



DATE: March 1, 2016

CATEGORY: Items Initiated by Council

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: **Friends of Stevens Creek Trail
Fish Passage Grant Support**

RECOMMENDATION

Consider providing a portion of the local matching funds required for the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail's grant application to the Santa Clara Valley Water District for evaluation of fish passage alternatives on Stevens Creek.

BACKGROUND

On February 9, 2016, the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail (Friends) requested the City consider contributing a portion of the required local match for a Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) grant for evaluation of fish passage alternatives on Stevens Creek. That evening, the City Council requested this item be placed on the agenda prior to the March 8 deadline for the grant application.

ANALYSIS

The Friends plan to apply to the SCVWD for a grant through the Wildlife Habitat Restoration Grants and Partnerships Program to evaluate and select the preferred alternative for improving fish passage in Stevens Creek at five locations. Two of the locations are in Mountain View (near Moffett Boulevard and downstream of Highway 85) and three are in Cupertino (near Highway 280, at Deep Cliff Golf Course, and near Stevens Creek Reservoir). Improving these locations will enhance passage for in-migration of adult fish during the spawning season and enhance passage of juveniles during the rearing season, supporting the sustainability of a healthy population of steelhead trout in Stevens Creek. The most significant location is the Moffett Boulevard fish ladder and the concrete channel lining north of the ladder near Highway 101 (see Figure 1).

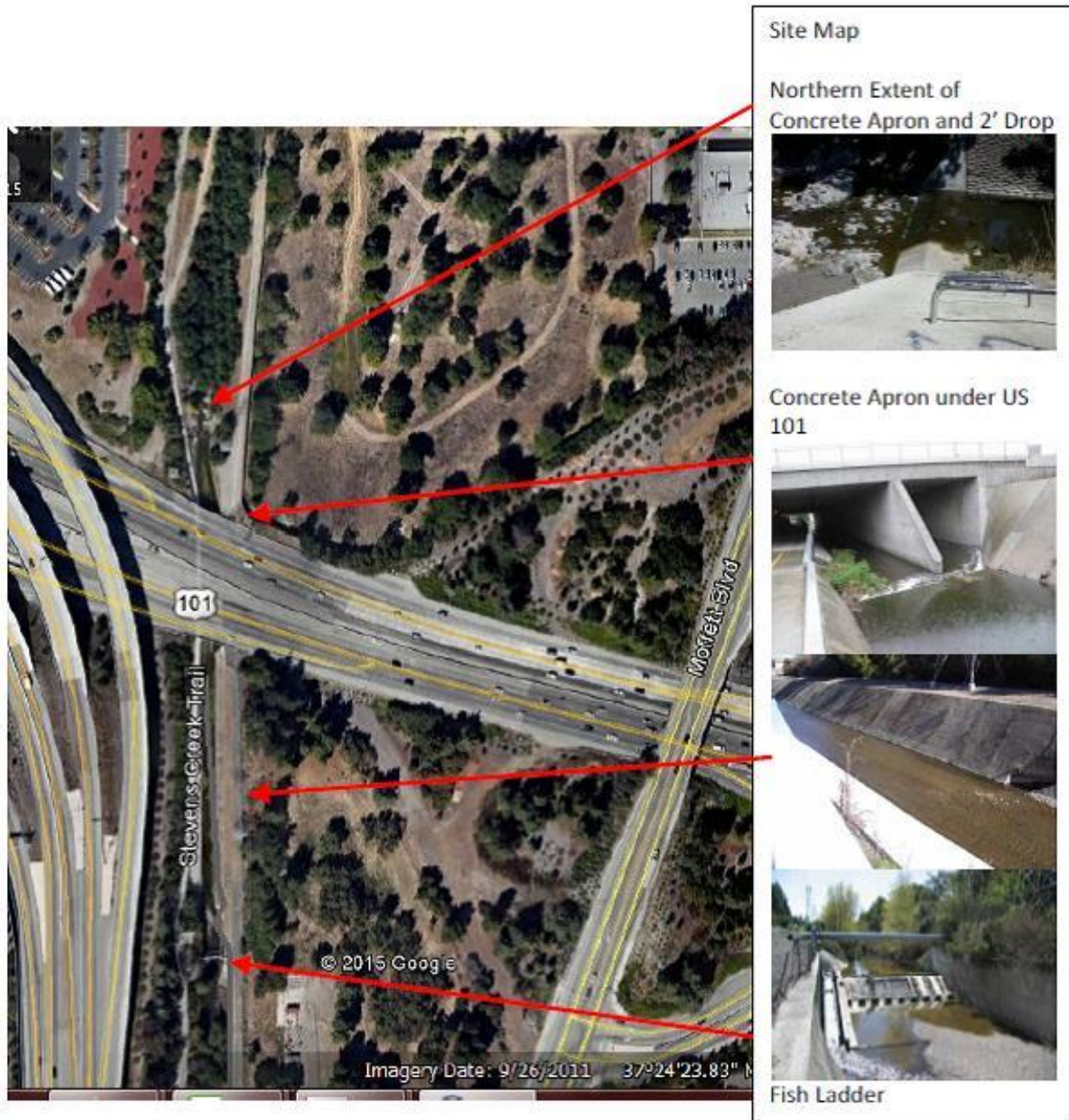


Figure 1 – Moffett Boulevard/Highway 101

The estimated cost of the project is \$76,237, and the required local funding match is \$19,140. The Friends have also requested funding from the City of Sunnyvale, the City of Cupertino, and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD). On February 23, the City of Sunnyvale city council committed a minimum of \$4,785, up to \$9,800 if needed, to the local match.

The City of Cupertino is also considering the request this evening. The MROSD is expected to provide a response after the three cities have considered commitments.

The Friends have dedicated time initiating the project, drafting proposals, locating consultants, attending meetings, securing support, and applying for the grant.

The Friends have requested that the City consider funding in the range of \$1,500 to \$9,800 to provide a portion of the \$19,140 local match. If the match were divided equally among the four agencies from whom funding is requested, the City's contribution would be \$4,785.

The Friends have also requested access for the consultant team through City-owned property to the study locations. Regardless of the City's financial commitment, staff can work with the Friends to provide access.

If the City commits funds and the Friends receive the grant, the Friends would request the funds at some point between July 1, 2016 and December 30, 2016, depending on project progress. The work is expected to be complete by April 2017.

When alternatives are developed, the technical analysis will be presented to the SCVWD for a decision as to which alternative to move into design. After the design and associated environmental documents are completed, construction is expected to be funded by a combination of grants and funding from the SCVWD's Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort Program. Construction would be anticipated as early as 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT

If Council elects to support the request, staff recommends transferring the funds from the General Fund Reserve to the Public Works Department, which will disperse the funds.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Transfer and appropriate \$4,785 from the General Fund Reserve to the Public Works Department (five votes required).
2. Transfer and appropriate a different amount.
3. Decline to support the request.
4. Provide other direction.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting and notice provided to the Friends.

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MAF/7/CAM
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