



## Memorandum

**To:** Mayor, Town Council  
**From:** Rick Wixom  
**Date:** September 17, 2021  
**Re:** **September 22, 2021 Town Council Meeting**  
**Budget Discussion re: Tributary Washes Erosion Hazard Analysis**

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During the last meeting as the Council discussed an agenda item regarding an erosion hazard analysis on tributary washes, the Council asked that staff look at the current year budget and determine if there are expenses that could be adjusted or postponed to enable this work to be done during the current fiscal year. As reported in the meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>, the cost for this proposed analysis would be approximately \$60,000-70,000 to complete.

Based on a review of this year's budget, I find limited opportunities to postpone other work to prioritize this analysis into the current year. Budgeted expenses that might cover the anticipated costs have been reviewed and prioritized by the Council and staff, included in the adopted budget and capital priorities list, and at this point are either under contract and in progress or been discussed with interested consultants and RFPs are being prepared.

My recommendation is to follow option 2 as outlined on the attached September 8<sup>th</sup> agenda item staff report. I recommend the tributary hazard analysis be added to the FY 22-23 – Year Two Consultants portion of the capital priorities list (attached) and be prioritized by the Council for inclusion in next year's operating budget.

## Consultant Needs

### FY 2021-22 - Year One (Immediate)

#### Admin

Ordinance revision consultants/Town Attorney		\$20,000	10-43-320
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#### Streets

Transportation consultant -Winderland/Paradise	UDOT grant match	\$45,000	10-60-310
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#### Community Development

Annexation Policy Plan		\$7,500	10-78-310
BRIC Application		\$15,000	10-78-310
Streetscape consultant/streetscape plan		\$60,000	10-78-310
Active Transportation Plan	Public Health grant	\$25,000	10-78-310
Misc ordinance revision consultants		\$20,000	10-78-310

#### Historic Preservation

Historic consultants (staff, SHPC, history center architect, history society)			
Projects/uses for removed ditch rock			

#### Water/Irrigation/Sewer Fund

Update GIS mapping		\$15,000	Split -310
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### FY 2022-23 - Year Two (Short Term)

#### Admin

Financial Consultant (building/facilities projects)			10-43-310
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#### Parks and Recreation

Parks Master Plan (last done in 2013)			10-70-310
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#### Community Development

Open space plan			10-78-310
Affordable Housing Assistance (if moving forward with CLT, PID, or TDR)			10-78-310
Erosion Hazard Study and Analysis of Tributaries		\$70,000	10-78-310

#### Water Fund

Culinary Water Master Plan (storage 2009) (treatment 2015)			51-40-310
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**FY 2023-24 - Year Three (Near Short Term)**

**Admin/Community Development**

Town Survey			10-43-310
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**Over Three Years (Long Term)**



**Memorandum**

**To:** Town Council  
**From:** Thomas Dansie  
**Date:** September 3, 2021  
**Re:** Erosion Hazard Analysis of Tributary Washes

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In July 2020 the Town adopted an Erosion Hazard Ordinance that requires property owners to mitigate erosion hazards when property in the Virgin River corridor is developed. The ordinance is based on a detailed analysis of the river corridor which identified specific factors indicating where property is at risk of erosion hazard. The ordinance requires new development to address these erosion hazards in a way that protects and enhances the health of the Virgin River. The ordinance only addresses erosion hazards along the main channel of the Virgin River. It does not address erosion hazard associated with side tributary washes.

When the Council adopted the erosion hazard ordinance in 2020 there was brief discussion of erosion hazards associated with side tributary washes. The Council acknowledged these risks, but did not regulate the tributary washes in the ordinance because the prerequisite erosion hazard analysis had not been completed.

Recent flood events on tributary washes serve as a reminder of the destructive potential of flooding on side washes. Climate change modeling predicts that severe precipitation events capable of producing destructive floods will increase in frequency and intensity in the future. It is likely that destructive flooding on side washes will become more frequent in the future.

The Council may wish to consider completing an erosion hazard analysis of the side tributary washes. This will allow areas near side tributary washes at risk of erosion hazard to be included in the erosion hazard ordinance. This will promote safety and avoid property damage by requiring mitigation of erosion hazards at the time property is developed.

Rosenberg Associates completed the original erosion hazard analysis of the main channel. They have submitted an initial estimate of \$60,000 to \$70,000 to complete a similar analysis of the side tributary washes, depending on how many tributaries are analyzed.

The current budget does not include funding for this analysis. Recent flooding, mentioned above, has highlighted the risk of destructive flooding and erosion on the tributary washes. Thus, staff is bringing this item to the attention of the Council now as a proposed priority.

If the Council desires to move forward with an erosion hazard analysis of the side washes there are a number of different strategies to fund this study:

1. Make an amendment to the current year's budget to fund the study. This would likely mean postponing other projects that are in the current year's budget. The Council should select this option if the erosion hazard analysis of tributary washes is a very high priority.
2. Include funding in the 2022-23 budget for the study. This would allow the study to go through the normal budget process. But it would mean delaying the study for one year. The Council should select this option if the erosion hazard analysis of the tributary washes is a medium high priority.
3. Place the study on the Town's Capital Projects list for funding in the next three to five years. The Council should select this option if the erosion hazard analysis of the tributary washes is a medium priority.

In any of these scenarios there is a potential of grant funding to help defray the cost of the study.

Staff anticipates receiving direction from the Council regarding this item at the Council meeting.

