



*Significant portions of West Calaveras, depicted in red, have been identified as new flood hazard areas.*

## **Supervisors plan town hall meeting to discuss traffic, flooding issues**

**By Nick Baptista-- The Valley Springs News, November 20, 2009**

Two hot West Calaveras issues – flooding and traffic congested at the Highway 12/26 intersection – will be the topics of discussion when District 1 Supervisor Gary Tofanelli and District 5 Supervisor Russ Thomas hold a town hall meeting sometime in December.

Within the past few weeks there have been new developments concerning both issues and the supervisors want to bring those matters to the public's attention, Tofanelli told The Valley Springs News earlier this week.

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors last week voted 5-0 authorizing a professional services agreement that could be the last step before actual construction begins to improve the Highway 12/26 intersection in downtown Valley Springs. In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency released new flood hazard maps for the county with some significant changes in the West Calaveras area.

Tofanelli said he and Thomas are working to reach a definite date for the meeting.

The professional services contract with Dokken Engineering out of Folsom will provide improvement alternatives including signalization and non-signalization options to solve traffic conditions at the intersection, along with the environmental studies and right-of-way acquisition paperwork needed to move forward toward construction, Tofanelli said.

The agreement is expected not to exceed \$422,784 and \$350,000 of the money comes from the state through so-called Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds, he said. Countywide Road Impact Mitigation fees will be used as the local match to fund the difference between the contract price and state funding.

The process includes three public workshops, with the first anticipated in several weeks, and Tofanelli said he wants to see those meetings well publicized so the public will have ample opportunity to voice any concerns or issues.

The Highway 12/26 engineering project is expected to be completed at the end of next year and actual construction could begin shortly afterward if funding is available, he added.

“We don’t know the actual construction costs, which this study will give us,” he said, but some state funding has been earmarked for construction and improvements at the intersection are at the top of the list for the use of county RIM fees.

Although Valley Springs was the site of the county’s most recent flooding back in April of 2006 when approximately 20 area homes and businesses were damaged by flood waters and more than 100 other households were evacuated, two public meetings to discuss the recently released FEMA flood maps and insurance program are scheduled Wednesday, Dec. 2, in San Andreas.

Those meetings will be at 4:30 and 6 p.m. in the Calaveras High School Library at School Street in San Andreas. Both meetings will cover the same material.

For West Calaveras area residents unable to make it to the San Andreas meetings, many of the same information will be covered in the later supervisors’ town hall meeting, Tofanelli said.

The previous FEMA flood map dates back to the 1990s and the new map shows additional parts of the county located within flood hazard areas.

Homeowners within those hazard areas will have a limited time to obtain federal flood insurance at discounted rates.