



PAJARO REGIONAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT AGENCY

To: Santa Cruz County
Clerks Office
701 Ocean St Rm 310
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

From: Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency
701 Ocean St, Rm 410
Santa Cruz CA 95060
Telephone (831) 345-8128

Project Title: Salsipuedes Creek at Hwy 152 Sediment Removal | 2026 Debris, Vegetation and Fuel Reduction

Project Location-Specific: Salsipuedes Creek channel and levees from East Lake Ave/Highway 152 to the confluence of Pajaro River and Salsipuedes Creek; Assessor's Parcel Number: N/A

Project Location-City: Unincorporated **Project Location-County:** Santa Cruz

Project Purpose: The 2026 Emergency Sediment Removal Project is proposed to remove deposited sediment at the project site so as to reduce flood risk in advance of the strengthening El Nino season.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency

Name of Agency or Person Carrying Out Project: Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency

Exempt Status: (CHECK ONE)

- ☐ Ministerial [Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268];
- ☐ Declared Emergency [Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)];
- ☐ Emergency Project [Sec. 21080(b)(c); 15269(b)(c)];
- ☒ Categorical Exemptions [§15304, Minor Alterations to Land]
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions.

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK'S
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR
PERIOD COMMENCING Sep. 16 2024
AND ENDING Oct. 21 2024

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The proposed Project would address the removal of accumulated sediment within the dry low-flow channel to reduce overall flood risk at this hydraulic chokepoint. The removal of accumulated sediment will promote a more environmentally sustainable and healthy landscape that also can properly convey wet-weather flows. Furthermore, the proposed project meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines §15306 and is eligible for a CE.

“Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.”

None of the conditions noted under the CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 will occur.

Description of Project: The project is proposed to protect public safety and private property from hazards associated with the deposition of sediment (i.e., reduced river capacity) and prevent the spread of

invasive weeds and non-native trees within the river corridor.

The project includes the removal of sediment by heavy equipment that will be staged on the associated levee top with no mechanical equipment entering the waterway. No tree removal work will be completed as part of this project. The removal of the accumulated sediment shall increase overall flood protection for the adjacent community and businesses while also re-establishing the natural flow elevations for this creek within the project area. Laydown areas would be provided by the project applicant (Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency). Access roads would be provided by the local agencies public roads (City of Watsonville, County of Monterey, and County of Santa Cruz). Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been incorporated into the project design. The work would be completed between 7am and 7pm in accordance with the applicable Municipal Code (City of Watsonville, County of Monterey, and County of Santa Cruz) unless otherwise directed by a Caltrans Encroachment permit.

Monitoring Schedule

The project area would be monitored twice a year at minimum: once in July/August and once in September/October to monitor the efficacy of vegetation. An optional spring monitoring can also identify appropriate timing and gauge efficacy of the previous year's efforts.

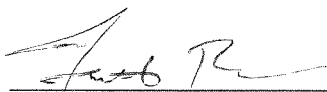
Storing, Transport, and Spill Prevention/Cleanup of Equipment

Equipment would be stored and transported in vehicles. Prior to use, equipment would be inspected for any leaks or residue that would have the potential to enter the waterway. Staff will be trained in the appropriate use and operation of said equipment.

Lead Agency: Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency
Contact Person: Forrest Revere

Area Code/Telephone/Extension
(831) 345-8128

Signature: _____



Date: _____

9-16-26

Title: Forrest Revere
Environmental Program Manager