

To: Mayor and Town Council, Town Manager
Town of Ross
From: John Crane
Date: June 13, 2024

Comment for Agenda Item No. 8f

It is important that the Town of Ross protect its residents from harmful projects proposed and under construction by the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ("District). The projects of immediate concern are: The San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project (SAFRR) and the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project (CMC). Both projects require FEMA approval and review which they currently lack.

Homeowner Hardships – The District has been unable to provide mitigation plans for properties impacted by the SAFRR project, and the uncertainty has had a stressful and detrimental impact on me and my family. The CMC project will also require mitigation and this will add uncertainty to the lives of more members of the Ross Community. Since the District refuses to cooperate and work with existing homeowners, I hope the Town Council will take action. We appreciate that the Town of Ross understands this troubling situation.

To that end, Ross Councilmember Elizabeth Brekhuis correctly told the Marin IJ, on March 20, 2023 that:

"It's been very hard and unfair to our residents to live with this project for so long without being told what the mitigation is... at if the owners of the 20 properties decide to sell, they would have to disclose that there is a "cloud" hanging over their parcels."

(Please see Marin IJ Article excerpt below)

Like my neighbors, I have considered selling my home of more than 25 years, but having that "cloud of disclosure" hanging over it and likely selling at a huge discount has made us all feel trapped.

We fully appreciate Councilmember Brekhuis putting this on the record as we have been trapped for at least 6 years, and still counting. (Note: 20 Winship Ave. directly across the creek from me sold at a steep discount in 2019, and again in 2021 losing hundreds of thousands of dollars and had to provide more than 250 pages of disclosures).

In a sympathetic email, dated January 8, 2024 addressed to me, Ross Town Manager Christa Johnson also shows she understands this distress as she wrote:

"I am very sorry about the distress the County's project and communication efforts have caused you and your neighbors. It must be very stressful to endure this uncertainty for such a long period of time. Please be assured that the Ross Town Council and Town Staff are taking this seriously. We are spending many hours trying to understand what the County is doing, potential impacts to the Ross

community, and what the Town is able to do. I am not able to provide you with a solution right now but I want you to know that your concerns have been acknowledged by the Town.`

(Please see Christa Johnson's email below)

Needless to say, I appreciate former Councilmember Brekhus and current Town Manager Johnson's remarks; and I look forward to working together with the current Town Council and its new members, Teri Dowling and Mathew Salter, to finally reach a resolution over this troubling on-going situation.

Welcome aboard Teri and Mathew.

Respectfully,

John Crane

86 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Ross.

Attachments:

Elizabeth Brekhus | Marin IJ Article excerpt below

Christa Johnson's email below

Marin County delays demolition of San Anselmo bridge

LOCAL NEWS



By [RICHARD HALSTEAD](mailto:rhalstead@marinij.com) | rhalstead@marinij.com

PUBLISHED: March 20, 2023 at 1:52 p.m. | UPDATED: March 21, 2023 at 5:55 a.m.

The findings have blocked the county from moving forward with the project because the Federal Emergency Management Agency prohibits any work that would increase flooding before mitigations have been completed.

At the March 9 meeting, several property owners expressed frustration that the

“It’s been very hard and unfair to our residents to live with this project for so long without being told what the mitigation is,” said Ross Councilmember Elizabeth Brekhus.

Brekhus noted that if the owners of the 20 properties decide to sell, they would have to disclose that there is a “cloud” hanging over their parcels.



John Crane <johncranefilms@gmail.com>

RE: Update on Survey Results & Homeowner's One on One Meetings

1 message

Christa Johnson - Town Manager <cjohnson@townofross.org>

Mon, Jan 8, 2024 at
3:11 PM

To: John Crane <johncranefilms@gmail.com>, Elizabeth Brekhus
<elizabethb@brekhus.com>, Richard Simonitch <rsimonitch@townofross.org>

Dear Mr. Crane,

Thank you for taking the time to write.

I am very sorry about the distress the County's project and communication efforts have caused you and your neighbors. It must be very stressful to endure this uncertainty for such a long period of time. Please be assured that the Ross Town Council and Town staff are taking this seriously. We are spending many hours trying to understand what the County is doing, potential impacts to the Ross community, and what the Town is able to do. I am not able to provide you with a solution right now but I want you to know that your concerns have been acknowledged by the Town.

Thank you, Christa Johnson

Christa Johnson

Town Manager, Town of Ross

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