



County of Santa Cruz

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131

KATHLEEN MOLLOY PREVISICH, PLANNING DIRECTOR

www.sccoplanning.com

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, the following project has been reviewed by the County Environmental Coordinator to determine if it has a potential to create significant impacts to the environment and, if so, how such impacts could be solved. A Negative Declaration is prepared in cases where the project is determined not to have any significant environmental impacts. Either a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared for projects that may result in a significant impact to the environment.

Public review periods are provided for these Environmental Determinations according to the requirements of the County Environmental Review Guidelines. The environmental document is available for review at the County Planning Department located at 701 Ocean Street, in Santa Cruz. You may also view the environmental document on the web at www.sccoplanning.com under the Planning Department menu. If you have questions or comments about this Notice of Intent, please contact Todd Sexauer of the Environmental Review staff at (831) 454-3511.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs or activities. If you require special assistance in order to review this information, please contact Bernice Shawver at (831) 454-3137 to make arrangements.

PROJECT: Rio Del Mar Storm Drain Improvements

APP #: 171057

APN(S): No APN Specific (County Right of Way)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This is a proposal to install drainage improvements consisting of new and replacement underground storm drains, installation of new pump station and relocate stormwater outfall to new location within a portion of the county right of way on the ocean side of Beach Drive. Project intended to alleviate frequent flooding within the Rio Del Mar Flats and improve water quality.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located in the Rio Del Mar Flats within the community of Aptos in the unincorporated Santa Cruz County. The County of Santa Cruz is bounded on the north by San Mateo County, on the south by Monterey and San Benito counties, on the east by Santa Clara County, and on the south and west by the Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

EXISTING ZONE DISTRICT: PR, C-1, RM-3

APPLICANT: Department of Public Works

OWNER: Department of Public Works

PROJECT PLANNER: Nathan Macbeth, (831) 454-3118

EMAIL: Nathan.Macbeth@santacruzcounty.us

ACTION: Negative Declaration with Mitigations

REVIEW PERIOD: October 2, 2017 through October 31, 2017

This project will be considered at a public hearing by the Zoning Administrator. The time, date and location have not been set. When scheduling does occur, these items will be included in all public hearing notices for the project.



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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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Owner: County of Santa Cruz

Applicant: County of Santa Cruz

Staff Planner: Nathan Macbeth, (831) 454-3118

Email: Nathan.Macbeth@santacruzcounty.us

This project will be considered at a public hearing by the Zoning Administrator. The time, date and location have not been set. When scheduling does occur, these items will be included in all public hearing notices for the project.

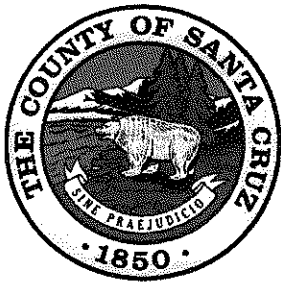
California Environmental Quality Act Mitigated Negative Declaration Findings:

Find, that this Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the decision-making body's independent judgment and analysis, and; that the decision-making body has reviewed and considered the information contained in this Mitigated Negative Declaration and the comments received during the public review period; and, that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the project applicant would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur; and, on the basis of the whole record before the decision-making body (including this Mitigated Negative Declaration) that there is no substantial evidence that the project as revised will have a significant effect on the environment. The expected environmental impacts of the project are documented in the attached Initial Study on file with the County of Santa Cruz Clerk of the Board located at 701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor, Santa Cruz, California.

Review Period Ends: October 31, 2017

Date: _____

TODD SEXAUER, Environmental Coordinator
(831) 454-3511



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CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Date: September 25, 2017

Application Number: 171057

Project Name: Rio Del Mar Storm Drain
Improvements

Staff Planner: Nathan MacBeth

I. OVERVIEW AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

APPLICANT: Department of Public Works **APN(s):** No APN Spec (County Right of Way)

OWNER: Department of Public Works **SUPERVISORAL DISTRICT:** 2nd

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located in the Rio Del Mar Flats within the community of Aptos in the unincorporated Santa Cruz County (FIGURE 1). Santa Cruz County is bounded on the north by San Mateo County, on the south by Monterey and San Benito counties, on the east by Santa Clara County, and on the south and west by the Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

SUMMARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This is a proposal to install drainage improvements consisting of new and replacement underground storm drains, installation of new pump station and relocate stormwater outfall to new location within a portion of the county right of way on the ocean side of Beach Drive. Project intended to alleviate frequent flooding within the Rio Del Mar Flats and improve water quality.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: *All of the following potential environmental impacts are evaluated in this Initial Study. Categories that are marked have been analyzed in greater detail based on project specific information.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics and Visual Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Supply/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: All of the following potential environmental impacts are evaluated in this Initial Study. Categories that are marked have been analyzed in greater detail based on project specific information.

Land Use and Planning

DISCRETIONARY APPROVAL(S) BEING CONSIDERED:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Development Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Division | <input type="checkbox"/> Grading Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rezoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Exception |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> LAFCO Annexation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Connection Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |


OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

<u>Permit Type/Action</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Coastal Development Permit (Appealable)	California Coastal Commission

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.


TODD SEXAUER, Environmental Coordinator

9-28-17
Date

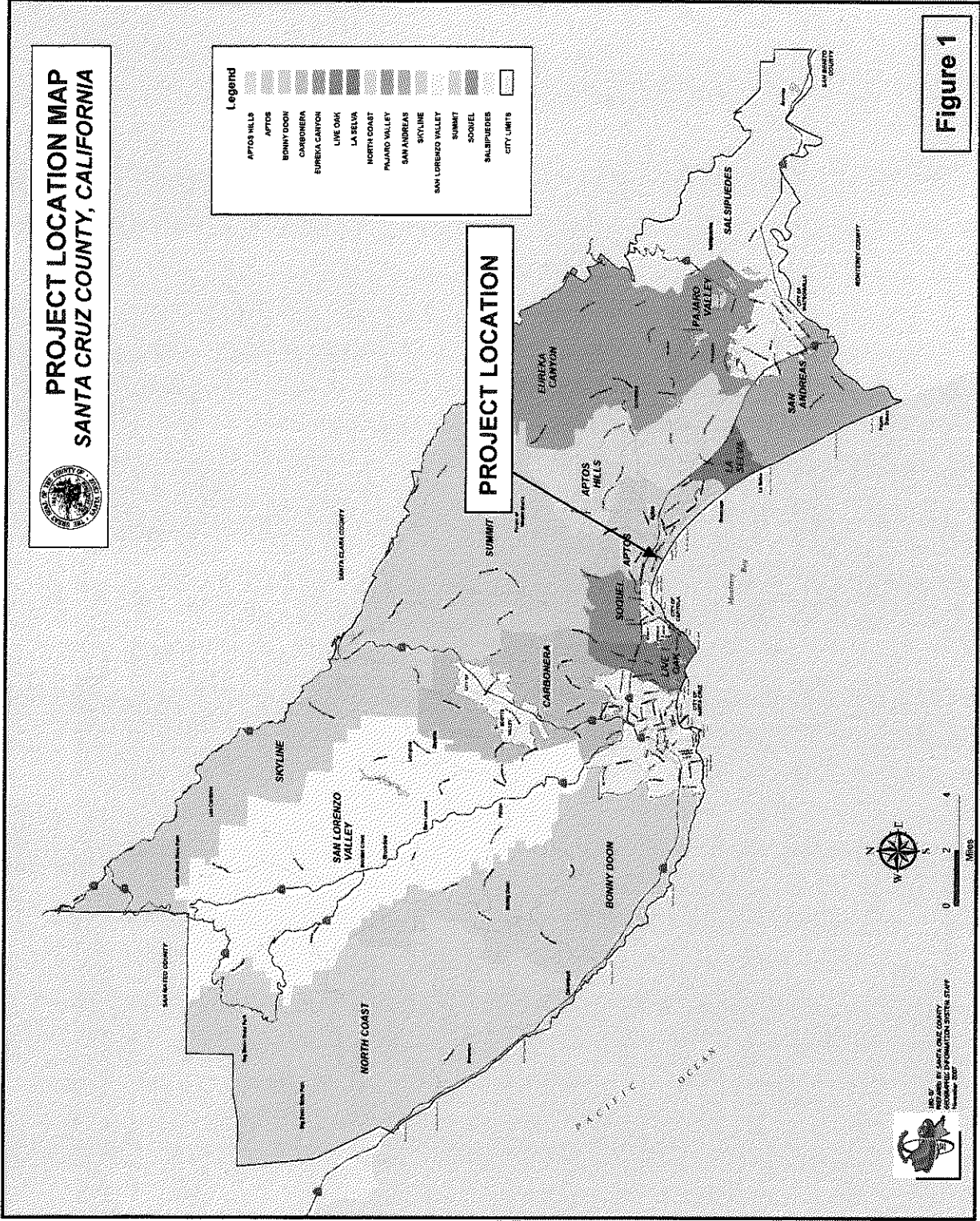
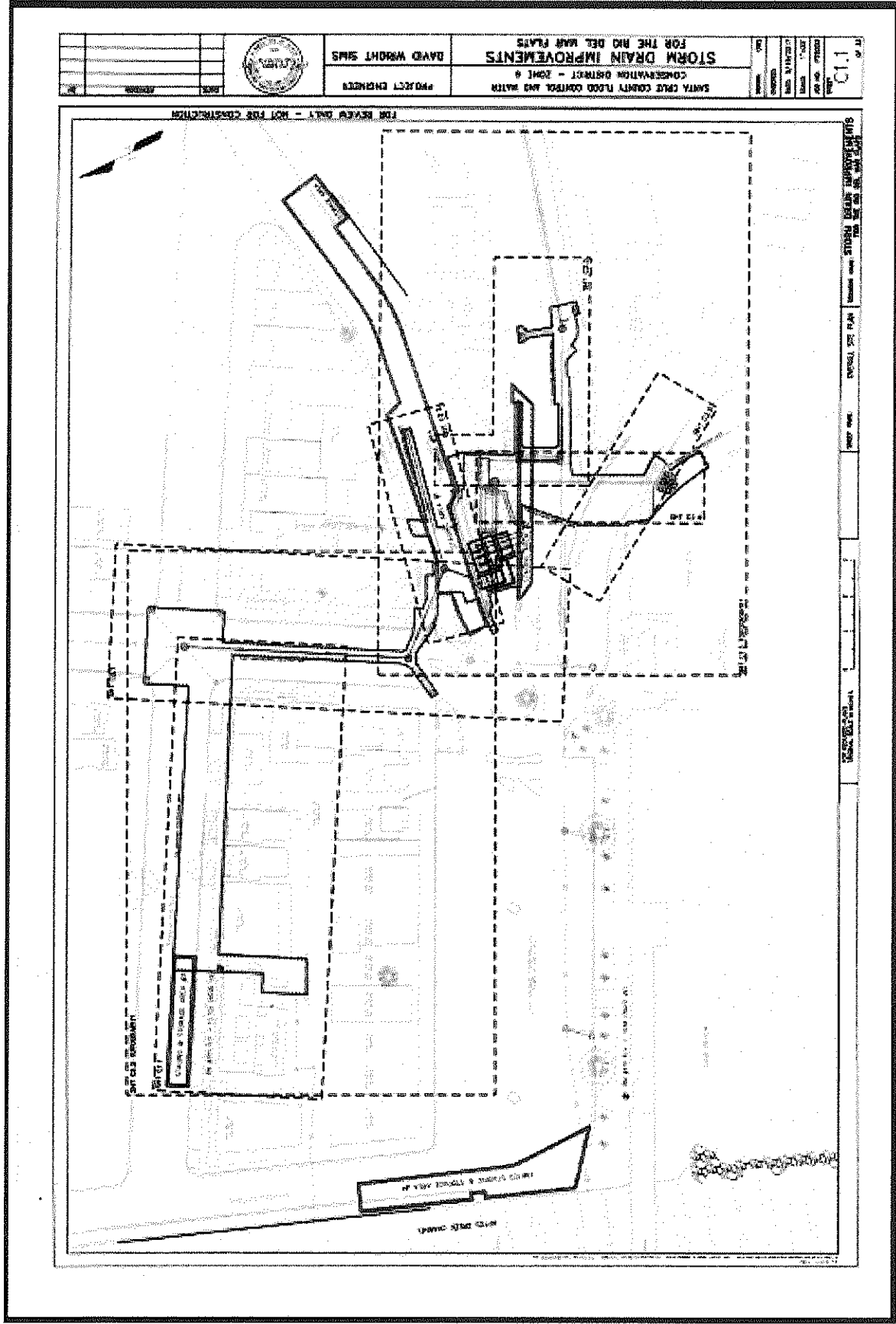


Figure 1



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Project Site Plan
 RDM Storm Drain Improvements

Figure 2
 Application Number: 171057



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II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS:

Parcel Size (acres): County Right of way
 Existing Land Use: Public Utilities
 Vegetation: Non-native vegetation
 Slope in area affected by project: 0 - 30% 31 - 100% N/A
 Nearby Watercourse: Aptos Creek
 Distance To: Approximately 450 feet

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND CONSTRAINTS:

Water Supply Watershed:	Not Mapped	Fault Zone:	Not Mapped
Groundwater Recharge:	Not Mapped	Scenic Corridor:	Mapped Scenic
Timber or Mineral:	Not Mapped	Historic:	N/A
Agricultural Resource:	Not Mapped	Archaeology:	Not Mapped
Biologically Sensitive Habitat:		Noise Constraint:	N/A
Fire Hazard:	Not mapped	Electric Power Lines:	Overhead power
Floodplain:	Located within Flood Plain	Solar Access:	No change
Erosion:	Erosion control plan provided	Solar Orientation:	N/A
Landslide:	N/A	Hazardous Materials:	Not Listed
Liquefaction:	Very High Potential	Other:	N/A

SERVICES:

Fire Protection:	Aptos/LaSelva	Drainage District:	Zone 6
School District:	Pajaro Valley Unified	Project Access:	Public Right of Way
Sewage Disposal:	County Sanitation District	Water Supply:	Soquel Creek Water District

PLANNING POLICIES:

Zone District: PR, C-1, RM-3
 Special Designation: Rio
 Del Mar Flats/Esplanade
 Special Community
 General Plan: O-R, C-N, R-UH

Urban Services Line: Inside Outside
Coastal Zone: Inside Outside

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND SURROUNDING LAND USES:

Natural Environment

Santa Cruz County is uniquely situated along the northern end of Monterey Bay approximately 55 miles south of the City of San Francisco along the Central Coast. The Pacific Ocean and Monterey Bay to the west and south, the mountains inland, and the prime agricultural lands along both the northern and southern coast of the county create limitations on the style and amount of building that can take place. Simultaneously, these natural features create an environment that attracts both visitors and new residents every year. The natural landscape provides the basic features that set Santa Cruz apart from the surrounding counties and require specific accommodations to ensure building is done in a safe, responsible and environmentally respectful manner.

The California Coastal Zone affects nearly one third of the land in the urbanized area of the unincorporated County with special restrictions, regulations, and processing procedures required for development within that area. Steep hillsides require extensive review and engineering to ensure that slopes remain stable, buildings are safe, and water quality is not impacted by increased erosion. The farmland in Santa Cruz County is among the best in the world, and the agriculture industry is a primary economic generator for the County. Preserving this industry in the face of population growth requires that soils best suited to commercial agriculture remain active in crop production rather than converting to other land uses.

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

Rio Del Mar Flats is an area developed with commercial, residential and recreational uses. This area is prone to flooding due to heavy rainfall, high tides and lack of sufficient drainage gradients in the existing stormwater system. The proposed stormwater improvements are based on a multi-year joint agency effort to address specific issues occurring in Rio Del Mar Flats. Since 2012, Department of Public works staff has held public meetings (Attachment 2), consulted with other regulatory agencies including County staff, State Parks, Coastal Commission staff, (FEMA) Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Fish and Wildlife in order to mitigate persistent flooding in the Rio Del Mar Flats. A FEMA grant was secured by the County of Santa a Cruz to assist with the costs associated with the construction of the project.

DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This is a proposal to install drainage improvements intended to alleviate seasonal flooding within the Rio Del Mar Flats, improve water quality, and maintain public and emergency vehicle access.