

May13, 2002

Mr. Bernhard Krevet  
Friends of Napa River  
68 Coombs, Bldg. B  
Napa, CA 94559

Subject: Meeting of May 6, 2002

Dear Mr. Krevet:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with Friends of the Napa River (FONR) and present a status report on the St. Helena Comprehensive Flood Study. The study team hopes that we were able to give you a better perspective of the alternatives that have been studied to date. It is the City Council's stated objective to provide accurate information to the stakeholders and community so that a fully informed decision on a potential project to reduce the flood hazard to the city can be made.

We also appreciate the opportunity to learn about FONR's perspective on the study. We appreciate your participation in the process and understand the need to develop a consensus if we are going to be successful in developing a plan that will reduce the risk of loss of life and property for the residents of St Helena. It is our hope that through coordination with the many stakeholders, we will be able to develop a plan that balances the flood damage reduction goals with the high value this community places on protecting and restoring the Napa River.

I wanted to summarize what we heard as concerns from FONR and features that FONR would like considered as alternatives evaluated through the environmental review process:

1. A larger scale, mobile home relocation alternative should be developed. This alternative would be a hybrid of the non-structural alternative previously evaluated by MBK Engineers, but would include a component to relocate approximately 139 homes to an area outside the floodplain.

2. The west bank of the Napa River between the Pope Street Bridge and the city wells is experiencing severe erosion, and consideration should be given to including a biological stabilization component to the project to reduce this bank failure and help protect the existing riparian trees along this reach.

3. The existing riparian corridors located adjacent to the terraced areas proposed by the minimum and enhanced minimum plans should be stabilized to avoid losing additional riparian vegetation along the river. This measure along with #2 above would reduce streambank erosion and sediment loading to the river.

4. A hydraulic and geomorphic analysis of the various alternatives should be conducted to determine if the terracing and set-back design features are geomorphically sound and will contribute to the health of Napa River. FONR expressed a possible interest in participating in this examination.

We will be discussing these issues with the Council and Measure A Steering Committee in the near future to receive direction on how to further address your questions and concerns. Should you have any suggestions or recommendations on how best to address these issues, we can pass them on to the committees when we meet.

Two specific issues we raised in the meeting that we would like FONR feedback on are:

1. We are evaluating a setback floodwall through the Vineyard Valley Mobile Home Park to minimize the need for streambank stabilization. However, the streambank at the confluence with Sulphur Creek is near vertical now, and we are proposing a vertical treatment at this site to avoid the removal of additional homes and to reduce the loss of existing vegetation.

2. A preliminary hydraulics analysis has been conducted for Sulphur Creek to determine strategies to reduce flood damages along this flood plain. We would appreciate FONR's feedback on the preliminary analysis. It may be possible to include a restoration component to a Sulphur Creek project with the goal of developing a project that would result in a net benefit to the habitat along the lower portion of Sulphur Creek. While we do not want to complicate the already difficult Napa River main stem study, we would like to discuss a separate but parallel effort for Sulphur Creek.

We would like to keep the FONR informed and involved throughout the study process. We anticipate convening the Measure A Steering Committee for an update and review of the draft feasibility study some time during the last week in May. To that end, given Peter Mennen's recent resignation from the Steering Committee, we would like to recommend to the City Council your appointment to serve on the Steering Committee. As we discussed, you may wish to appoint an alternate should you not be able to attend a specific meeting. With your concurrence, I will schedule an agenda item for the Council meeting of May 28<sup>th</sup> to formalize the appointment. We are planning to schedule a Council special study session during the last week in June to present the draft feasibility report as well as project visualizations. We will let you know of the specific date as soon as the meeting is scheduled.

Please let me know if I have not correctly characterized the issues that FONR raised during the meeting. We would greatly appreciate FONR's formal response to these issues so that it may be incorporated into an upcoming discussion with the flood subcommittee to the City Council.

Should this not be possible, we encourage FONR to provide input at any point in the process. Per our conversation Monday night, we will notify the FONR through the Board of Directors at this address about future meetings of the Measure A Steering Committee, and we will provide you with any backup information that you feel is necessary to adequately assess the impacts of the project.

Again, thank you for allowing us to present this important study to your Board.

Sincerely,

Myke Praul, City Engineer

MP/mv

RR/BERNHARD KREVET.DOC

cc: City Council  
Bonnie Long, City Manager  
Ric Reinhardt, MBK Engineers  
Nancy Weiss, MIG Consultants