



AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT

SUBJECT: Receive Report and Update Regarding FEMA Floodplain Analysis of Gibson and Orr Creeks.

DEPARTMENT: Public Works **PREPARED BY:** Seth Strader, Administrative Analyst
PRESENTER: Tim Eriksen, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. FEMA Presentation
- 2. GHD Comments FEMA Map Revision Review

Summary: Council will receive an update on the FEMA process to adjust the floodplain for Gibson Creek and Orr Creek.

Background: In 2020, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began the process of updating the flood plain elevations throughout the city of Ukiah. The first preliminary results were reported to the City Engineering team in 2021. The results were radically different than what currently exists in the City, the implications of which could have significant impacts on development and insurance rates throughout the city. In short, FEMA's proposed modifications to the flood maps would significantly increase the number of properties classified as being within a flood plain.

Since that time, in order to protect the interests and investments of the community, City Staff has worked on solutions with FEMA staff to review the study results and discuss contradictions with observed historic flood events in the city. City Staff have been concerned about the fact that the FEMA study does not seem to reflect what City Staff has documented in the city. The Engineering Department has searched for experts in the hydraulic field in order to assist in the review of the FEMA results.

In July of 2022, the City Council approved a contract with GHD to analyze the FEMA data and provide comments to FEMA in defense of the Engineering Staff's opinion that the floodplain proposed by FEMA does not reflect the history of flood events within the city of Ukiah.

Discussion: FEMA has shared their flood models with our experts for a more robust review of the model that the Engineering Staff is questioning. The presentation that FEMA shared with City Staff is attached here as Attachment 1. GHD has analyzed and prepared their comments and review of the FEMA data (Attachment 2). In the following weeks, City and GHD will meet with FEMA to discuss how to proceed.

Recommended Action: Receive report.

BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUIRED: N/A

CURRENT BUDGET AMOUNT: N/A

PROPOSED BUDGET AMOUNT: N/A

FINANCING SOURCE: N/A

PREVIOUS CONTRACT/PURCHASE ORDER NO.: N/A

COORDINATED WITH: Tim Eriksen, Director of Public Works

Approved: 
Sage Sangiacomo, City Manager