

**CITY OF COOS BAY  
JOINT CITY COUNCIL / URA WORK SESSION  
Agenda Staff Report**

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM NUMBER</b>
April 25 2017	

TO: Mayor Benetti and City Councilors

FROM: Randy Dixon, Operations Administrator

THROUGH: Rodger Craddock, City Manager  
Jim Hossley, Public Works and Community Development Director

ISSUE: Potential Projects for Old Wireless Lane and Englewood Dike

**SUMMARY:**

Due to repetitive flooding issues, using FEMA funding, the City has been able to acquire all the property along Old Wireless Lane off Southwest Boulevard. City staff met with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) personnel about possible redevelopment options for Old Wireless property. If the City considered applying for Restoration and Enhancement grant (R&E) through ODFW there is no match, it is 100% funded. The only catch to the grant is that Old Wireless Lane property would be redeveloped into a recreational Boat Ramp facility, including restrooms, parking lot, and boat ramp. There may be other grant funding opportunities through Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to create pedestrian improvements to the top of the dike while also making repairs to the dike itself.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Staff is seeking Council's direction regarding the use of staff resources to pursue grants to make recreational improvements along Old Wireless Lane and the Englewood Dike.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Englewood Diking District encompasses property in the County and City of Coos Bay. The dike protecting properties in the District is primarily within the County. The dike was constructed in 1856. The dike has experienced several overtopping events and significant leaks over the last few decades. With the assistance of FEMA funding, the City has purchased all the flood prone homes along Old Wireless Lane. Abutting the City owned Old Wireless Lane property is a small portion of the dike belonging to the Englewood Diking District. There are approximately 21 property owners within the diking district, including the City. Over the years, the diking district has struggled to maintain the dike. Members just recently raised their annual maintenance assessment to \$50.00 annually.

The Englewood Dike is of great value to citizens of both the City and County. If the dike breaches, significant damage to property and City infrastructure is likely. Loss of life is also possible. Homes will be unfit to live in and several that are above the floodwaters will be inaccessible due to

inundated roads. Two City of Coos Bay pump stations would be overwhelmed and damaged, and 1.5 miles of sanitary sewer main would be flooded limiting service to residence. Southwest Boulevard runs parallel to the dike. If the dike breached, Southwest Blvd could become impassable due to floodwater. Travel by residents, workers, school buses, and emergency service equipment would need to detour using Shinglehouse Road, Hwy 101, or Libby Lane to Cape Arago to get to or from downtown Coos Bay.

As mentioned previously, the diking district has struggled to maintain the dike. The diking district approached the City in January 2015, seeking assistance. Staff performed an assessment of the dike, which was completed in March 2015. City staff approached FEMA with the dike assessment in hopes to secure a grant to cover cost for design and construction. FEMA approved a \$125,000 grant to address 687 LF of the dike for design/engineering. A construction grant would be approved after design was completed. This was presented to the Englewood Diking District members in December 2016, at which time the District informed City staff that the District could not cover the cost of match.

City staff met with Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) about possible redevelopment options for Old Wireless property. If the City considered applying for Restoration and Enhancement grant (R&E) through ODFW there is no match, it is 100% funded. The only catch to the grant is that Old Wireless Lane property would be redeveloped in to a recreational boat ramp facility, including restrooms, parking lot, and boat ramp.

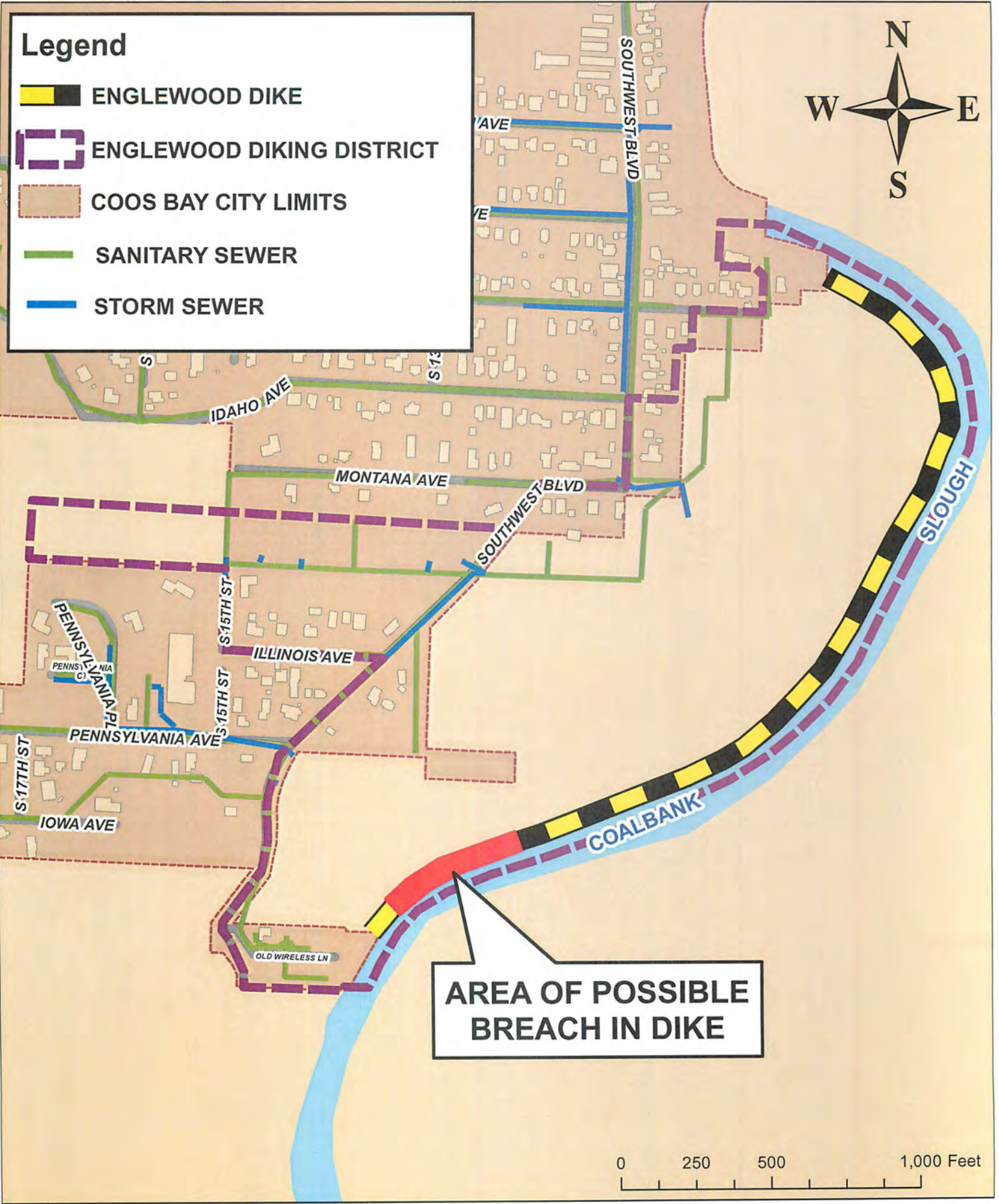
There is also a possibility for a recreational grant through Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to construct a walking path on top of the dike from Old Wireless Lane perhaps to California Avenue. As part of constructing the path, the dike would be renovated/repared. It may be possible to use the boat ramp facility improvements as the match for the path.

#### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

There would be significant staff time necessary in developing grants and negotiating with various partners. Depending upon our success with grants, there could be 0% to 20% grant match for the dike repair and trail. The cost of the match could be in the vicinity of \$300,000.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

City of Coos Bay Utility Map (Sanitary Sewer)  
Englewood Dike Floodplain Map (Impacted Areas if Breached)



# ENGLEWOOD DIKE LOCATION MAP

