



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Quality, Excellence, Innovation

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DIRECTOR

December 3, 2019

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SUBJECT: Private Property Drainage Assistance Pilot Program, and Related Budget Adjustments

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Approve and authorize the President to execute the Resolution Setting a Pilot Program for County Assistance Towards Drainage Improvements Projects on Private Property and authorize the Director of Finance to approve appropriations adjustments as detailed in the fiscal impact section below.

SUMMARY: Over the years, as development has occurred in unincorporated Marin County, culvert pipes were installed within natural water courses. In most cases, long stretches of natural water courses were buried in pipes to provide larger areas for building purposes. When these pipes are located within private property, historic drainage patterns and physical condition are both the property owner's responsibility to maintain. When not properly maintained, failure of culverts can create risk to downstream neighbors, including Marin County. However, maintenance of deteriorating culverts may be cost prohibitive and therefore, simple not done.

With the amount of rainfall Marin County experienced in recent years, there has been an increase in interest and concern surrounding drainage infrastructure located on private, non-County owned land. In an effort to assist property owners with maintenance of these private culverts, Marin County has developed the Private Property Drainage Assistance Pilot Program (Drainage Program), to provide financial assistance for drainage maintenance projects on private land.

The Drainage Program will consider applications from property owners within unincorporated areas of Marin County for financial assistance with making repairs to drainage facilities on their private property. Applications will be evaluated based on a list of criteria and conditions, and if approved, each homeowner will receive a cash contribution not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total cost of improvements and shall in no case exceed \$50,000 with the understanding that the County will not design, contract, administer, or exercise dominion or control of the proposed project. The ongoing maintenance responsibility shall remain with the property owner.

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Building Maintenance

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Agency (CUPA)

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Flood Control &
Water Resources

Land Development

Purchasing

Real Estate

Reprographic Services

Road Maintenance

Stormwater Program

Transportation &
Traffic Operations

Waste Management

To streamline the approval process, the Director of Public Works or his designee shall have the authority to approve and allocate funds to these drainage improvement applications.

FISCAL IMPACT: There will be no increase to the General Fund net county costs as a result of this action. Approval will increase Department of Public Works expenditure appropriations in the Miscellaneous Fund (10125641) Drainage Improvement Project (41EDRAINP) by \$400,000, fully offset by a corresponding decrease to prior year available fund balance (900659) set aside for this purpose. The Community Infrastructure administrative designation was established for cost-sharing programs like this, where the County can contribute to infrastructure projects on private property that have community benefits.

REVIEWED BY:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Department of Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Counsel	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Miller
Principal Civil Engineer

C: Ernest Klock, Assistant Director, Public Works
Jason Wong, Senior Engineer, Public Works

Attachment: Resolution for County Drainage Assistance Pilot Program

BA# 1109

