safety for the community.

Question No. 15: Is a black wrought iron fence similar to the property on the east side of Lake Drive as you head north towards Birmingham Drive an option?

Response: The City will pursue options for the fencing type to be used for the detention basin. Black wrought iron is a good possibility for fencing top of the basin.

Question No. 16: What happens to the existing risers currently in place?

Response: The existing metal risers will be removed and replaced with concrete structures with catch basin lids. This will allow runoff collected on the property to flow into the new pipes and downstream.

Question No. 17: Is there an access road into the basin for maintenance?

Response: The access road existing today runs from Lake Drive down to the top of the proposed basin. No road will be constructed down to the bottom of the basin. The edges of the basin will be at a 2:1 slope so city personnel will be able to access and maintain the basin periodically as needed from the existing access road.

Question No. 18: What is the plan for wildlife seeking refuge during the construction phase? How will the City keep wildlife out of people's backyard?

Response: The contractor will try and work in specific locations and progress in sections in order to complete the work. The City will work with requirements from the agencies in order to adequately fence off open areas in order to prevent wildlife from migrating into neighborhoods during construction.

Question No. 19: Have geotechnical studies been conducted?

Response: Initial studies were conducted at the beginning of the design phase. The property contains a decent amount of sandstone so water should have good infiltration into the ground along the project footprint.

Question No. 20: Will an archeologist be on-site during construction?

Response: Yes, California rules and regulations require a biologist and archeologist on site during initial grading and excavation activities.

Question No. 21: Will this presentation tonight be available online?

Response: Yes, the presentation will be available on the City website in the following days for the public to view. The presentation is posted at: <https://encinitasca.gov/I-Want-To/Public-Notices/Engineering-Public-Notices>

Question No. 22: Will the Nature Collective consider planting trees in the "gap" that Caltrans did not plant during the Interstate 5 construction to serve as a sound barrier to residences up the canyon?

Response: Once the storm drain construction is complete, Nature Collective will begin pursuing more restoration efforts on the property and will consider whether trees are appropriate for restoration and if they will benefit reducing freeway noise.

Question No. 23: What are the dimensions of the detention basin?

Response: The shape of the basin is an oval shape with dimensions of 160 feet across east & west by 106 feet across north & south.

Question No. 24: Is there any planned installed irrigation for the canyon restoration?

Response: No, the restoration will consist of using native plants and hydroseeding. No irrigation lines are proposed to be installed with this project.

Question No. 25: Is the City planning to utilize Water Quality credits with this project?

Response: Yes, once the City submits all of our applications to the approving agencies, we hope to receive some credit for water quality based upon the proposed design. Once the agencies review the applications, we will see what comments they have concerning the project and water quality.

At the end of the Q&A session, Matt Widelski thanked the attendees for their time and comments. Written comments were submitted at the end of the meeting. Some email comments were received by Matt Widelski after the meeting and are addressed in this report.