



WILDWOOD

July 12, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Watershed Erosion Task Force Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: **Fund Accounting and Project Options**

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
Thomas Lee, Interim City Administrator
John A. Young, City Attorney
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner

BACKGROUND INFORMATION >>> The City continues to strive to address the priority locations that have been identified by the task force over the last several years. These locations are the portions of the creek that are threatening a range of public and private assets and properties, since their identifications by the team of consultants assisting the task force members over the last several years. The locations of these problem areas are summarized below:

#	Project Name – Priority Locations	Project Cost Estimate
1.	Caulks Creek Triple Meander	\$2,837,380
2.	Caulks Creek Detention Basin Repair	\$169,000
3.	Tributary – Evergreen Forest Court	\$259,090
4.	Caulks Creek – Highlands at Wildhorse	\$553,020
5.	Caulks Creek - Wildwood Meadows	\$962,358
6.	Bonhomme Creek – Community Park	\$491,946
	Total Cost	\$5,272,794

The cost of these projects is also provided in the table above. The costs of these projects vary, with the top priority on the list being almost three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00) in its total amount. Such a project would be hard to afford, even with the previously anticipated State funding, including any planned City contribution to it. Now, as has been noted, without the State funding that was vetoed by

the Governor, it places many of these projects out of reach, but not all, if the priorities are shifted to those areas that have more manageable scopes and costs.

To this end, the Department would like to offer an option in regards to undertaking a set of projects for 2023. These projects would include the following items:

1. The Evergreen Forest Court and the creek stabilization that will address at least two (2) threatened dwellings.
2. The Highlands of Wildhorse’s common ground area and the extensive bank stabilization in and near this same location and downstream from there.

These two (2) projects have the following characteristics:

1. The projects are critical on the City’s list of priority locations.
2. The projects are some of the more manageable in terms of costs.
3. The projects will protect occupied properties and City infrastructure.
4. The projects are both before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for pre-permitting purposes, which means time-savings.
5. The projects offer excellent templates to be used elsewhere in Caulks Creek and the City’s other eight (8) watersheds.
6. The projects have a total cost of \$812,010.

AVAILABLE FUNDS >>> The Department would note the disappointment of all regarding the veto of the funds by the Governor for the City’s intended responsible use of them to promote public safety, but would offer these recommended projects can be funded within the confines of current and anticipated funding from the City’s Capital Improvements Program for 2023 and 2024. As identified in the table below, funds do exist that have not been committed to date in the amount of \$452,000.00:

Current Commitments – '23	Consultants	Original Budget - \$750,000.00, Minus Commitments to Date
\$170,500.00	USGS	\$579,500.00
\$77,500.00	Wagner-Wilson Hydro	\$502,000.00
\$50,000.00	Doering Engineering	\$452,000.00
\$298,000.00		\$452,000.00 [Available Funds]

Note: The majority of the engineering work in association with the retrofit of existing basins is funded through the end of this year (2023), but the actual work to follow will need to be discussed for budgetary purposes as part of the upcoming fiscal year (2024).

The projects would need an infusion of \$360,110.00, which can be addressed as part of the mid-year budget adjustments the City Council addresses each Fiscal Year, by shifting monies from other projects not anticipated to be underway in 2023, or addressed as part of the upcoming Fiscal Year 2024 budget discussions. Accommodating the projects now does not mean construction will start immediately, given

engineering plans must be developed and bidding to be completed, but allows those remaining 2023 funds to be allocated now and plan for 2024 as well.

NEXT STEPS >>> The Department is presenting this information to the task force members for input and direction. Certainly, other combinations of projects can be considered, or a single priority location selected, in lieu of smaller scoped undertakings as well. Regardless, given the critical nature of all of these priority locations, discussion needs to occur and decisions made regarding how best to proceed for the remainder of 2023 and, then, into Fiscal Year 2024.

OTHER AND CONTACT INFORMATION >>> If any of the Task Force Members should have any questions or comments regarding this information, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. A presentation is planned on these items at tonight's meeting. Thank you for your review of this information and input on the same.