



City Council Agenda Item Staff Report

CITY OF SAN BRUNO

DATE: March 28, 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. From mid-January to present, additional weather events, ranging from minor to severe, have continued to impact the City and cause damage to both public and private property. Soil saturation as well as heavy rains and wind have caused tree failures throughout the City –resulting in temporary road closures and power outages.

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. If 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 from the event. As of March 15, 2023, the City's finance department has calculated storm-related expenditures (i.e., staff time and other storm expenses) to be approximately \$1,000,000. The total cost for all infrastructure repairs is currently estimated at \$1,000,000 as of March 15, 2023 (Table 1).

Table 1 – Preliminary Winter Storm Damage Assessment

Site No.	Damage Type	Complete	Preliminary Cost Estimate
1	Mud Hill Slide	N/A	Potential Hazard Mitigation Repair
2	Mud Hill Slide	N/A	N/A
3	Mud Hill Slide	N/A	N/A
4	Mud Hill Slide	N/A	N/A
5	Mud Hill Slide	N/A	N/A
6	Large Sink Hole	100%	\$35,619
7	Mud Hill Slide	N/A	Potential Hazard Mitigation Repair
8	Mud Hill Slide	N/A	N/A
9	RO Streetlight Outage	N/A	N/A
10	Large Sink Hole	80%	\$852,000
11	Small Sink Hole	100%	\$0
12	Downed Radar Speed Sign	0%	\$10,000
13	Mud Hill Slide	0%	N/A
14	Manhole Depression	5%	\$50,000
15	Sump Pump Failure	100%	\$8,000
16	Damaged Guard Rail	100%	\$5,567
17	Downed Street Light Arm, Depressed Sidewalk	100%	\$14,638
18	Downed Street Light	100%	Cost incorporated with Site 17
19	RO Streetlight Outage	N/A	N/A
20	6'-8' of Silt	100%	\$15,850
TOTAL			\$991,674

With the current assessment of the preliminary damage, over 85 percent of the preliminary cost estimate amount shown above is related to repairs to failures of the City's storm water system, particularly a sinkhole and failure of a 54-inch stormwater drainpipe at the north west corner of Skyline Boulevard and Sneath Lane. As of March 15, 2023, the City is still in the process of

completing the repairs. Staff is also continuing to investigate and determine an engineering repair for the sunken manhole at Oakmont Drive.

Table 1 above is updated from a previous iteration which was presented to City Council on February 14, 2023. As investigations continued into the damage, staff identified ten (10) locations where emergency infrastructure repair was not needed or it was deemed that damages were not eligible per Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to be classified as caused by the storm. Those locations included mudslides at Sites 1,2,3,4,5,7,8 and 13, along with RO streetlight outages at Sites 9 and 19. For Sites 1 and 7, staff are currently investigating if the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds are eligible for infrastructure improvements that can reduce the effects of future storms.

At approximately 5:30p.m. on March 9, 2023, 3 Eucalyptus trees fell on the 3rd base line at Diamond 3. The backstop, 3rd base line fence and 3rd base dugout were severely damaged. The 3rd base bleachers have been structurally compromised and the infield light pole along 3rd base along with the lights have been damaged beyond repair. The tree is currently sitting on the pathway and the City is unable to determine if some of the asphalt will need to be repaired. Repairs needed are to replace the infield cyclone fence of the field including the backstop, rebuild the dugouts, grade the field along the 3rd base line and replace the light pole. Additionally, there is a 6' high cyclone fence that separates the fence from Crystal Springs Road that is damaged. Approximately 100' of this fence will also have to be replaced.

As the City continues its winter storm-related recovery efforts, a focus will now be on reimbursement recovery for the substantial storm-related costs, which, as indicated in Table 1 above, have amassed to approximately \$1,000,000 as of March 15, 2023, with a large portion of it currently attributing to one project. As an initial step, staff attended FEMA's applicant briefing on March 8, 2023, to kick-off the FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program reimbursement process. To assist with reimbursement recovery efforts, the City is engaging with professional consulting firm, Kermani Consulting Group, to provide disaster cost recovery and grant management support for the 2023 storm disasters under the State of California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) programs (FEMA-4683-DR-CA/CDAA 2023-01).

FISCAL IMPACT:

Since the winter storms began in late 2022, the estimated public infrastructure repairs is currently estimated at \$1,000,000. As of March 15, 2023, expenditures (i.e., staff time and other storm expenses) are totaled at approximately \$1,000,000. The cost to repair damage from tree failures that occurred since March 15 are not included in the above estimate and could not be estimated at the time this report was produced. As described above, the City has engaged with a professional consulting firm to seek reimbursement from Federal/State disaster funds and insurance, however, if these efforts are unsuccessful, the storm-related expenditures 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

DATE PREPARED:

March 14, 2023

DISTRIBUTION:

None.