

STAFF REPORT

ITEM: Floodplain Permit Application for bridge rehabilitation at 24th Avenue SW over Merkle Creek.

APPLICANT: City of Norman Public Works

ENGINEER: Aguirre & Fields

UPDATE

This permit application was previously considered and approved by the Floodplain Permit Committee on April 20, 2026. However, it was determined that the original public notification mailouts contained an incorrect meeting date. As a result, the permit is being reconsidered for ratification by the Committee to ensure that affected property owners have a full and proper opportunity to express their views regarding the application.

Updated and corrected public notification letters were mailed to property owners within 350 feet of the project location notifying them of the May 18, 2026 public hearing. No changes have been made to the proposed permit application, plans, supporting analyses, or staff recommendation since the Committee's original approval.

BACKGROUND

The proposed project consists of rehabilitation of the existing bridge structure at 24th Avenue SW over Merkle Creek. The project includes maintenance-related activities such as bridge deck repairs, channel clean-up, minor wingwall extensions, and joint sealing.

According to the submitted no-rise certification, the work is limited to maintenance activities and does not include modification of the channel alignment or floodplain geometry.

Additionally, the engineer provided estimated cut and fill volumes indicating a net reduction of material within the floodplain (approximately -7.0 cubic yards overall), demonstrating that the project will not introduce additional fill into the floodplain.

All disturbed materials within the channel are limited to replacement of previously eroded or displaced materials and are considered routine maintenance.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The project is located within a mapped floodplain (Zone AE). The proposed work consists primarily of maintenance and minor rehabilitation activities to existing infrastructure.

The submitted no-rise certification confirms that the proposed work will not result in any increase in the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). The work does not alter the channel flow line or banks and is consistent with routine maintenance activities.

The submitted cut/fill analysis demonstrates a net decrease in material within the floodplain, indicating no encroachment or loss of floodplain storage.

Based on the information provided, the project maintains floodplain conveyance and storage characteristics and complies with applicable floodplain development requirements.

APPLICABLE ORDINANCE SECTIONS (36-533)

- (e)(2)(a) - Fill restrictions in the floodplain
- (e)(2)(e) - Compensatory storage
- (f)(3)(8) - No-rise considerations

DETAILED ORDINANCE ANALYSIS

(e)(2)(a) and (e)(2)(e) - Fill Restrictions and Compensatory Storage

The project does not propose placement of fill within the floodplain. The submitted analysis indicates a net reduction in material, confirming that no compensatory storage is required. All material placed within the channel is limited to replacement of previously eroded material and is considered maintenance.

(f)(3)(8) – No-Rise Requirement

A no-rise certification has been provided by a registered professional engineer stating that the proposed project will not result in any increase in the Base Flood Elevation.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of floodplain permit application #741.

ACTION TAKEN:
