

## Linda Lopez

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**From:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:53 PM  
**To:** Richard Simonitch; Linda Lopez  
**Subject:** FW: Corte Madera Creek Flood Plan

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Scales <garrettscales@comcast.net>  
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 3:45 PM  
To: CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>  
Cc: Julie McMillan <juliemcmillan@comcast.net>; Elizabeth Brekhus <elizabethb@brekhus.com>; Elizabeth Robbins <eliz.robbins@gmail.com>; Beach Kuhl <beachkuhl35@gmail.com>; Bill Kircher <cwkmisc@gmail.com>  
Subject: Corte Madera Creek Flood Plan

Honorable Council-Members,

I have followed this project since the late 1970s. And I continue to strongly oppose the project to destroy the Town Park on a "wing and a prayer" hope that a new plan may prove to be better. A Ross resident who objects to the Proposal will be stared down by a phalanx of well-paid engineers whose interest obviously is to push the project through while collecting enormous sums of consulting fees. The "public" will be steamrolled by experts loaded with mostly incomprehensible statistics. What ever happened to our old friend "Common Sense?" Why not just take out the fish ladder? It is folly to cut down mature oak trees with the promise of some shade in ten-plus years. This project is a bootstrap effort to spend the surplus ill-conceived Phoenix Lake debacle. Given the low margin of error, the questionable benefits, and the high costs of aesthetics and non-essential extras, I respectfully urge you not to approve moving ahead with the EIR Process and rejecting the proposed schemes for the FSA Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Scales  
4 Berry Lane, Ross

## Linda Lopez

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**From:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 6:03 PM  
**To:** Richard Simonitch; Linda Lopez  
**Subject:** FW: Ross Creek

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**From:** Julie Mcmillan <juliemcmillan@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 08, 2020 5:04 PM  
**To:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager <jchinn@townofross.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ross Creek

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Gary Scales <garrettscales@comcast.net>  
**Subject:** Ross Creek  
**Date:** July 8, 2020 at 4:02:54 PM PDT  
**To:** Julie McMillan <juliemcmillan@comcast.net>

Hi Julie, I thought the time would come when I stopped writing letters, but I guess I'll still be in there swinging for a while longer..

What all the experts fail to address (intentionally, or otherwise) is the fact that flooding south of the Lagunitas Bridge comes down Sir Francis Drake, Laurel Grove and MAGC and cannot get into the Creek. The intersection of SFD and Berry Lane is the low point. Water flows down from Ross Terrace and down from the intersection of Lagunitas and SFD. It will jump out of the channel at the Bridge as it has for years and will continue to flood houses on SFD. The new plans for San Anselmo will only accelerate the flow and make it worse for Ross. Water will not go back into the channel because of the new banks.

I respectfully believe the plan does not address the Sir Francis Drake flooding potential. And every time I have brought it up, I am told it does not exist.

Thank you for your good efforts.

Gary Scales

## Linda Lopez

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**From:** Joe Chinn - Town Manager  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 9, 2020 12:40 PM  
**To:** Richard Simonitch; Linda Lopez  
**Subject:** FW: Corte Madera Creek

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Gary Scales <[garrettscales@comcast.net](mailto:garrettscales@comcast.net)>  
**Date:** July 9, 2020 at 11:16:10 AM PDT  
**To:** [cwkmisc@gmail.com](mailto:cwkmisc@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** Julie McMillan <[juliemcmillan@comcast.net](mailto:juliemcmillan@comcast.net)>, Elizabeth Brekhus <[elizabethb@brekhus.com](mailto:elizabethb@brekhus.com)>, Elizabeth Robbins <[eliz.robbins@gmail.com](mailto:eliz.robbins@gmail.com)>, Beach Kuhl <[beachkuhl35@gmail.com](mailto:beachkuhl35@gmail.com)>  
**Subject: Corte Madera Creek**

Hello Bill, I called you earlier this morning. We have not met. I am one of the Town's curmudgeons I started Ross School in 1944 and somehow never have lost my interest and love for Ross. Served on the Town Council in the late 70s/early 80s. Spent nearly a decade on the Marin Art & Garden Center Board and even longer as a Trustee of Moya Library-Ross Historical. Janet and I live at 4 Berry Lane and our four children graduated from Ross School and three still live in Ross Valley.

I wanted to follow up on my note to the Council yesterday. When I was on the Council with Peter Brekhus, we unanimously approved a creek plan that had full support of the community and was extremely cost-efficient. The Corps ran out of money and the work was cancelled. During all the most recent public hearings on the ill-advised plan to take out FSA Park I repeatedly asked all the consultants what happened to the previously approved plan. No answers. Some vague remarks that on "further study, did not appear feasible..."

What is not being considered is that the flood waters will continue to come south down Sir Francis Drake from Lagunitas Bridge. Yes, I know the bridge was raised. But the cubic foot flow has not been significantly increased because the current footings are larger. If the improvements as proposed go ahead this flood water will not be able to get back into the creek channel and flooding will undoubtedly occur on the SFD homes, as it has done for years. All the water from the Laurel Grove watershed comes down Kittle Creek through the MAGC and under SFD at Berry Lane. The previous plans and experts were not able to adequately explain how all that additional water would enter the main channel.

There is no doubt something must be done to address local flooding. I am worried that the upstream projects are only going to exacerbate Ross's problems and the current proposed plan does not address the issues and has no guarantee of solving the problem, while it needlessly destroys our Park.

Respectfully yours,

Gary Scales

PS: I hope you don't mind if a copy the other Councilmembers as I raise a couple of issues not covered in my previous e-mail

## Linda Lopez

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**From:** John Crane <johncranefilms@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:09 PM  
**To:** Linda Lopez  
**Subject:** RE: Presentation and discussion of the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project

Linda - Here my comments for the Mayor and Town Council for tomorrow's meeting. Thank you. John  
July 8, 2020

Mayor and Town Council of Ross,

### **RE: Presentation and discussion of the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project**

I would like the Town of Ross to investigate whether or not the hydraulic modeling being used for the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project is accurate and trustworthy. The concern I have is the County will design mitigation measures for the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project and then reduce and/or eliminate them as they did for San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction (SAFRR).

The Town Council of Ross, is no doubt aware that the County has dropped its plans to add mitigation measures for all but 3 of the 19 homes originally identified to be intentionally flooded in the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction (SAFRR) project EIR 2018.

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, I asked Liz Lewis what parameters were changed for the SAFRR **Residential Scale Flood Risk Mitigation** prepared by Stetson Engineers, Inc. on December 3, 2019 as compared to the models used for the SAFRR EIR. Liz Lewis said that the hydrological models had not changed.

Two days later Hugh Davis called to say that they were wrong on two counts. First my First Finished Floor in the Stetson report was incorrect as I had pointed out and he agreed to correct it. This has happened to other homes, too.

Second, Hugh said he didn't know what parameters were changed for the Stetson Report. He said he shouldn't answer because he was not a hydrologist engineer and therefore he offered to set up a call with the hydrologist engineers. We will see if that actually happens.

I would like the Town of Ross to determine how the hydrological models were changed and they were used to eliminate the mitigation measures that were originally contemplated and anticipated. Has sedimentation, wood (or debris in the creek) been considered and which projects have been factored in? Are those projects actually going forward? And what level of flood protection are they striving for? I have been told it is only a 6-year level of flood protection not a 100-year or even a 25-year. Is that true?

What models are they using? Are the models the county using up to date? What if anything has changed?

This is important because the **Bridge Design Hydraulic Study Report for the Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement Project** points out the modeling has not be updated since 2010<sup>[1]</sup>, and that “to ensure consistency in the hydraulic analyses and CEQA documents across all flood projects<sup>[2]</sup>” it is being used for all bridge and flood projects in Ross Valley.

If the model being used is flawed in any way, it will potentially cause far more damage than the County has acknowledged.

Thank you.

John Crane

[Bridge Design Hydraulic StudyReport for the Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement Project](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q4jAmsC-x0pvmN8UyCzcaqz2OloJQxWe/view?usp=sharing)  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q4jAmsC-x0pvmN8UyCzcaqz2OloJQxWe/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>[1]</sup> **Page 7:** Based on the above review, the peak flow estimates at the Ross Gage under existing conditions in the Stetson 2011 CIP Study were adopted for this analysis. Note that the Stetson 2011 CIP used the available historical annual peak discharges up to 2010. At this time no attempt was made to update the flood frequency analysis using the data collected since 2010.

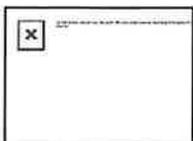
<sup>[2]</sup> **Page 9:** This model has been used for the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project EIR, the San Anselmo bridge replacement projects, the USACE's Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project10, the County's Lower Corte Madera Creek Levee Evaluation Project, and other flood projects in Ross Valley bridge replacement projects, including the Winship Bridge Replacement Project, to ensure consistency in the hydraulic analyses and CEQA documents across all flood projects.

### **John Crane Films**

415.847.5054

website: [www.johncranefilms.com](http://www.johncranefilms.com)

email: [johncranefilms@gmail.com](mailto:johncranefilms@gmail.com)



## Linda Lopez

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**From:** Hobart, Samantha <Samantha.Hobart@morganstanley.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 9, 2020 1:57 PM  
**To:** Linda Lopez  
**Subject:** Town of Ross 7/9/20 Meeting: Agenda #11 Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project

Hi Linda, thank you so much for offering us an opportunity to write in our comments. Can you please include the following in tonight's meeting. Hope you are well!

Dear Ross Town Council,

I would like to express my concerns over the mitigation measures for the residents affected by the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project. I live at 78 Sir Francis Drake and my home is directly impacted by the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project. The EIR for the SAFRR has not included any margin of error for the hydrological modeling and I would like to caution residents affect by the CMCFRM so they do not suffer the same errors. For the SAFRR, the flood district used the guidelines of the First Finished Floor as a measure to decide which residents would receive mitigation measures. I would like to strongly request that the Ross Town Council require a one foot margin of error if the Flood District wishes to still use the First Finished Floor in their EIR. For new construction, FEMA requires Base Flood Elevation + one foot as their margin of error and our residence should receive the same level of protection. Therefore, the mitigation measure would be First Finished Floor less one foot to protect these residents. Without this, homes are within less than an inch of flooding. Please protect our homes.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Samantha Hobart**  
78 Sir Francis Drake Blvs,  
Ross, CA 94957

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## Linda Lopez

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**From:** Jennifer Mota <jrosemota@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 9, 2020 1:45 PM  
**To:** Linda Lopez  
**Subject:** Town Meeting Agenda 11

Hello Linda,

I won't be able to attend the meeting later, but wanted to ask this question. If you could please ask it on my behalf during the Q and A I would appreciate it and then my neighbors will fill me in on the response.

My name is Jennifer Mota and I am the owner and resident of 82 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

For some background, I was told mitigation would be provided for my home and then told there will be no mitigation even this project is going to raise the water level at my home.

It has been stated the hydronic equation or model has not changed so I am wondering what has changed to go from helping 18 homes (including mine) with increased water levels to only 3? Where is this information located? If aspects of the project changed was a new EIR performed after changes were made, if not why? And why is this project going to happen even though it is knowingly negatively impacting my home and my neighbors with no mitigation in place?

Thank You,  
Jennifer Mota

Sent from my iPhone

## Linda Lopez

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**From:** Doug Ryan <dougryan999@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 9, 2020 2:30 PM  
**To:** Linda Lopez  
**Subject:** My comments on tonight's meeting

Linda,

Thank you for accepting our comments. My work schedule may preclude my participation in tonight's meeting. My name is Doug Ryan and I own and reside at 74 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

First, I would like to know the status of the request for indemnity the Town was supposed to make to the County regarding Winship Bridge replacement. A condition of approval was the request for indemnity being made of the county. Please provide the day the request was made.

As we all know, mine is one of the thirteen or so homes that the County Board of Supervisors acknowledged would be negatively impacted (in English, flood more frequently or flood when it hadn't before) as a result of what is commonly referred to as the San Anselmo Flood Control Project.

Now, miraculously, and I am sure in no way related to the cost of mitigation, the Project Managers in defiance of the laws of physics have stated my house will actually see a BENEFIT from putting additional water into the creek upstream at the site of the building demolition in San Anselmo. I have been asking for two years what the compounded potential error is in all the calculations and have yet to receive a numeric response. I have also asked if the worst case scenarios in all these calculations are what they are using to determine that now my property won't flood. I was told initially by Chris Martin, President of the Flood Control Advisory Board, in a public meeting, that any mitigation at my house would be fully paid for by the County. I have since requested at several subsequent meetings of the Flood Control Advisory Board to receive either a copy of the video of the meeting or the minutes and nothing has been provided.

Supervisor Katie Rice both told me to my face after the meeting when the BOS approved this and nearly a year later at my house reiterated that if additional water came onto my property as a result of this the County would mitigate and pay all costs of mitigation. She has since refused to either acknowledge her statements or dispute them. The most recent data I have seen specific to my house indicates the water level will indeed go up as a result of this project.

I say all this as background because as another flood control project is being contemplated I strongly request the Town Council be active participants and advocates for its constituents and not allow the County to run roughshod over more citizens of Ross. Please make sure to get every commitment in writing. My experience suggests strongly that the County will say one thing and then do another. I am just concerned other residents downstream of me will now be subject to the same lack of transparency I have experienced.

I also suggest any mitigation standards use as a baseline the first finished floor (FFF) plus one foot that FEMA suggests. At our house, they are using solely the FFF. Again that increases the risk of flooding and when asked about that the project managers copout is "that's what's in the EIR".

Please reach out to me for more details or clarification.

Regards,  
Doug Ryan  
415.297.8402