



# Agenda Report

---

**Agenda of:** November 19, 2025

**Department:** Mayor

**Subject:** Discussion and possible action regarding the Garcia Creek Drainage Improvement Project and direction to proceed with a design-build delivery approach.

## Recommended Motion:

Motion to authorize staff to move forward with the Garcia Creek Drainage Project as presented.

## Background:

The Garcia Creek Drainage Improvement Project originated from the City's Drainage Master Plan (January 2023), which ranked Garcia Creek as one of Castroville's top five capital drainage priorities. The project aims to stabilize the channel downstream of the Geneva Street bridge, where accelerated erosion has threatened the Geneva Street culvert, adjacent private property, and public infrastructure.

Preliminary engineering by Lochner Engineering began in early 2025 following council direction in July 2025 to advance Option 1 – Stabilize the Culvert and Channel Banks with a Wall System (estimated at \$1.1 – \$1.5 million) into final design. Field investigations and independent technical reviews in August and October 2025 confirmed significant bank erosion—approximately 20 feet over the past decade—and reaffirmed the need for comprehensive channel stabilization. At the October 28, 2025 council meeting, staff presented the findings of Lochner's preliminary engineering and reviewed several structural alternatives intended to restore channel capacity, reduce erosion, and protect the Geneva Street crossing

## CURRENT STATUS AND RECOMMENDATION

Following subsequent field review, **Mayor Bruce Alexander** and **Councilman Phil King** met onsite in early November to discuss the most effective path forward. They recommend that the City shift from the current design-bid-build process to a **design-build delivery method** to expedite completion, streamline accountability, and leverage the engineering work already completed.

The design-build scope would utilize Lochner's existing data and documentation to solicit proposals from qualified firms for a comprehensive restoration of the drainage channel to its original 1980s grade and configuration, including:

- Reinforced sidewalls and properly sloped embankments using cement-stabilized backing materials;
- Work limited to the existing drainage channel;
- Emphasis on reducing erosion and avoiding adverse downstream impacts.

This approach will also require **Lochner Engineering** to transmit all project work products, calculations, and supporting files to the City, along with a written recommendation on next steps.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff supports the Mayor's and Councilman King's recommendation and requests City Council authorization to:

1. Direct **Lochner Engineering** to deliver all project work products completed to date, along with a written technical summary and recommendation.
2. Authorize staff to develop and issue a **Request for Proposals (RFP)** or **Request for Qualifications (RFQ)** for a **design-build solution** to complete the Garcia Creek Drainage Improvement Project.
3. Ensure all design-build proposals are consistent with the established project objectives and limited to the existing drainage easement.

## **Fiscal Impact:**

Estimated **total** project cost: **\$0.8– \$1.2 million** (includes engineering costs already incurred)

Funding source: Drainage capital improvement allocation (budgeted).

Final fiscal commitment will depend on competitive design-build proposals and Council award of contract.

☒ **Budgeted**   ☐ **Requires Budget Amendment**

## **Source of Funding:**

**Urgency (0-5 = Low Urgency to High Urgency): 5**

**Impact (0-5 = Low Impact to High Impact): 3**

**Submitted by: Mayor Alexander**