



City Council Agenda Item Staff Report

CITY OF SAN BRUNO

DATE: March 14, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Jovan D. Grogan, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Matthew Lee, P.E., Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Receive Written Update on the City's Response Efforts to the Late 2022/Early 2023 Winter Storms

BACKGROUND: This report is to provide an update on the City's response efforts to the Late 2022/Early 2023 winter storms. The information provided in this report is as of the time it was produced and may be subject to change.

In late December 2022 and early January 2023, California began experiencing severe winter storms related to a series of atmospheric river systems causing record rainfall. This event brought high winds, substantial precipitation, flooding, and other safety hazards across San Mateo County and neighboring regions.

Typically, before each rainy season and significant weather event, City staff undertake various storm preparation activities. This includes trash/debris removal, inspection/cleaning of catch basin grates and storm drain trash capture devices, resupply of the City's free sandbag station and other preparatory tasks.

In response to this storm event, the City activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on Monday, January 3, 2023, to redeploy City resources and personnel to perform essential functions and ensure public safety by working to protect infrastructure. In the event that evacuations were needed, the City designated the San Bruno Senior Center as a temporary evacuation point (TEP) and stood ready to open the TEP at a moment's notice.

The City of San Bruno also partnered with the Jericho Project to ensure an adequate supply of sandbags were available to residents in need during the storms. Personnel from Jericho Project were deployed in the middle of the storm to fill sandbags and transition the City's self-serve sandbag station into a drive-through operation, while other cities were experiencing sandbag shortages.

As the rain subsided, the City deactivated the EOC on Thursday, January 12, 2023, with the EOC ready to be reactivated, as needed. The City remains under a Local State of Emergency. The City also continues to identify and assess both short-term and long-term repairs to storm-related damage.

DISCUSSION: While the major rain has stopped and the flooding has subsided, the city continues to proactively respond to infrastructure damage and implement repairs as quickly as is feasible. The total cost for all infrastructure repairs is currently estimated at \$1.25 million as of February 28, 2023. As of February 28, 2023, the city's finance department has storm related expenditures (i.e., staff time and other storm expenses) to be approximately \$469,300.

Over 60 percent of the estimated total expenditure amount is related to repairs to failures of the City's storm water system. This is primarily related to repair of a sinkhole and failure of a 54-inch stormwater drainpipe at the northwest corner of Skyline Boulevard and Sneath Lane. The failed pipeline is located mostly within a city easement located on property owned by Caltrans and currently utilized as an off-site parking lot for Church of the Highlands. Repair costs are being funded by the City's General Fund Emergency Reserves at the cost of \$600,000. The pre-storm balance was approximately \$2.8 million. Funding for stormwater operations and capital improvement projects is constrained and inadequate as the only dedicated funding is a stormwater assessment collected on the property tax bills, which generates total revenue of approximately \$600,000 annually. Recent effort to increase annual stormwater fees that failed at the ballot to gain majority approval from property owners for dedicated funding to repair and rehabilitate the City's stormwater system. The City will attempt to seek reimbursement from Federal/State disaster funds and insurance, however, if these efforts are unsuccessful, the full cost of these repairs must be borne by the City.

Replacement of the 54-inch storm drainpipe failure began on February 3, 2023. Work initially consisted of equipment mobilization along with clearing and grubbing to locate the collapsed sections that had been identified by an earlier closed-circuit television (CCTV) crawler inspection camera. And based on further assessment of the condition of the failed pipe after dewatering in preparation of the repair, it was determined that an additional 120 feet of 54-inch corrugated metal pipeline has fully corroded and is in need of immediate emergency repairs. The repairs consist of the replacement of the 120 linear feet with 60-inch high density polyethylene pipe and backfilled with controlled density fill. The City determined that these repairs required authorization and funding appropriation by the City Council as these repairs did not fall under the scope of the current Local State of Emergency. On February 17, 2023, the City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the contract and appropriating \$250,000 in funding from the General Fund Capital Reserve Fund.

As of February 28, 2023, the original 220 linear feet of 54-inch corrugated metal pipe was successfully replaced with new 60-inch high density polyethylene pipe and backfilled with controlled density fill (see Figure 1 below) and the City is now in the process of completing the originally planned repairs at the north west corner of Skyline Boulevard and Sneath Lane. The additional emergency repairs, authorized by City Council at a special City Council meeting on February 17, 2023, are anticipated to begin as soon as the current rains subside and is anticipated to take an additional 3 to 4 weeks from the original project timeline.



Figure 1 – Completion of Pipe Replacement at the Northwest Corner of Skyline Boulevard and Sneath Lane

Staff has also begun investigating the sunken manhole at Oakmont Drive, which is packed tight full of clay that staff are trying to remove. Once the clay sediment is removed, staff will investigate and determine an engineering repair.

FISCAL IMPACT: Since the winter storms began in late 2022, the estimated public infrastructure damage costs are approximately \$1,250,000. As of February 28, 2023, expenditures (i.e., staff time and other storm expenses) are totaled at approximately \$469,300. The City will attempt to seek reimbursement from Federal/State disaster funds and insurance, however, if these efforts are unsuccessful, these efforts will be funded by the General Fund Emergency Reserves.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: There is no environmental impact. The informational update is not considered a “Project” per CEQA Guidelines and therefore no further environmental analysis is required.

RECOMMENDATION: Receive written update on the City’s response efforts to the late 2022/early 2023 Winter Storms.

ALTERNATIVES: The City remains under a Local State of Emergency and the EOC remains deactivated but is ready to be reactivated as needed. There are no alternatives to the current recommended actions proposed at this time.

ATTACHMENTS: N/A