



## **Flooding in San Ramon and the City's Response**

### **Floods in San Ramon**

As with almost all communities, residents in San Ramon can experience local flooding due to intense storm events. In addition, certain areas in San Ramon are in recognized flood prone areas that have been mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This includes the areas shown on Figure 1. This potential for flooding is due primarily to severe rainfall events that exceed the capacity of South San Ramon Creek to contain the waters that it collects. The greatest risk of overtopping occurs on PG&E land near the Del Mar Dog Park and along the San Ramon Golf Club and at Alcosta Boulevard near Fircrest Lane.

### **On-going Efforts to Reduce Risk and Impacts**

In order to minimize the risk of flooding the City of San Ramon undertakes a range of activities. These include:

- Annual maintenance of the flood control channels within City easements, including much of South San Ramon Creek.
- Annual maintenance of local storm drains on City streets.
- Periodic larger projects to sustain the channel capacity.
- Participating the FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS), which currently provides residents with a 20% discount of flood insurance.
- Annual reminder letters to all property owners to purchase flood insurance.
- Annual reminders, and when necessary code enforcement actions, where creek maintenance is a private responsibility.
- Providing sand bags to residences.
- Assisting in emergency response to reduce impacts, clear debris and restore services.

### **Long-Term Flood Risk Reduction**

Reducing the flood risk for residents beyond the measures discussed above is difficult to do, but in theory exists. The primary methods of reducing flood risk are:

- Raising structures above the level of the flood.
- Diverting water by increasing channel capacity or protecting areas with levees or floodwalls.



- Reducing the peak flood by detaining or absorbing storm water upstream.

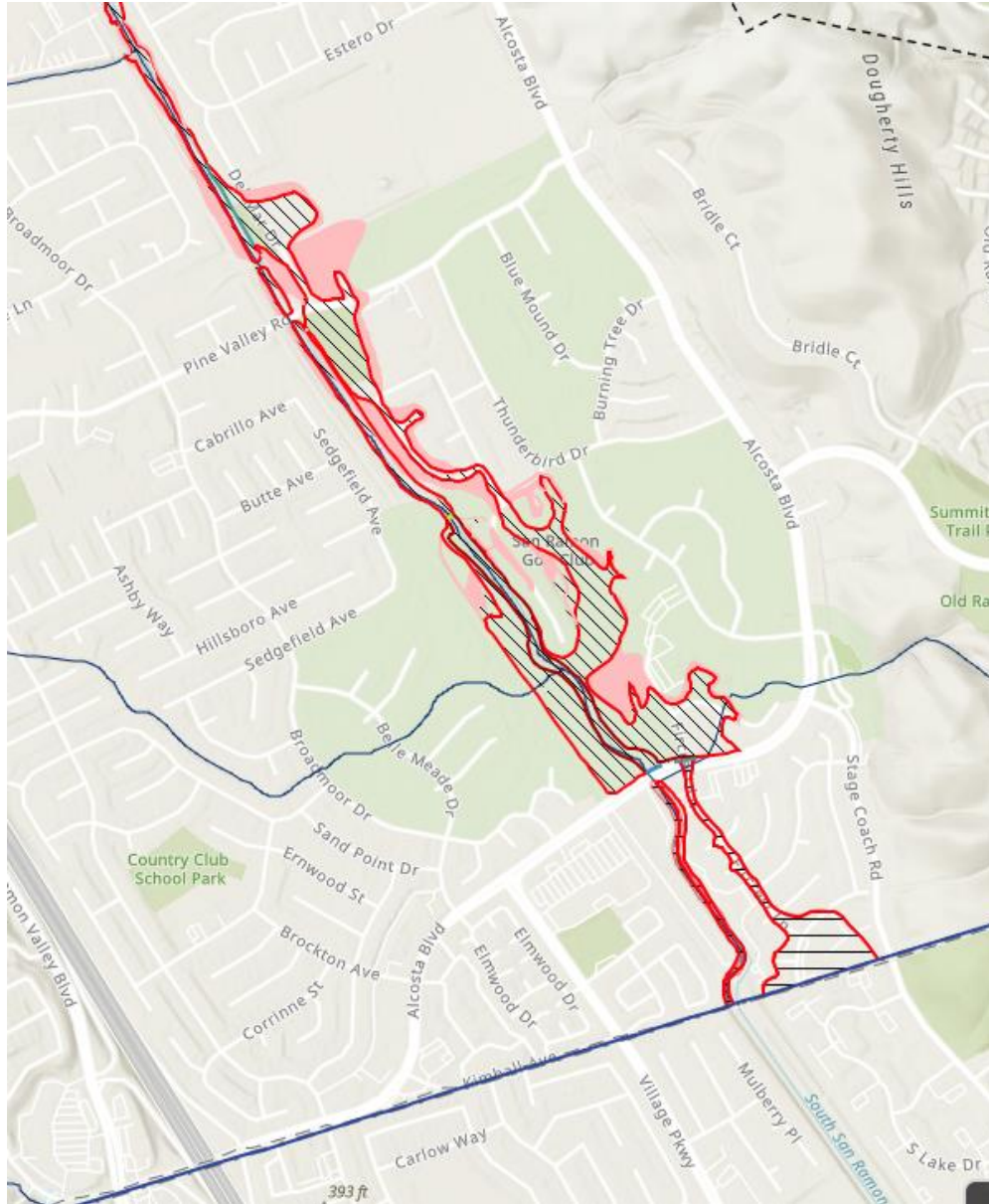
Implementing any of these measures requires:


- careful engineering analysis;
- consideration of environmental impacts;
- consideration of impacts to downstream property owners;
- extensive permitting from State and Federal Regulatory Agencies;
- consideration of private property rights; and
- funding.


City staff continuously keeps an eye out for opportunities to partner with other agencies, obtain grants, or otherwise encourage these reduction efforts.



Figure 1 - Mapped Flood Zones in south San Ramon



 0.2 percent per year or greater risk of flood

 1 percent per year or greater risk of flood