

March 21, 2023

Dear Editor,

The lower Cosgrove Creek watershed was described in 2006 by Public Works as follows: “more than 100 existing structures within the historic 100-year floodplain; development-induced hydrologic changes are widening the floodplain; deferred channel maintenance is decreasing channel flow capacity; and flood-related damage in five of the last ten years.”

The conditions were outlined as part of a PowerPoint presentation to the Board of Supervisors titled, “County Government’s Role in Flood Control.” The study session featured Cosgrove Creek. The flood risk for the creek has continued to escalate for 17 years and recently culminated in the most damaging flooding to date which left many homes uninhabitable.

In 2006, Public Works requested direction from the Board to “respond to the immediate problem,” which meant “routine channel maintenance to re-establish flow capacity.” They requested direction on development and implementation of “long-term plans for flood control in the Cosgrove Creek watershed” and direction on the pursuit of “funding and construction of detention basins.”

Public Works pointed out, “Calaveras County does not have a flood control district or any other entity with authority or responsibility for maintaining natural drainages.” Public Works asked the Board, “Should we pursue formation and funding of a flood control district?”

Think about what could have been accomplished in 17 years if the 2006 Board had formed a flood control district. Think about what could have been accomplished if any Board since 2006 had done anything but exercise the option to do nothing about Cosgrove Creek flooding.

You can read the 2006 PowerPoint presentation here: [calaverascap.com/govtfloodctrl](http://calaverascap.com/govtfloodctrl)

Sincerely,

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