



Agenda Date: 8/1/2006
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 a report on the condition of the County roads following the 2005/2006 winter and requests the Board take the following actions:

1. Authorize staff to proceed with repairs identified as Priority One projects estimated at \$1,644,500 in advance of receipt of Federal/State reimbursement approval; and
2. Establish a short-term policy of not seeking federal or state grants that require local matching funds for bike lane projects until such time as all storm damage repairs can be funded.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The winter storms of 2005/2006 caused considerable damage to County roads resulting in the Federal Government declaring two disasters (December 17th - January 3rd and March 29th - April 16th). The Public Works Department has responded to these disasters repairing slides, removing down trees and debris, and keeping the County's roads open to the traveling public and safety response vehicles. County Road Crews, with the assistance of local contractors, have expended a total of \$2,887,000 repairing road facilities in 2005/2006 and will have submitted 181 claims to the State Office of Emergency Services (OES), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) totaling \$8,368,072 by the August 3, 2006 deadline. To date FEMA has not approved or provided funds for a single claim for damages to Napa County roads. The Department has borrowed approximately \$700,000 from the County General Fund to balance the 2005/2006 budget in anticipation of receiving the FEMA reimbursement funds for storm damage repairs.

A total of 36 locations are still awaiting repair including 11 locations where the County road width has been reduced to less than two travel lanes. These remaining repairs have been prioritized with those identified as number one priorities being planned for repair during the 2006 summer. Those 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. Roads were 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

Priorities may be adjusted as funds are eventually approved by FEMA and based on changes in the conditions mentioned above.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	The funds to repair the remaining damage to County roads is budgeted in the 2006/2007 fiscal year but offsetting revenues are assumed to be received from FEMA for claims submitted for qualifying storm damage. We are doubtful that the budgeted revenue will be received. Actual repairs will depend on priorities and funding being approved by FEMA. The highest priority projects are being requested to be completed prior to FEMA funding approval.
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Mandatory
Is the general fund affected?	Yes
Future fiscal impact:	County roads will 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 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 assumed that FEMA will provide for full cost of repairs.
Consequences if not approved:	If Priority One projects are not completed before the upcoming winter, staff believes there is a significant chance that existing conditions could worsen causing potential major impacts to the public and/or nearby structures.
Additional Information:	None

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

County roads suffered significant damage due to winter storms in 2005/2006. The County has a total of 120 claims totaling \$4,631,007 submitted to FEMA and OES for assistance and to date none of the claims have been approved and authorized for payment to the County. An additional 17 claims totaling \$1,914,065 have been submitted to the FHWA and the review of these damaged locations is ongoing. 44 claims totaling \$1,823,000 are being prepared for the second disaster period for damage occurring between March 29th and April 16th. This will bring the total claims for storm damage to \$8,368,072. Public Works has prioritized the list of damaged sites and are underway with engineering plans and making repairs to eight locations listed as the highest priority. These eight locations, with the Board's approval, will be repaired and/or stabilized prior to the coming 2006/2007 winter with or without the approved funding from FEMA. Engineering and geotechnical review will begin on many of the other slide and damage locations through the coming winter and will be ready for repair in 2007 depending on priorities and funding.

The County's priority list is based on criteria consisting of structures threatened, daily traffic volumes, safety vehicle access, number of properties impacted, potential for further deterioration of road facilities with upcoming rains, availability of alternate routes, and significance of the damage. There are many minor repairs that are not listed and are being taken care of as normal maintenance activities on various roadways. Also on the priority list is a detail of needed supply inventory and materials to replenish items used for emergency repairs in 2005/2006. The priority list will be adjusted as necessary reflecting changes in conditions and as funding is approved. The County Fire Department has been consulted and all County roads continue to provide adequate fire vehicle access.

It will be difficult for Public Works staff to complete all the projects listed as a number one priority prior to the winter months. Since January 1st roads staff have been making emergency repairs to protect and open closed roads with the assistance of 12 local private contractors. Temporary repairs were made in many locations with permanent repairs to follow in coming months and years. Engineering staff and Roads management staff began the process of inventorying the damaged locations, the process of writing up claims, and touring FEMA to all of the damaged locations. The FEMA review process for the first disaster was lengthy beginning in February and finishing with the last claims being filed in June. Preparation of claims with FEMA on the second disaster has just begun as FEMA is now beginning the process of visiting the 44 locations that will be claimed for the second disaster. Roads staff have continued making repairs with County crews and Engineering staff have begun designing the larger project repair plans with the assistance of geotechnical and engineering consultants. It is anticipated that in the coming month staff will be coming to the Board for requests and declarations to allow a fast track procurement process allowing contracts to be accelerated so work can be complete prior to the winter rainy season.

The Roads budget for 2006/2007 is \$13,254,666 which reflects nearly \$5 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. As you can see from the dollars claimed above, 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 is reviewing all expenditures and prioritizing all projects due to the impact these repairs will have on the budget.

Public Works has been pursuing other road improvement projects including two bike lane projects that require local matching dollars. These two projects are the Las Amigas Bike Lane Project and the Conn Creek Bike Lane Project which total approximately \$840,000 with approximately \$180,000 being local roads matching dollars. Staff is recommending these projects be postponed if possible or eliminated to free up the local match of \$180,000 for storm damage repairs. It is unfortunate to pass up these Federal and State matching dollars for projects, but we

have a lengthy list of high priority storm damage projects. With the Board's concurrence, staff will no longer seek federal and state grant funds for bicycle lanes if they require any local match, until such time as funds are identified for all the road repairs on the attached list.

Due to the damaged condition of County roads and the limited resources available to the County to make the necessary repairs, staff is recommending the first priority projects as listed in the attachment be pursued in 2006 prior to final funding approval by FEMA. Staff is also recommending that the projects in the remaining priority categories be completed only at such time as FEMA funding is approved for them or as they can be budgeted using traditional road revenues. Staff is recommending eliminating the two bike lane projects and the evaluation of all Roads related projects to maximize funds available for storm damage repairs. Staff will continue to aggressively pursue the reimbursement of storm related costs from FEMA, OES, and FHWA. 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 Priority List

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey