

From: [David \[REDACTED\]](#)
To: [-- City Clerk; -- City Clerk; -- City Clerk; -- City Clerk; \[REDACTED\]](#)
Subject: Flood level modeling w/USACE Attachment
Date: Monday, September 25, 2023 4:46:41 PM
Importance: High

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Sept. 25, 2023

To: Mayor & Petaluma City Council members
Petaluma Planning Commission members.

Re: New and Revised city modeling for flood levels

Dear Christina Paul -

In looking at forecast modeling for Petaluma, I will have a series of questions and comment, but wish to start with these:

- 1- Who is doing the forecast modeling? Who is/are the contracted hydrologists (firm and individual names)?
- 2- Are the consulting modelers using the predictive modeling and data developed over the past few years by FirstStreet Fdn and FirstFlood results? If not, why not?
- 3 - is the modeling incorporating the predictions for flood levels done by the USACE for “End of project lifespan at year 2040” mapping and modeling for the Locally Preferred Plan adopted by the city, illustrated in the FEIS for the Petaluma Flood Project?

Those anticipated much deeper flood levels at year 2040, especially throughout the overflow areas both east and west of the River, down to the return to river channel, were modeled based on full buildout of the City’s 1987 General Plan, but not beyond that.

Flood levels at year 2040 were modeled to almost equal pre-Project flood levels, particularly in the Payran and Madison neighborhoods, and in some cases exceed pre-Project levels. Much of the \$100M flooding level reductions from the Project would be lost.

Additional development and impervious surfaces upstream of the flood project flow/erosion control weir were not part of the USACE Flood Project modeling, nor were climate change impacts to storm intensity and duration, nor sea level rise.

In addition, Phil Williams Associates also early warned the city in writing against downstream impacts of channelization of Willow Brook and Corona Creek.

4. Is there any proposal or progress in getting the County to adopt a zoning overlay for Denman Flats, based on a requirement for Zero Net Fill, Zero Net Increase and Zero Net change in timing for storm water runoff? USACE did **not** include preservation and protection of the flood storage capacity of Denman Flats in their modeling and predictive studies, due to Congressional Project authorization limits. Loss of this flood storage capacity would put the city's USACE Flood Project and downstream at risk of failure and significant unanticipated

flooding, beyond development anticipated in the 1987 General Plan buildout.

Thank you for your response. Looking forward to that. I'd also be pleased to meet with you about these and other flooding issues.

Sincerely,

David Keller

Flooding victim, 1982 storms Petaluma River Council [REDACTED]

Petaluma 94952
[REDACTED]

Attached: USACE 2040 Storm Floodplain depths, Petaluma River Flood Project FEIR

Cc: City Council

Planning Commission

General Plan Advisory Committee