



Agenda Date: 12/19/2006
Agenda Placement: 9A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Michael Stoltz for Robert Peterson - Director
Roads Department
REPORT BY: Don Ridenhour, Asst Director, Public Works/Asst District Engineer, 259-8321
SUBJECT: County Roads Storm Damage Update

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Public Works to present an update on the status of County road repairs following the 2005/2006 winter storms.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

County roads suffered significant damage due to winter storms in 2005/2006 which resulted in the Federal Government declaring two disasters (December 17th - January 3rd and March 29th - April 16th). The Public Works Department responded to these disasters by repairing slides, removing downed trees and debris, and in keeping the County's roads open to the traveling public and safety response vehicles.

A total of 162 claims have been submitted to the State Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). An additional 17 claims have been submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). All 179 claims were submitted by the August 3 deadline and totaled \$7,879,299. To date the County has received a total of \$1,052,000 from FEMA and OES. The Department has submitted approximately 114 Appeal Letters to FEMA and OES with a total dollar value of \$3,376,214.

Public Works staff prioritized the list of damaged sites and significant progress has been made on repairing the highest priority sites. However, due to the overwhelming number of damaged locations, many sites will be repaired in the summer of 2007. Engineering and geotechnical consulting firms are being solicited to assist the County with the design and preparation of plans and specifications through the winter for repairs planned in 2007. Several low priority projects have been completed utilizing the County's road crews. Many higher priority projects are being delayed due to permitting, geotechnical investigations and preparation of plans and specifications. Priorities may be adjusted as funds are eventually approved by FEMA and based on changes in road conditions.

A total of 20 locations are still awaiting repair including 4 locations where the County road width has been reduced to less than two travel lanes. The remaining repairs continue to be re-prioritized as other projects are completed. Projects unable to be completed are being planned for repair during the 2007 summer. Many damaged areas

listed as priority two, three, four, five, and six will wait until next year depending on FEMA funds being approved for their repair. Road repairs are prioritized based on criteria consisting of:

- | structures threatened
- | safety vehicle access
- | daily traffic volumes
- | number of properties served
- | potential for worsening of conditions with future rains
- | availability of alternate routes
- | significance of damage

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	The funds to repair County roads are budgeted in the Roads 2006/2007 fiscal year budget, and offsetting revenues are assumed to be received from FEMA for claims submitted for qualifying storm damage, however, we are doubtful that all of the budgeted revenue will be received. Actual repairs will depend on priorities and funding being approved by FEMA. A few of the highest priority projects are being completed prior to FEMA funding approval.
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Mandatory
Is the general fund affected?	Yes
Future fiscal impact:	County roads may have to be permanently repaired with or without the assistance from FEMA, but many of the repairs will have to be delayed into future fiscal years as funding can be made available. To the extent that FEMA will not cover the full cost of repairs, the General Fund may be asked again to loan funds to the Road Fund to cover the cost of Priority 1 repairs, with the understanding that the General Fund will be repaid as Road Fund revenues from whatever sources become available. At this point in time, we should not assume that FEMA will provide for the full cost of repairs.
Consequences if not approved:	N/A
Additional Information:	In July the Board of Supervisors authorized a loan of \$688,205 from the General Fund to the Road Fund to cover the FY 2005-06 cash deficit with the understanding that the General Fund would be repaid as additional Road Fund resources become available. In September 2006, the Road Fund received an additional \$300,000 in Prop 42 Funding and was able to appropriate the funds for repayment to the General Fund. If temporary repairs, winterization work, and permanent repairs are not completed in the coming year there is the potential for additional damage to occur to the County Roads causing additional future costs.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The County Fire Department has been consulted and all County roads continue to provide adequate fire vehicle access. There are many minor repairs that are not listed and are being taken care of as normal maintenance activities on various roadways.

The County has made significant progress on appealing claims rejected by FEMA and OES and expects to be successful on a high percentage of these appeals. The consulting firm Maximus is under contract with the County to assist with appeals and expenditure recovery for the two disasters. This appeal process is ongoing and may require enlisting the assistance of elected officials at the State and Federal level if appeals are not approved. Staff will keep the Board apprised of the progress made on these ongoing efforts.

The Roads budget for 2006/2007 is \$14,150,752 which reflects nearly \$5.4 million in anticipated revenue being received from FEMA and FHWA for road damage claims due to declared disasters in 2005/2006. The Roads budget is typically between \$5 to \$6 million with \$3.5 million for routine annual maintenance and approximately \$1.5 million for other projects such as overlays and other major repairs. The 2005/2006 storm damage projects cannot be absorbed into a single budget year and will have to be phased and prioritized with many waiting until FEMA and FHWA dollars are approved. Public Works staff is reviewing all expenditures and prioritizing all projects due to the impact these repairs will have on the budget.

Staff will return to the Board periodically with updates on the status of FEMA/OES/FHWA funding reimbursements, project completions and suggested changes to the priority list.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Project Status List

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey