



# AGENDA REPORT


**TO:** Jestin D. Johnson  
City Administrator

**FROM:** Liam Garland  
Director, Oakland Public  
Works Department

**SUBJECT:** Collaborative and Clean Creeks  
Agreement

**DATE:** May 4, 2026

City Administrator Approval

  
Jestin Johnson (May 13, 2026 06:25:09 PDT)

Date: May 13, 2026

## RECOMMENDATION

**Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To 1) Enter Into An Agreement With The Alameda County Flood Control And Water Conservation District (District) To Accept Funds In An Amount Not To Exceed One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000.00) To Implement The Collaborative Creek Improvement And Clean Creeks Programs (Programs) Over A Five Fiscal Year Term From July 1, 2026, Through June 30, 2031 (Term); 2) Appropriate Funds In An Amount Not To Exceed One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000.00) From the District To Implement The Programs For The Term Of The Agreement; And 3) Adopt Appropriate California Environmental Quality Act Findings.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approval of the proposed resolution will authorize the City of Oakland (City) Public Works Department (OPW) to enter into an agreement to accept \$1,600,000.00 from the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) for implementation of the Collaborative Creek Improvement And Clean Creeks Programs (Programs) over a five fiscal year term from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031 (Agreement), and subsequent appropriation of the funds upon Agreement authorization by both the District and the City.

The Collaborative Creek Improvement and Clean Creeks Programs (Programs) include work to implement watershed management, creek protection, and stewardship activities that support the City and the District's efforts to meet flood control objectives, improve water quality, benefit communities, and protect Oakland's storm drainage system, creeks and water bodies, and the San Francisco Bay.

## **BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

The District and OPW have worked in collaboration since the late 1990s to implement the Collaborative Creek Improvement Program and the Clean Creeks Program, which are carried out by OPW's Bureau of Design and Construction, Watershed and Stormwater Management Division (Watershed Division) and the Bureau of Environment, Environmental Services Division, Stewardship Program (Stewardship Program) respectively.

Under Section 504(l) of the Oakland City Charter, the City Administrator may, when directed by Council "...represent the City in its intergovernmental relations and ...negotiate contracts for joint governmental actions, subject to Council approval."

Since 1996, the City Council has authorized eleven consecutive agreements with the District to provide funds to the City for staff costs and expenses to implement the Programs. The most recent agreement authorized by 88565 C.M.S., between the City and the District for Fiscal Years (FY) 2021-2026 will expire on June 30, 2026. The new Agreement's scope of work is negotiated between the City and the District and includes semi-annual reporting requirements and billing for reimbursement. The proposed new Agreement is provided in **Attachment A**.

## **ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

Upon Council approval, the Agreement with the District can be fully executed, and acceptance and appropriation of District funding to implement the Programs will help the City and the District achieve the goals of improving water quality, reducing flooding and erosion, enforcing against illegal activities that impact waterbodies including District facilities, leading inclusive and equitable public outreach, participation, and engagement, benefitting communities, and protecting and enhancing Oakland's storm drainage system, creeks, water bodies, and the San Francisco Bay.

Per the Agreement, District funding will be disbursed for costs incurred by the City to implement the Programs, budgeted at \$320,000 annually. Acceptance of these funds supports the Council's goals of implementing sound financial management policies by providing an outside funding source to reduce flooding and stormwater runoff pollution and protect Oakland's watersheds and waterbodies.

Continued District funding will reduce burdens on City resources by providing the following benefits:

- Protect and improve stormwater infrastructure, including creeks and waterways by guiding appropriate creekside development and management activities, increasing community engagement and stewardship, and implementing capital improvement projects.
- Enhance environmental and public safety by increasing community outreach, engagement and stewardship, which can reduce flooding, and pollution from illegal dumping or illicit discharges.
- Protect watershed health through outreach, training and collaboration, grant writing, illicit discharge response, and capital improvement projects.

Program activities will advance inclusion and racial equity by continuing to focus on creek and watershed clean-up and stewardship activities in neighborhoods most affected by racial disparities to support healthier and cleaner communities, and by continuing to engage stakeholders from Oakland neighborhoods most impacted by racial disparities—primarily West Oakland and East Oakland, which are located within the Oakland Estuary and San Leandro Bay watersheds. These areas, historically shaped by redlining and industrial zoning, face unique environmental risks including groundwater contamination and sea-level rise. By focusing on strategic engagement, outreach messaging, stewardship activities, and creek and watershed protection strategies, the City can continue to build on its efforts to address disparities and benefit our City as a whole.

## **RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS**

The Programs will help the City and the District achieve multiple goals, including improving water quality, reducing flooding and erosion, inclusive and equitable public engagement, and protecting and enhancing Oakland's storm drainage system, creeks, water bodies, and the San Francisco Bay. These goals align with several City of Oakland plans as described in this report section.

### ***General Plan (Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Element)***

The Programs in this agenda item are aligned with explicit policies requiring the protection and preservation of creeks and natural watersheds outlined in the Open Space, Conservation and Recreation (OSCAR) Element of the General Plan by implementing watershed management, creek protection, and stewardship activities.

### ***Oakland 2045 Safety Element***

The Programs in this agenda item are aligned with the Oakland 2045 Safety Element, specifically section 2.4 Hydrology and Flooding by supporting the inclusive and equitable public engagement work City staff will be conducting as part of the new Storm Drainage Master Plan that will help address storm-induced flooding in areas with inadequate stormwater drainage. The new Storm Drainage Master Plan will include a detailed and comprehensive examination of, including condition and sizing, its storm drainage system, and will model flooding conditions and create a list of high priority capital projects for future work.

### ***2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan***

This agenda item aligns with the City's Equitable Climate Action Plan Adaptation Action A-6, Expand and Protect Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity, Carbon Removal Actions CR-3 Rehabilitate Riparian Areas and Open Space, and CR-2 Expand and Protect Tree Canopy Coverage. Implementation of the Programs enhances the City's efforts to improve water quality and reduce flooding to protect, restore, and improve Oakland's creeks and waterways. These efforts help meet the City's Equitable Climate Action Plan Actions listed above.

### ***Oakland Environmental Justice Element***

This proposal includes alignment with OMC 2.29.170.2.B.9. adopted in 2016 and Oakland's first Environmental Justice (EJ) Element adopted on September 26, 2023, as part of the 2045

General Plan update by the City Council to address historical inequalities and meet state requirements (SB 1000) for prioritizing vulnerable neighborhoods with the aim to reduce disproportionate pollution, health risks, and socioeconomic burdens in low-income communities.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Approval of the proposed Resolution will authorize the acceptance of one million six hundred thousand dollars (\$1,600,000.00) from the District over the Agreement term of five fiscal years, from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031, and subsequent appropriation upon Agreement authorization by both the District and the City.

Per the Agreement, District funding will be disbursed for costs incurred by the City to implement the Programs, budgeted at \$320,000 annually, and will be deposited into the funding sources shown in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1: Program Funding Appropriations**

<b>Fund Source</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2990 - Public Works Grants Fund	30245 - Watershed and Stormwater Organization	1004385 - Collaborative Creeks Project	IN14 - Storm Drain Management & Maint.	\$240,000
2990 - Public Works Grants Fund	30683 - Environmental Remediation Organization	1004228 - Clean Creeks Project	SC26 – Sustainable Oakland Program	\$80,000
<b>Total Funding Per Fiscal Year</b>				\$320,000
<b>Total Agreement Funding Through FY 2031</b>				\$1,600,000

**PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST**

Through these Programs, that have been in existence for nearly three decades, significant public outreach and engagement will continue to occur, with a continued focus on reaching and working collaboratively with Oakland's priority equity communities. Primary goals of the Programs include increasing awareness of and participation in stormwater pollution prevention, flood protection, creek restoration and preservation, water quality protection, and improvement and enhancement of watershed-related volunteerism and stewardship through public outreach and related activities.

Watershed Division and Stewardship Program staff will utilize the City's Department of Race and Equity Inclusive Public Engagement Planning Guide, and the Department of Transportation's Geographic Equity Toolbox and the Environmental Justice Element, to develop

effective strategies for further improving inclusive engagement and equitable implementation of the Programs. These tools will guide the Programs' efforts to enhance outreach and inclusive engagement strategies in neighborhoods most affected by racial disparities to support cleaner, healthier, and safer communities.

For example, City staff will engage with community members to develop accessible, equitable, and community-focused outreach and education materials for East and Deep East Oakland residents. These outreach and education materials will focus on connecting residents to City services, including, but not limited to, Oakland's Adopt a Creek Volunteer Program, trash and illicit discharge abatement services, opportunities for youth engagement, and resources for creek care.

Through the implementation of these Programs, communities will also be engaged in opportunities to protect, restore, and enhance urban green space, increase nature-based recreation and educational opportunities, and address safety concerns. Community members will be engaged through equitable collaboration in the development of these opportunities and initiatives.

### **COORDINATION**

The work to be implemented under the Programs will continue to be coordinated with the District, Oakland Parks and Recreation and Youth Development, Department of Race and Equity, the Department of Planning and Building, the Oakland Fire Department, and appropriate divisions within Oakland Public Works.

This report and resolution have been reviewed for form and legality by the Office of the City Attorney and the Budget Bureau of the Finance Department.

### **RACE AND EQUITY**

Implementation of the Programs will result in cleaner, healthier, and safer communities throughout the City and will benefit neighborhoods impacted by racial disparities by providing stewardship opportunities and access to natural amenities, reduced trash levels, and opportunities to help develop accessible, equitable, and community-focused outreach and education materials and campaigns on flood-related topics, stormwater pollution prevention, and watersheds and creek protection throughout Oakland.

In addition, various efforts implemented under the Programs will be designed to provide and track benefits to the 25 most burdened census tracts according to their share of Oakland's population. These census tracts include Oakland's highest percentages of Black and Latinx residents and have the highest cumulative environmental pollution burden, according to CalEnviroScreen 3.0 and the Environmental Justice Element of the General Plan.

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on the basis that: (1) it is an action taken for the protection of the environment (CEQA Guidelines Section 15307) and (2) there is no possibility of a negative impact on the environment (CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption).

Implementation of the Programs enhances the City's efforts to improve water quality and reduce flooding to protect, restore, and improve Oakland's creeks and waterways.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To 1) Enter Into An Agreement With The Alameda County Flood Control And Water Conservation District (District) To Accept Funds In An Amount Not To Exceed One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000.00) To Implement The Collaborative Creek Improvement And Clean Creeks Programs (Programs) Over A Five Fiscal Year Term From July 1, 2026, Through June 30, 2031 (Term); 2) Appropriate Funds In An Amount Not To Exceed One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000.00) From the District To Implement The Programs For The Term Of The Agreement; And 3) Adopt Appropriate California Environmental Quality Act Findings.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Terri Fashing, Watershed and Stormwater Division and DD Program Manager, at 510 238-7276.

Respectfully submitted,



Liam Garland (May 11, 2026 16:45:17 PDT)

**LIAM GARLAND**  
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Reviewed by:  
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Attachment (1):

A: Agreement Related to the Clean Creek Program and the Collaborative Creek Improvement Program