

Work resumes to clear Cosgrove Creek before rainfall season

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Work to remove vegetation from the channel of flood-prone Cosgrove Creek was scheduled to begin this week after the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors on Oct. 8 approved a \$105,000 contract for the project with Nate's Tree Service.

The county has a permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to clear vegetation and debris from the environmentally sensitive area in the fall.

Removal work in the past has been carried out by inmates from Vallecito Conservation Camp No. 1, but the county has turned to a private contractor because the Vallecito fire crews are subject to being pulled from the job to help with firefighting duties throughout the state.

The board talked about issuing such a contract on a multi-year basis to avoid waiting until the final days before the work can be done.

In addition, Board Chairman Jack Garamendi brought up the idea of putting Cosgrove Creek into the county's strategic plan to come up with a long-term solution.

District 1 Supervisor Gary Tofanelli said he has been an advocate of a long-term solution for Cosgrove Creek since 2009. Such a solution could move forward once the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completes a water management study for the area, he said. The study is expected to be completed in 2026.

Entering the creek on-foot and using hand-tools such as weed-eaters and chainsaws, crews will clear vegetative material and debris in the riparian corridor along an approximate two-mile section of Cosgrove Creek, south of Valley Springs from Gold Creek Estates to Silver Rapids Road.

The work will be done from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays.