From:	Christa Johnson - Town Manager
To:	Cyndie Martel
Subject:	FW: [EXTERNAL] June 13 Agenda Item 8f.
Date:	Tuesday, June 11, 2024 9:17:58 AM

A public comment for an agenda item. Please process in your usual manner. Thank you, christa

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From: Gary Scales <garrettscales@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 8:58 AM
To: Bill Kircher <cwkmisc@gmail.com>; Julie McMillan <juliemcmillan@comcast.net>; Elizabeth Robbins <eliz.robbins@gmail.com>; Teri Dowling <tdowlingtor@gmail.com>; Mathew Salter <salter4ross@gmail.com>; Christa Johnson - Town Manager <cjohnson@townofross.org>
Cc: Gary Scales <garrettscales@comcast.net>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] June 13 Agenda Item 8f.

Mayor and Council members, I have read Garril Page's thoughtful and most informative letter. I strongly urge you to consider her detailed background and most cogent observations and recommendations regarding Flood Control in the Ross Valley and specifically in the Town of Ross. Without a doubt, Garril knows more about this project than anyone, including the Army Corps of Engineers. Forty plus years ago when I was on the council and briefly mayor, Garril's counsel and factual knowledge were of great assistance to the Town. Her records are more detailed and thorough than the County's. She understands the technical aspects of flood control in the Ross Valley, and we should make every effort to avail ourselves of her expertise and willingness to devote so much time to this subject. Respectfully submitted, gary Scales

Begin forwarded message:

From: Garril Page <obility@comcast.net>
Subject: June 13 Agenda Item 8f.
Date: June 9, 2024 at 9:54:28 AM PDT
To: William Kircher <cwkmisc@gmail.com>, Julie McMillan <juliemcmillan@comcast.net>, Elizabeth Robbins <eliz.robbins@gmail.com>, tdowlingtor@gmail.com, salter4ross@gmail.com, Christa Johnson - Town Manager <cjohnson@townofross.org>

June 9, 2024

Dear Council Members:

Noting Item 8f., the Council's interest in Flood Control Zone 9, I submit the following:
Marin's waterways have many constraints as they traverse the watershed to the Bay, and much of Marin's floodwaters escapes stream channels that are bankfull, blocked or raised above the floodplain. Inadequate bed capacity causes sheetflow to remain overland drainage, floodwalls block water from reentering creeks, and flood projects built on raised railroad rights of way ensure local drainage stays down in the flood plain, flowing overland to the Bay.

Among flood flow constraints is the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) project channelizing Units 3,2 ,1 and the abandoned Unit 4. This channel was authorized by Congress as a 'single-purpose' project, it's only goal to *control flooding.* Because so much of the 100 year event is out-of-channel, overland flooding, the true dysfunction of this channel was hidden for years. Today, even the USACE acknowledges the 250 year Storm Design capacity of the channel is, in fact, a *six year* storm.

Single purpose channelization is an outmoded failure but Congressional reauthorization, and any new direction by the USACE are unlikely. Therefore, we are burdened with the existing project. As the channel ages and climate change brings challenges of atmospheric rivers and encroaching tidal saltwater intrusion, channel failures will continue.

Of note: the software for creating hydraulic models, including HEC-RAS, used by many engineering consultants, is a proprietary product of the USACE.

Despite the USACE's erroneous assumptions of 'clear water' flows, the upper section of the concrete channel has achieved supercritical speed, thus benefitting the town by transporting water out of Ross like a flushing toilet. This is the section of the concrete channel the District labeled "seismically unsafe"; it may prove to be the most effective portion of the project. Unfortunately, downstream design flaws cause a hydraulic jump and subcritical backwater that opposes the supercritical flush benefit.

Among the operational errors within CMC FRMP: Northern Marin creeks are among the highest sediment producers in the nation and resultant creek bedloads cannot be discounted as the USACE has done. Capacity and function are affected by the sediment transported in and out of Ross which change channel flow characteristics, and drop out downstream as sedimentation. Channel water speed, grade and shape, curves, channel surface roughness, flow resistance, tidal action, freeboard, each affects function. Various design and construction flaws remain in the USACE project; these have not been remedied. Future corrections remain

unaddressed, absent and unfunded, assuring channel dysfunction and failure mechanisms are unchanged.

To pour more water into a deficient channel expecting it to perform more effectively is folly. This was the county flood district's intent until FEMA clarified the need for further review. Hence, current project delays while flood tax expenditures continue.

As projected, the SAFRR/CMC FRMP total will be $95.1 M. It is not unreasonable to question whether the expense is justified.

Having worked on this project for over 40 years,I advise Ross Council Members to understand that all is not quite as the District's contribution to Agenda Item 8f. would have you believe. Should you wish information to document, expand or explain the above, please, ask.

Yours sincerely,

Garril Page