

Work expected to begin soon on flood-prone creek

By Nick Baptista, The Valley Springs News, November 14, 2012

Calaveras County has the green light to begin yearly flood-control maintenance along Cosgrove Creek.

Under a recently approved maintenance agreement with the California Department of Fish and Game, crews from CalFire's Vallecito Conservation Camp can perform the work between now and February, according to County Administrative Analyst Zachariah Collom.

The creek went over its banks in April 2006, damaging 20 homes and businesses and forcing more than 100 other households to be evacuated.

In the meantime, the Fish and Wildlife Service determined the creek could be habitat for the California red-legged frog, a threatened species, and yearly maintenance was suspended for several years.

County, state and federal officials met in 2010 and agreed the county could resume some "cleaning" work in the creek.

Work along Cosgrove Creek is expected to encompass an area from the old railroad bridge along State Route 12/26, just east of Valley Springs, to Silver Rapids Roads.

Studies to provide long-term solutions to the Cosgrove Creek flood problem are continuing. The county, the Calaveras County Water District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are involved in a study to determine cost-effective measures to address the flooding problem.

In earlier meetings on the flooding problem, area residents said resumption of routine maintenance along the creek would be helpful in the meantime.