

From: Sue Whiteman <suewhiteman063@gmail.com>

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Subject: Planning Commission Meeting 9/14/21

To: Julia Sommer <juliamsommer@gmail.com>

Ashland Planning Commission Regular Meeting September 14, 2021

We support the comments made by Julia Sommers of the Ashland Village HOA board. We reside within the HOA and have been involved in this project since the blackberries were removed in the spring of 2021 revealing the nature of the creek.

Our property borders both the proposed development and Beach Creek. The stream is designated intermittent ephemeral flowing from the mountains into Bear Creek. It is part of the City's storm water drainage system.

Onsite visits have occurred with Rogue River Watershed Council, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation, Plant Oregon and Derek Severson to address our concerns about past and future erosion and flooding.

All restoration specialists have noted the KDA section of the creek is straight, deep and narrow resulting in an accelerated flow.

At KDA's north property line, a large pile of debris including concrete culverts, tires, steel wheels etc was dumped into the creek diverting water toward our house. It has already caused 10 feet of erosion along a 10 foot drop off. That area is now bare soil and crumbling.

Measuring from the eroded bank there is 11 feet to our property line and another 13 feet to our house.

The creek then winds along the HOA's 1 acre section, slowing the flow of water until it exits through the culvert.

Previous to blackberry removal, a neighbor across the creek has moved his fence a couple of times due to erosion. In addition, approximately 5 years ago the culvert was blocked, flooding an HOA house located close to the culvert.

A video was recorded of the creek following a .08 inch rain event showing the culvert 2/3 full. The restoration specialists have viewed it and Derek has a copy.

During the onsite visits we were informed the KDA portion of the creek will continue to get deeper and narrower, further increasing the risk of erosion and flooding downstream.

The County's report dated 7/16/21 recommends netting be placed along the drop off by our house before winter rains arrive to reduce the potential for erosion.

During our discussions with Mark Knox addressing our concerns, he has consistently stated he does not want to disturb the creek corridor including the pile of debris.

We are requesting the planning commission support KDA's collaboration with our HOA, the County and City to mitigate erosion and flooding downstream.

Thank you,
Sue and Gery Whiteman
Ashland, Oregon