



City Council Agenda Item Staff Report

CITY OF SAN BRUNO

DATE: May 9, 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: Update on the City's Response Efforts to the Late 2022 to 2023 Winter Storms and Consider Adopting a Resolution Terminating the Local State of Emergency Declared by the City in Response 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 address.

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 25, repairs for that failed storm drain pipe have been completed. The only remaining item left to perform is to restore the hillside slope that was disturbed as a result of the construction activities.

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 which were expeditiously responded to by the City including:

- On March 9, three Eucalyptus trees fell on the 3rd base line at Diamond 3 severely damaging the backstop, 3rd base line fence, and 3rd base dugout; structurally compromising the 3rd base bleachers; and damaging the infield light pole along 3rd base beyond repair.
 - The tree removal was completed on April 20 and staff are developing a contract with Bothman Construction to repair the fence, dugouts, bleachers, and field. The repair work is anticipated to begin in early May and take approximately 4-6 weeks to complete.
- A tree fell near the Senior Center which caused a power outage to the facility and a short circuit to the traffic signal at Crystal Springs Road and Cunningham Way.
 - Staff are working on a solution to ensure the intersection is fully functional again.
- On April 2, a Eucalyptus tree failed on the uphill slope of City property near 2306 Valleywood Drive, causing a power outage in the area.
 - The City immediately began working with the occupants, neighboring properties, PG&E, and a contractor for the tree removal. 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.

All outstanding repairs will continue to be addressed until they are fully resolved.

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 24, 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). On April 17, the City hosted a meeting with Kermani Consulting Group and several representatives from both CalOES and FEMA to further discuss the City's storm-related infrastructure damage and determine the City's final damage inventory list to proceed with next steps in the City's reimbursement recovery efforts.

Municipal Code Section 2.48.050 empowers the City Manager to serve as Director of Emergency Services and San Bruno Municipal Code Section 2.48.060 empowers the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim (subject to ratification by the City Council within seven days) the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency. On January 3, the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a Local State of Emergency. The City concurrently then activated and staffed its Emergency Operations Center on January 3, through January 12. Since then the City continued to experience severe weather patterns that we are continuing to address, and though the City may still potentially experience residual storm-related expenses, there are no additional active threats to the City related to the late 2022 to 2023 winter storms. Therefore, the interim City Manager, acting as the Director of Emergency Services of the City, is recommending to end the City's Local State of Emergency declaration related to these storms.

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 24, expenditures (i.e., staff time and other storm expenses) are totaled at approximately \$1,155,364.

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:

Update on the City's response efforts to the late 2022 to 2023 winter storms and consider adopting a resolution terminating the local state of emergency declared by the City in response to the late 2022 to 2023 winter storms.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1) Keep the Local State of Emergency declaration open and active.
- 2) Direct staff to develop criteria to measure when the Local State of Emergency declaration should be terminated.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Resolution