



TOWN OF TRURO

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Department of Public Works Director Jarrod Cabral Re: Recommendation to the Select Board

February 2023 – To permanently close the road and install a 95-foot breach with a 100-foot-wide inner channel for the following environmental considerations.

Using the model developed by the Woods Hole Group, we can understand specific and far-reaching flood scenarios for Mill Pond. The state's flood risk model considers both current and future storm risks with sea level rise for the entire coastline and includes the 100-year storm (and larger storm events) both with and without sea level rise. As part of the Mill Pond alternative analysis, several sea level rise scenarios were applied to each alternative and further analyzed.

Today Mill Pond Road is vulnerable to overtopping from 10-year storm events. This means – regardless of which alternative is chosen the roadway will be overtopped unless the road is raised two feet. Elevating the road will provide protection against the 100-year storm event in the present day.

In 2070, the best-case scenario is raising the road by two feet would only provide protection from a 10-year storm event very similar to the vulnerabilities we see today. Additionally, closing the roadway will positively impact the environment and provide the best ecological and water quality results. In addition to the increased flushing, it would eliminate direct stormwater discharges from impervious surfaces, reducing existing pollutant loading. If the roadway was permanently closed, recreational benefits could be applied to the area. This could include installing a small pedestrian bridge to accommodate walkers and bikers; providing drop-off kayak areas; fishing and potentially shell fishing as the water quality improves over time, and more.

This recommendation directly ties into three Select Board Goals and Objectives.

Goal C: Protect and restore our fragile environment.

Goal D: Use long-term strategic planning to guarantee our community's future health and well-being.

Goal E: Proactively engage and involve town residents and property/business owners.

Objective 5: The Select Board will support and encourage projects that protect and restore our coastal community, and Mill Pond is listed as one of those projects.

Lastly, over the last budget cycles, the Town Manager directed staff to include the Climate Action Committee and the Energy Committee in the capital planning process to get their feedback and answer questions as we work our way through the annual capital project budget cycle.

This work directive from the Town Manager is also related to Objective 10: The Select Board will support and collaborate with the Climate Action Committee and the Energy Committee on creating a climate action plan. This recommendation was made with climate change and sea level rise in mind and will also provide the best water quality and restoration results.

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