

More funds OK'd to prepare Cosgrove for rainfall season

By Nick Baptista / The Valley Springs News / December 13, 2024

Vegetation removal under way on the channel of flood-prone Cosgrove Creek received additional funding this week and the county is working on a long-term solution to the problem that has plagued Valley Springs residents as recently as January of last year.

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday voted 5-0 to add another \$40,000 to the \$105,000 contract it approved Oct. 8 to Nate's Tree Service for the work.

The additional money will be used to expand the scope of the project to include complete vegetation removal throughout the stream bed.

"As this project nears completion, we would like to take the opportunity to engage with the community members that live along Cosgrove Creek to discuss this year's project, and our future projects within the Cosgrove Creek area to mitigate potential risks from high water flows," Erik Holt, the county's Office of Emergency Services director, announced last week.

The Cosgrove Creek town hall meeting is scheduled for 5:30 P.M. Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at Veterans Memorial Hall, 300 W. Daphne St., in Valley Springs.

Considered an environmentally sensitive area, the county has a permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to clear vegetation and debris, without disturbing the ground, in the creek's riparian corridor along a two-mile section as it flows into the Calaveras River.

"This is our best option on a normal (rainfall) year," Holt told the board, while stressing the need for a long-term solution.

Such a solution could move forward once the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completes a water management study for the area. The study is expected to be completed in 2026.

District 1 Supervisor Gary Tofanelli questioned why the contract with Nate's Tree Service deviated from work that is allowed within the permit and advocated for a closer look at the annual contracts going forward and bringing them back to the board if there are any changes to the initial Requests For Proposal.