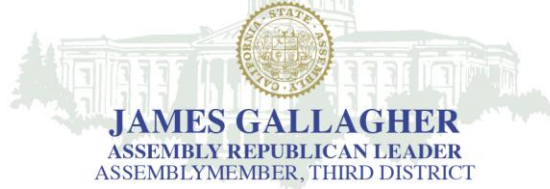


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March 3, 2025

Assembly Member Steve Bennett
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4
1021 O St., Suite 8239
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Funding for Five-Mile Basin Sediment Removal

Dear Chair Bennett:

I respectfully request that the Budget Committee support the removal of approximately 67,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Five-Mile Basin in Butte County. This project is critical to ensuring public safety, protecting homes and businesses in Chico, and mitigating the severe flood risk exacerbated by the 2024 Park Fire.

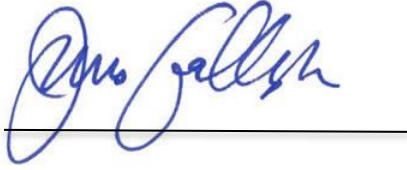
The Five-Mile Basin serves as crucial flood control infrastructure, originally constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to divert excess storm water from Big Chico Creek, Lindo Channel, and Sycamore Creek. However, environmental restrictions and regulatory challenges have prevented necessary maintenance, leading to significant sediment accumulation that has greatly reduced the basin's capacity. Recent atmospheric river events have brought water levels dangerously close to overtopping basin infrastructure, underscoring the immediate need for action.

Given the regional importance of this flood control system, state support is critical. The estimated total cost to remove the sediment is approximately \$7 million. However, the **immediate funding need is roughly \$1.6 million for environmental review, permitting, mitigation, and public outreach** to raise the additional construction cost of \$5.4 million.

The county has explored multiple funding options, including assessing the existing County Service Area 24 Chico Mud Creek Drainage District for potential funding. However, the full cost of the project may place an excessive burden on residents within the district.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you require any further information or would like to discuss this project in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact Amazing Benamati in my office at (916) 319-2003.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Gallagher", written over a horizontal line.

James Gallagher
Assemblymember, 3rd District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan Dahle", written over a horizontal line.

Megan Dahle
Senator, 1st District

Cc:

Members, Assembly Budget Committee

Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4

Christine Miyashiro, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4

Joseph Shinstock, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus