

Temporary drainage solution devised for townhouse project

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Two recently constructed basins are serving as temporary solutions to drainage problems in the East Cliff Village shopping center area of Live Oak this winter.

Built by the developers of a housing project for low-income seniors and of a 26-unit townhouse project, the basins will serve as holding tanks for

storm runoff waters until the county can find a permanent solution.

"The reason for the temporary solution is to get us through the winter," said Carl Rom, civil engineering associate with the county's public works department.

The basins were constructed after California Coastal Commission officials shut down a 36-inch pipe designed to drain the Volunteers of America's low-income senior housing project. After neighbors complained, officials concluded that the pipe, which drained onto the privately owned Sunny Cove beach, had been improperly installed.

Only storm water that used to run down the cliff from the

street now drains through the Sunny Cove pipe, Rom said. The pipe will probably be left in place for that purpose, he added.

The county is preparing to award a contract for an environmental impact report that will assess permanent solutions estimated to cost as much as \$400,000, Rom said.

The deadline for contract proposals was last week, he said. After the contract is awarded, it will probably take another couple of months to complete the report.

Solutions that will be considered include running a pipe to Black Point or Coreoran Lagoon, or one to the end of Sunny Cove Avenue, Rom said.

Seven units of the townhouse project were delayed until the developer completed a drainage basin. Three of those units are now under construction, but four of them cannot be completed until the temporary basin is out of the way.

"Hopefully, we'll have a solution in place before next winter," Rom said.

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