

Section 1

Introduction

1.1 Background

The City of Soledad owns and operates a municipal storm drainage system for the residents and businesses within its service area. The City periodically conducts studies to comprehensively plan for current and future storm drainage requirements and flood protection.

This Storm Drainage Master Plan only updates the storm drainage information in the City's unofficial Hanna & Brunetti 2000 storm drain impact fee study. The drainage impact fees and nexus study will be addressed in a separate study following the City Council's adoption of a Current Storm Drainage Master Plan. Since 1999-2000, the City has experienced extensive development in the northern portion of its service area. In addition, the current General Plan was adopted in 2005.

To address these changes and adequately plan for storm drainage facilities for existing and future users, the City requested that RM Associates (RMA) prepare an update to the 2000 Storm Drain Study. This report presents the updated City of Soledad Storm Drainage Master Plan (SDMP).

1.2 Scope of Services

To prepare the updated Storm Drainage Master Plan, the following tasks were completed.

- Task 1 - Project Management/Coordination and PDT Meeting
- Task 2 - Develop Planning Criteria
- Task 3 - Gather Existing Data.
- Task 4 - Identify existing storm drain systems from previous drainage reports, drainage plans and subdivision plans, development plans and FEMA maps.
- Task 5 - Evaluate Existing Data.

- Task 6 - Identify tributary watershed areas for 20 Year Specific Plan and 50 Year Specific Plan for the 2005 General Plan (General Plan document per city web site, dated January 2004).
- Task 7 - Storm Drainage System Design and Analysis for 20 Year Specific Plan and Drainage Impact Analysis of 50 Year Specific Plan
- Task 8 - Recommended Capital Improvement Program
- Task 9 - Final Report and Presentations

1.3 Study Area

The City of Soledad is located in southern Monterey County about 25 miles south of the City of Salinas in the heart of the fertile Salinas Valley, an agricultural region of Statewide and even national importance. To the east is the Gabilan Range and Pinnacle National Monument. To the west is the Coast Range and the Los Padres National Forest; beyond lies the rugged Big Sur Coast.

Soledad incorporated as a city in 1921 and derives its name from the Mission Nuestra Senora de la Soledad (Soledad meaning “solitude”) established by Father Fermin Lasuen in 1791 on the land west of the Salinas River. Figure 1-1 is a General Location Map and Figure 1-2 is a GIS Aerial Photo Vicinity Map of Soledad, California.

Figure 1-3 shows the study area of the 2007 Storm Drain Master Plan. To determine the limits of SDMP study, all the individual watersheds that affect those areas of short term and long term growth were first determined.

The proposed growth of Soledad is controlled by the land use element of the adopted 2005 General Plan (GP). The future long term growth is controlled by both the 50 year Sphere of Influence (SOI) and the 20 year Sphere of Influence on the adopted land use plan.

Limits of study area were determined by mapping individual watersheds that will generate storm water runoff into those areas encompassed by the 50 year SOI.

Each major watershed mapping includes identity of the drainage courses and those points that divide a watershed/drainage basin where a “drop of water” will flow towards certain drainage courses. A set of points indicates a “grade break,” or commonly referred to as a Ridge Line, where said drop of water on one side flow towards a certain drainage course, whereas another drop of water on the other side of said ridge line flows to a different (adjoining) watercourse.

Mapping of each major watershed is a process that commences first with the determined boundary of various sub-basins which join together to create a basin and basins and then join together to create an individual watershed. The mapping proceeds so that run off characteristics of each individual sub-basin is retained.

The individual areas of each major watershed are combined with those areas of proposed development (the 50 year SOI). This combining of watershed and areas of development define the ultimate limits of the Soledad SDMP study areas. Figure 1.3 encompasses an area of 14.2 square miles or approximately 9108 acres.

1.4 Prior Trunk Drain Improvement

In the early 1970's, the Bryant Canyon Channel, the 60 inch storm drain from Front Street to the Wastewater Treatment Plan, and the Vosti Park 42 inch storm drain through Vosti Park to the Caltrans Channel, were constructed by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency. No major flood control projects were completed until the construction of the Los Coches Industrial Park and associated drainage facilities in 1986. In 1998, a portion of the trunk main west of West Street in Gabilan Drive and the Western Front Street Sub-basin improvements were constructed.

1.5 Acronyms & Abbreviations

AF	Acre feet
BC	Bryant Canyon
CE	Cental
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFS	Cubic feet per second
CIP	Capital Improvement Plan
CT	Caltrans
ENR	Engineering News Record
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
Ft	Feet
GIS	Geographic Information System
In	Inch
In/hr	Inch per hour
LC	Los Coches
LSV	Lower San Vicente
MCWRA	Monterey Country Water Resources Agency
MR	Moranda

MS	Mirrasou
MV2	Miravale II
MV3	Miravale III
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service (formally SCS)
RMA	RM Associates
SBUH	Santa Barbara Urban Hydrograph
SCS	Soil Conservation Service
SDMP	Storm Drain Master Plan
SOI	Sphere of Influence
USV	Upper San Vicente

1.6 Acknowledgement

This report would not have been possible without valuable assistance of the City's staff, especially:

Mr. Cliff Price, Public Works Director

Mrs. Pat Argued-Serrano, Assistant Engineer

Mr. Peter Le, Associate Engineer

Mr. Walter Grant, City Engineer
Mark Thomas & Company, Inc.

“Insert” Figure 1-1

Location Map

“Insert” Figure 1-2

Vicinity Map

“Insert” Figure 1-3

Study Area Map