



ACTION CALENDAR

June 13, 2006

LINDA MAIO
Councilmember
District 1

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmembers Linda Maio and Darryl Moore

SUBJECT: Ballot Measure: A Clean Water Measure to Address Severe Flooding, Sewage Contamination, Creek and Culvert Improvements

RECOMMENDATION:

Request placement of a measure on the November ballot to address severe flooding, sewage contamination, creek and culvert improvement—A Clean Water measure.

BACKGROUND:

Recent storms have demonstrated all too clearly that our storm sewers (well over 80 years old) and infrastructure are inadequate to the task of managing the large volumes of water we receive during sustained and strong downpours. Recent big storms have caused massive flooding in various parts of the city to the point where people navigated via kayak and canoe on some streets. Businesses were flooded causing serious losses. Memorabilia and valuable materials stored in basements were completely destroyed. One family lost all of their photographs, performance costumes and objects. Another family's car nearly floated away. Many of these losses were heartbreaking and have caused damage beyond the family's ability to repair. Added to that, the amount of hazardous material that washed into the bay during these floods is immeasurable.

This measure could help us begin to address these needs. It can also be used to offset the cost of sewer lateral repairs with the goal of encouraging residents to examine and repair illegal connections and broken pipes so as to avoid raw sewage contaminating our neighborhoods and the Bay. In addition, we could begin to address creek/culvert repair situations, and address our need to improve the cleanliness and health of our creeks.

An amount of \$50/year per household along with the commercial component could yield ~ \$2.0M, enabling us to double the budget and get us started on this major infrastructure need. The people who lived in Berkeley 80 years ago dug into their pockets and paid for the storm drains that are now seriously in disrepair. It is now our turn

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

To be determined; roughly \$50 per household and \$1.9M toward clean storm water, if passed.

CONTACT PERSON:

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