



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 2/26/2018

Agenda Placement: 7E

## Napa County Legislative Subcommittee Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Napa County Legislative Subcommittee  
**FROM:** Molly Rattigan for Minh Tran - County Executive Officer  
County Executive Office  
**REPORT BY:** Michael Karath, Staff Assistant - BOS - 299-1477  
**SUBJECT:** SB 1073 - Napa River Flood Control Funding

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Executive Officer requests discussion and possible action on SB 1073 (Dodd), a bill that authorizes State funding from general obligation bonds, subventions or other sources to fund construction of uncompleted phases of the Napa River Flood Protection Project when there are not available federal funds for project completion.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Napa County Executive Officer seeks discussion and possible action on SB 1073 (Dodd) that authorizes State funding from general obligation bonds, subventions or other sources to fund construction of uncompleted phases of the Napa River Flood Protection Project when there are not available federal funds for project completion.

The Napa River Flood Control Project was first federally authorized in 1965. Phases of the project have continued up until very recently with federal, state and local funding. There is no current federal funding appropriated for the continuation of the project, leaving it stalled and contingent on federal action.

The Napa County Board of Supervisors included State funding for the Napa River Flood project as a priority item in its 2018 Legislative & Policy Platform. There are six project components to complete, including the building of floodwalls and levees north of the Oxbow area near downtown, railroad bridges over Napa River, and other floodwalls and culverts. The total cost is estimated at \$80 million.

SB 1073 (Dodd) would authorize State funding from general obligation bonds, subventions or other sources to fund construction of uncompleted phases of the Napa River Flood Protection Project when there are not available federal funds for project completion.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      No

**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 Napa River Flood Control Project was first federally authorized in 1965, but no money was provided. It wasn't until Napa suffered serious floods in 1986, 1995, 1997, and 2005 leaving the downtown area under as much as six feet under water, that federal funding was appropriated and work began.

Phases of the project have continued up until very recently with federal, state and local funding. Napa County has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers over the last several years to substantially improve flood control on the Napa River, including a floodwall and a "bypass" channel that redirects Napa River storm overflow away from downtown areas. However, the Corps has changed course and does not appear likely to fund the next phase of the project, despite the immense flood control benefit that the County's residents and businesses would enjoy from the project's completion.

There are six project components to complete, including the building of floodwalls and levees north of the Oxbow area near downtown, railroad bridges over Napa River, and other floodwalls and culverts.

Current law, pursuant to the State Water Resources Law of 1945, authorizes State participation in funding local flood control projects that are authorized by the Legislature and that meet other specific requirements. Those requirements include that the project must qualify for federal financial assistance under the requirements applicable to federal water resource development projects and must be authorized by Congress. Napa's project meets these criteria as outlined in Water Code Section 12748.

CSAC: pending

RCRC: pending

Napa County Flood Control District: support

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . SB 1073 - BILL TEXT - State Funding for Flood Control Project

B . SB 1073 - FACT SHEET - State Funding for Flood Control Project

Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan