



Frequently Asked Questions

Palos Verdes Drive East & Palos Verdes Drive South Roadway Stabilization Project

Q: What is the problem at San Ramon Canyon?

A: *San Ramon Canyon has been eroding at an accelerated and alarming rate since the 2005 storm events, which resulted in a Presidential disaster declaration. Geologists and engineers conclude that the instability translates into possible roadway failure. The Canyon's streambed is now only a mere 86' from one of two hairpin turns on Palos Verdes Drive East (PVDE). Unchecked erosion of the bank will eventually cause complete roadway failure, and at that time reconstruction may be impossible.*

Q: Are there other problems caused by the erosion at San Ramon Canyon?

A: *Yes, every storm event requires emergency response to keep Palos Verdes Drive South (PVDS) open. In a recent very dry year, emergency response was still necessary eight times to remove silt and debris. If the PVDS roadway embankment was to fail, the debris flow could impact emergency operations, as well as impact over 250 homes and 500 senior residents located roughly 270 feet below San Ramon Canyon in the City of Los Angeles.*



Aerial Overview. Erosion conditions are accelerating; roadway failure is probable with reconstruction impossible.

Q: What is the Solution?

A: *The stabilization of Palos Verdes Drives East and Palos Verdes Drive South Roadway will require planning, engineering, environmental clearance and mitigation, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of significant drainage restoration work. Most of all, it will require cooperation at the local, state and federal levels.*

Q: What is the cost to fix the problem?

A: *The total cost of the project has been estimated at \$19.5 million. The City of Rancho Palos Verdes, City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County are working together to find a funding solution to complete the comprehensive project.*

Q: What studies have been or are being conducted?

A: *The City of Rancho Palos Verdes has commissioned and is paying approximately \$1.2 million for initial studies and design, including a Project Study Report, currently underway, which will provide three preliminary alternative designs addressing the issues in the Lower San Ramon Canyon area. This study will be completed in December 2010.*

Q: What funding has been requested from other agencies to help?

A: *RPV has aggressively sought funding for the project:*

- *A three-way partnership letter was signed in December 2009 by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Janice Hahn, and RPV Mayor Stefan Wolowicz all committing to fund a portion of the total project cost.*
- *The City of Los Angeles applied for and is hopeful to receive a \$500,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to improve the drainage system at the site.*
- *RPV staff submitted a \$9.75 million funding request to Senator Boxer's office and Senator Feinstein's in May 2010 for funding through the nation's Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).*
- *Congressman Dana Rohrabacher included a \$9.75 million funding request in the reauthorization of the nation's transportation bill. He has since taken a "no earmark" stance because of the budget deficit but the City is hopeful he will seek this funding in the next federal fiscal year.*
- *RPV staff has requested \$2 million in funding from the annual Transportation, Community, System Preservation account and \$900,000 from the annual Energy and Water Development bill.*



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Q: What political support does the project have?

A: Many elected officials are concerned about the condition of the San Ramon Canyon and publically support Federal and State funding to correct the problem.

- Don Knabe, LA County Supervisor
- Roderick D. Wright, CA State Senator
- Alan Lowenthal, CA State Senator
- Tony Strickland, CA State Senator
- Bonnie Lowenthal, CA Assemblymember
- Ted Lieu, CA Assemblymember
- Janice Hahn, LA City Councilmember
- Stefan Wolowicz, RPV Mayor
- Thomas D. Long, RPV Mayor Pro Tem
- Brian Campbell, RPV Councilmember
- Anthony M. Missetich, RPV Councilmember
- Douglas W. Stern, RPV Councilmember

Q: Do any of these political supporters really know the extent of the problem?

A: Yes, many of the elected officials have come to physically inspect the problem and are aware of the serious nature of the erosion problems.

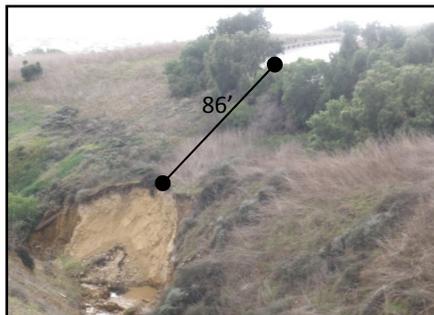
- Congressman Dana Rohrabacher toured the site in August 2009.
- A representative from Senator Barbara Boxer's office toured the project site in October 2009.
- The Los Angeles District of the Corps of Engineers toured the project site in November 2009.
- RPV staff has provided numerous updates to political leaders including a briefing packet with photos of the January 2010 storm event.

Q: Is the City getting any help to find funds for this serious problem?

A: Yes, RPV has secured the services of a professional grant management firm that identified over 40 funding opportunities for the City's consideration, including six that would specifically help with the San Ramon Canyon project.

Q: Can the problem really be corrected?

A: Yes, motivated local, regional, state, and federal political delegations are in support of correcting the problem. The City has been aggressive in seeking funding, and those requests are now in the queue. City staff has made great strides touring the site with our Federal Legislative Representatives to make them aware of the serious problem. The City is optimistic that real mitigation work will be accomplished in the near future in San Ramon Canyon.



San Ramon Canyon streambed and its proximity to the first hairpin turn on PDVE.



Looking down onto Palos Verdes Drive South/25th Street.



PVDS/25th Street is a principal arterial roadway, which is frequently closed during storm events.