



Bexar County Commissioners Court

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Commissioners Court receives 40 percent design of San Pedro Creek Improvements Project

Commissioners Court on Tuesday approved the 40 percent design of the San Pedro Creek Improvements Project and authorized the San Antonio River Authority to proceed with the 70 percent design and securing donations of right-of-way needed to construct the first two phases. Commissioners Court also learned the first phase will be complete in time for the City of San Antonio's 300th anniversary on May 5, 2018.

"Spanish explorers founded some of the first permanent civil and religious settlements in Texas on the banks of this creek on the feast day of Saint Peter," Commissioner Paul Elizondo said. "From that time, San Pedro Creek played an integral role in the early land development of our city's urban core. This project will turn the focus back to the importance of San Pedro Creek on this city's history."

The overall goal of the San Pedro Creek project is to contain the creek within the 100-year floodplain, restore and improve water quality, and reconnect people to this storied and historic natural resource through a linear urban park. Once complete, the project also will tie into the Museum and Mission reaches of the San Antonio River as well as the City of San Antonio's planned Apache Creek and San Pedro Creek Linear Trails. The 2-mile project also will remove 30 acres of Downtown property from the floodplain.

"Just as we did with the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River, this project will be equal parts flood control, economic development, ecosystem restoration and cultural preservation," County Judge Nelson Wolff said. "San Pedro Creek is the true birthplace of San Antonio, but right now you wouldn't know it's importance by looking at it."

According to the 40 percent design documents, Phase I would begin with at the creek's tunnel inlet at Interstate 35 and end at Cesar Chavez Boulevard. The phase includes converting the unsightly tunnel inlet into the Tree of Life Plaza that would create a welcoming gateway to four distinct character areas heading downstream.

- *Villa Lagunilla* or Town Lake: this section from the tunnel inlet extending to Travis Street would include a small town lake neighborhood park with opportunity for redevelopment.
- *Salon de Alameda y Agua Antigua* or Alameda Venue and Ancient Water: two combined character areas from Travis Street to Dolorosa Street would be anchored by the Alameda

Theater and provide an amphitheater for outdoor performances, improve access to the creek and improve storm water conveyance.

- *El Merodeo* or the Meander: the final character area of the first phase extends from Dolorosa Street to Cesar Chavez Boulevard and would restore the original meandering waters of the creek. This section would decrease the floodplain and provide opportunities for small waterfalls and rapids that improve water quality.

The estimated construction cost for both phases is \$110.8 million and is within the County's commitment of \$125 million to the project.

"We entered this project knowing that we would need to find more partners in the public and private sectors to contribute, whether financially or through land donations," Judge Wolff said. "I think getting the design and construction processes moving will help us gain the momentum we need."

Bexar County authorized the San Pedro Creek Study in 2012 and presented the results of that study in May 2013 along with a commitment of \$125 million toward the project. In December 2013 the design budget and team were approved by Commissioners Court. The final design phase was initiated through a cooperative agreement with the River Authority approved by Commissioners Court in February 2014.

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San Pedro Creek Improvements Project

40 percent design fact sheet

Phase I - Tunnel inlet at I-35 to Cesar Chavez Boulevard

- Complete by May 5, 2018
- Estimated construction cost \$84.5 million
- Points of interest
 - Tree of Life Plaza
 - Villa Lagunilla
 - Salon de Alameda / Agua Antigua
 - El Merodeo

Phase II - Guadalupe Street to South Alamo Street

- Complete in 2018
- Flood control work only
- \$26.3 million

Components of 40 percent design

- More in-depth investigation of existing conditions
 - Survey, utility coordination, geotechnical
 - Cultural resources
 - Permitting constraints, water rights and supply study
 - Floodplain hydrology and hydraulics



Components of 40 percent design (continued)

- Environmental Site Assessments for Phases I and II

- 196 soil samples
- All materials confirmed non-hazardous and can be transported and accepted at local landfill (same as household garbage)

Project Background

2012: Bexar County authorized Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)

2012: Bexar County, City of San Antonio and San Antonio River Authority executed Letter Agreement for interagency coordination on project

May 2013: Bexar County presented results of PER and authorized \$125 million toward project

December 2013: Bexar County approved design budget & design team

February 2014: Commissioners Court approved Cooperative Agreement with SARA authorizing initiation of final design phase, launching 40 percent design

April 2015: Commissioners Court authorizes permission to proceed to 70 percent design and securing of right of way for Phases I and II.