



## City Council Agenda Item Staff Report

CITY OF SAN BRUNO

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**DATE:** April 25, 2023

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Alex D. McIntyre, Interim City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** Damian Sandholm, Interim Community Services Director  
Matthew Lee, P.E., Public Works Director

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

**BACKGROUND:** This report is to provide an update on the City's response efforts to the Late 2022 to 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 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.

As the rain subsided, the City deactivated the EOC on January 12 with the EOC ready to be reactivated, as needed. The City remains under a Local State of Emergency for the late December 2022 and early January 2023 winter storms. The City also continues to identify and assess both short-term and long-term repairs to storm-related damage.

As severe weather patterns persisted throughout March and early April, in particular strong winds, the City began experiencing additional damage, with several tree failures throughout the City that we are continuing to respond to.

**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. Over 85 percent of the infrastructure repair cost estimate

(approximately \$1,000,000) from the winter storms in late December 2022 and early January 2023 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 April 10, the majority of the repairs for that failed storm drain pipe have been completed except for the final tie-in connection that is pending.

Staff is also continuing to investigate and determine an engineering repair for a sunken manhole in the 2600 block of Oakmont Drive. The recommendation from the geotechnical consultant is to perform borings and a review of the subsurface conditions in order to develop recommendations to bridge the sinkhole and support the roadway. Those exploratory borings were performed on April 4 and the geotechnical consultant is currently analyzing the results.

As strong wind patterns persisted throughout March and early April, the City experienced several tree failures. At approximately 5:30 p.m. on March 9, three 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 removal at Diamond 3 was completed on April 20. City staff received an estimate to repair the fence, dugouts, bleachers, and field from Bothman Construction. City staff is reviewing the estimate and developing a contract for the repair. The project is anticipated to begin in early May with the potential completion of the repair in mid-June. The repair work will take approximately 4-6 weeks to complete.

Staff also recently discovered that the fallen tree near the Senior Center which caused a power outage to the facility causing a short circuit to the traffic signal at Crystal Springs Road and Cunningham Way. The processor and other equipment in the traffic control cabinet are in need of replacement due to the high voltage wire causing the shortage. Staff are working on a solution to ensure the intersection is fully functional again.

On April 2, another Eucalyptus tree failed near 2306 Valleywood Drive, which occurred on the uphill slope of City property. A tree limb also fell in the backyard of this same property which caused a power outage in the area. The City immediately began working with the occupants and neighboring properties. The City has been collaborating with PG&E and a contractor for the removal of the failed Eucalyptus tree. As of April 10, the Eucalyptus tree near 2306 Valleywood Drive has been removed by PG&E and the City is awaiting an estimate for additional emergency tree removal work to remove additional trees in this Eucalyptus grove on the City-owned parcel behind 2300 through 2326 Valleywood Drive.

As the City continues its winter storm-related recovery efforts, focus continues on reimbursement recovery for the substantial storm-related costs for the winter storms between December 24, 2022, through January 31, 2023, which, have amassed to approximately \$1,000,000 as of April 10, with a large portion of it currently attributing to one project. To assist with reimbursement recovery efforts, the City has engaged 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). In early April, the City was informed that their project application was approved and staff are hosting a meeting with both CalOES and FEMA in mid-April to move forward with damage inventorying and reimbursement recovery efforts.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Public infrastructure repairs for the late December 2022 and early January 2023 winter storms are currently estimated at \$1,000,000. As of April 10, expenditures (i.e., staff time and other storm expenses) are totaled at approximately \$1,064,000.

**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 to 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