



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: January 15, 2019

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Jim Throop, City Manager
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SUBJECT: Review of the Need for Continuing the Local Emergency Proclaimed by the City Council on October 2, 2018, Relating to the Clean-up of the Santa Ynez Riverbed

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council review, receive and file, this staff report regarding the need for continuing the local emergency proclaimed by the City Council on October 2, 2018, relating to the clean-up of the Santa Ynez riverbed (Riverbed).

Background and Discussion:

On October 2, 2018, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6220(18) proclaiming a local emergency relating to the clean-up of the Riverbed.

Government Code section 8630(c) requires the City Council to review the need for continuing the local emergency at least once every 30 days until the City Council terminates the local emergency.

The City Council undertook the first review at the October 16, 2018, City Council meeting. The City Council undertook a second review on or before November 15, 2018. The City Council undertook a third review at the December 6, 2018, City Council meeting. The City Council undertook a fourth review at the December 18, 2018, City Council meeting.

As of today, there is a need to continue the local emergency because the conditions described in the October 2, 2018, City Council staff report and in Resolution No. 6220(18) continue to exist.

Trash and refuse still exist in the Riverbed and continue to pose significant risks to surface water quality and potentially to groundwater and drinking water quality. Additionally, significant dangers still exist related to excavations of the river's bank by the former Riverbed inhabitants, which have potentially compromised the bank's integrity and increased the risk of flow and flood-related damage to the bank, the City's bike path, and the roadway beyond. Continued consistent clean-up of homeless encampments is necessary to discourage re-inhabitation of these areas and associated crime.

Mitigation and clean-up of these conditions continue to require assistance from the Federal, State and/or other local entities. A source for funding the clean-up of the Riverbed still has not been identified. It is crucial for this work to take place prior to the impending rainy season when flows occur in the river, giving rise to the potential for flow and flood-related damage to the banks and mobilizing pollutants in the Riverbed.

Fiscal Impact:

The continuation of the declaration of a local emergency by the City Council does not have a material fiscal impact on the City or the City's General Fund.

Conclusion:

For the above reasons, there is a need to continue the local emergency proclaimed by the City Council in Resolution No. 6220(18) on October 2, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Throop, City Manager

Jeff Malawy, Assistant City Attorney