

**REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL****TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:**

DATE: April 22, 2014

SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 14-20 SUPPORTING THE WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL AND ITS ACTIVITIES (NO FISCAL IMPACT)**Report in Brief**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 14-20 supporting the Walnut Creek Watershed Council and its activities. The Walnut Creek watershed involves the lands that drain into Walnut Creek—which includes lands from 9 incorporated communities and portions of the County. The Walnut Creek Watershed Council (WCWC) was created in 2012 as a voluntary, non-regulatory stakeholder group that supports a healthy and sustainable Walnut Creek watershed.

Background

The Walnut Creek watershed is the largest watershed in Contra Costa County, totaling almost 150 square miles (96,000 acres), and it covers over 20% of the County. The Walnut Creek watershed includes portions of the cities of Concord, Lafayette, Martinez, Orinda, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon and Walnut Creek, and the towns of Danville and Moraga, plus several unincorporated county communities such as Pacheco, Alamo and Diablo.

The Walnut Creek Watershed is comprised of five subwatersheds: the Clayton Valley Drain, Pine Creek Watershed, San Ramon Creek Watershed, Las Trampas Creek Watershed, and Grayson Creek Watershed. Walnut Creek itself forms the boundary between four of the subwatersheds. The nine-square mile Clayton Valley Drain is the smallest of the subwatersheds in the basin and it is located entirely within the City of Concord. The Clayton Valley Drain is fully urbanized, except for a small section on the Concord Naval Weapons Station. The Pine Creek Watershed is the second largest of the subwatersheds at approximately 31 square miles and drains the northwestern slopes of Mount Diablo through the cities of Walnut Creek and Concord. The main tributary to the Pine Creek Watershed, Galindo Creek, flows from private ranch lands on Mount Diablo through the City of Concord, Newhall Community Park, and Markham Nature Area. Galindo Creek and Pine Creek converge downstream of Monument Boulevard and flow into the Walnut Creek channel downstream of Waterworld in Concord.

The Walnut Creek Watershed Council (WCWC) was created in 2012 as a voluntary, non-regulatory stakeholder group that supports a healthy and sustainable Walnut Creek watershed. It works to protect and enhance the watershed and to facilitate actions that increase awareness of the watershed, implement watershed projects and to be a forum for sharing information and activities that affect the watershed. The WCWC facilitates activities and actions in the watershed and assists with the resolution

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of watershed wide issues and provides public education of watershed goals. The WCWC also undertakes watershed wide activities, such as shepherding projects funded on a watershed basis, coordinating watershed wide creek clean-up efforts, promoting training, tracking projects in the watershed and documenting watershed conditions, and works to secure funding for watershed related activities and projects.

Discussion

Being a voluntary, non-regulatory stakeholder group, the WCWC relies on its stake holders to provide staff support on an available basis. Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (RCD) is a non-regulatory agency that works with individuals, growers, ranchers, public agencies, non-profit organizations and corporations to facilitate conservation and stewardship of the natural resources in Contra Costa County. One of the roles of the RCD has been to support watershed councils, and it has consistently applied for funding to provide such support. The RCD has recently secured funding from the Contra Costa Flood Control District and the Water Conservation District to provide the administrative support to the WCWC. In prior years, the City of Walnut Creek has provided the administrative support to the WCWC.

The City of Concord is the largest City within the Walnut Creek watershed. With the addition of the City of Concord, the WCWC will have the support of eight of the nine Cities and towns within the watershed, as well as the Contra Costa Flood Control District, and will be more competitive in future grant funding opportunities. The following are some of the benefits of the Walnut Creek Watershed Council for the municipalities, agencies, and other groups within the watershed:

- **Municipal Regional Permit Coordination** – The latest Storm Water Permit issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, known as the Municipal Regional Permit, requires several activities that are best performed at a watershed level. For example, trash reduction must be achieved by each municipality and would be most effectively coordinated on a watershed basis. This will be more evident as permittees approach the higher levels of trash reduction. The Municipal Regional Permit specifies that trash must be reduced 40% by 2014, 70% by 2017, and 100% by 2022. Creek clean-ups are another activity that is used to educate residents on the importance of clean water and have some physical or tangible clean-up results. Water quality sampling, monitoring and tracking would also be more efficient at the watershed level. Each year the Storm Water Permit requirements will become more costly and will become more difficult for cities to fund. The use of volunteer workers will likely play a larger role in the future as a result. The WCWC can provide a forum to coordinate creek clean-up activities and engagement of volunteer workers.

- **Flood Protection Improvements** – The Flood Control District has 22 miles of concrete and earthen channels and several detention basins in the Walnut Creek watershed. This is the Flood Control District's largest flood protection system within the County. The Flood Control District over the years has improved and expanded its facilities and will continue to do so. Prior to the formation of the WCWC there had been no coordinating body for watershed assessments or comments on proposed projects to existing or planned flood protection facilities. The WCWC has been a good forum for discussion and coordination of flood protection activities within the watershed.

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- Habitat Coordination – The East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan coordinates habitat restoration and preservation in East County. There is no similar coordinated effort in the Central or West County. There is currently more than 25,000 acres in the Walnut Creek watershed that are owned and managed by various entities for open space purposes. The open space areas protect and preserve habitat value, riparian vegetation, wildlife corridors, aesthetic vistas, storm water quality and storage, and recreational opportunities. More acreage is added each year but there is no formal coordination for specific purposes, such as habitat value and wildlife corridors. The WCWC could eventually provide such an overview of the open space areas in the watershed.

If the Council determines to adopt the proposed Resolution supporting the WCWC and its activities, staff recommends that the on-going participation and monitoring of the activities of the WCWC be handled by the City Engineer and supported by his staff. The City Engineer will provide periodic updates, as needed, to the Council regarding the activities of the WCWC and other opportunities for participation.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to providing the resolution of support.

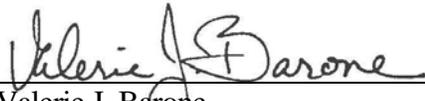
Public Contact

The agenda has been posted in accordance with the legal requirements.

Recommendation for Action

Staff is recommending that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 14-20 supporting the Walnut Creek Watershed Council and its activities.

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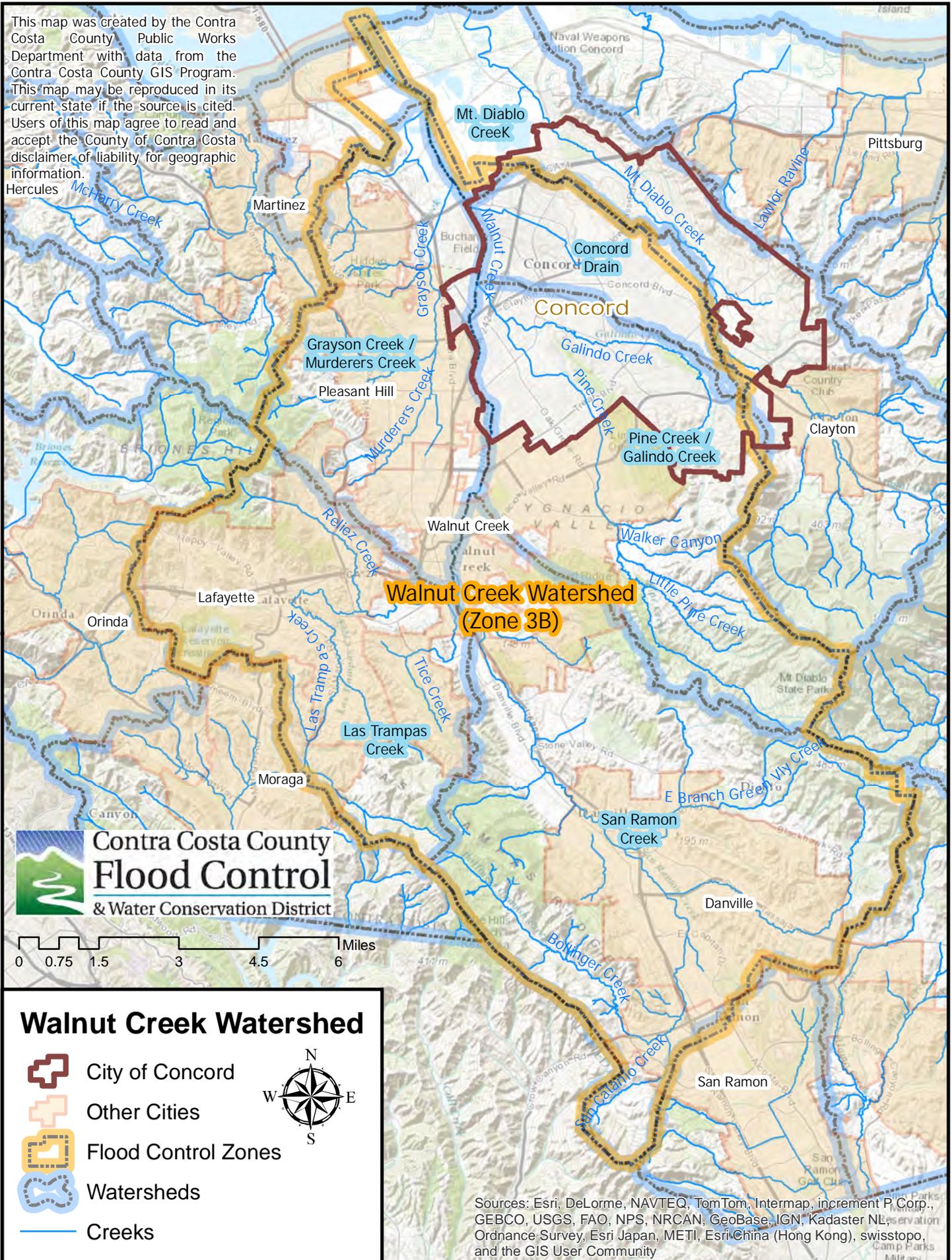
Reviewed by: Victoria Walker
Director of Comm. & Econ. Develop.
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Attachment 1: Map of the Walnut Creek Watershed

Attachment 2: Resolution No. 14-20

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This map was created by the Contra Costa County Public Works Department with data from the Contra Costa County GIS Program. This map may be reproduced in its current state if the source is cited. Users of this map agree to read and accept the County of Contra Costa disclaimer of liability for geographic information.



 **Contra Costa County**
Flood Control
& Water Conservation District

0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6 Miles

Walnut Creek Watershed

-  City of Concord
-  Other Cities
-  Flood Control Zones
-  Watersheds
-  Creeks



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P, Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

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**BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONCORD
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**A Resolution Supporting the Walnut Creek
Watershed Council and Its Activities**

Resolution No. 14-20

WHEREAS, the Walnut Creek Watershed is the largest watershed in Contra Costa County totaling 150 square miles (96,000 acres) in size,; and

WHEREAS, the Walnut Creek Watershed includes portions of the cities of Concord, Lafayette, Martinez, Orinda, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon, and Walnut Creek and the towns of Danville and Moraga, and several unincorporated County communities such as Pacheco, Alamo and Diablo, the; and

WHEREAS, more than 25,000 acres in the watershed are owned and managed by various entities for open space purposes that protect and preserve habitat value, riparian vegetation, wildlife corridors, aesthetic vistas, storm water quality and storage, and recreational opportunities, and that also define the communities in the watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Walnut Creek Watershed Council is a voluntary, non-regulatory stakeholder group that supports a healthy and sustainable Walnut Creek Watershed, and works to protect and enhance the watershed and to facilitate actions that increase awareness of the watershed, implement watershed projects and to be a forum for sharing information and activities that affect the watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Flood Control District has its largest flood protection system in the Walnut Creek Watershed totaling 22 miles of concrete and earthen channels and several detention basins and there currently is no coordinating body for watershed assessment or comment on proposed projects to existing or planned flood protection facilities; and

WHEREAS, the NPDES Storm Water Permit requirements (Municipal Regional Permit) for each of the municipalities and the County in the watershed requires coordination on a watershed basis and the Watershed Council could help coordinate and facilitate actions, such as creek clean ups, water quality sampling and trash assessments, that benefit the entire watershed; and

1 **WHEREAS**, interested parties can participate in this Watershed Council by adopting this
2 resolution, and their voluntary participation is effective upon their passage of this resolution.

3
4 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONCORD DOES**
5 **RESOLVE** that the City Council of the City of Concord, adopts this resolution for the
6 **purpose of supporting a Walnut Creek Watershed Council.:**

7
8 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Concord on April 22, 2014, by
9 the following vote:

10 **AYES:**

11 **NOES:**

12 **ABSTAIN:**

13 **ABSENT:**

14 **I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing Resolution No. 14-20 was duly and regularly
15 adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Concord on April 22, 2014.

16
17 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

Mary Rae Lehman, CMC
City Clerk

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Mark S. Coon
City Attorney

21 cc: Walnut Creek Watershed Council
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