

City approves funding for more flood control

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WATSONVILLE —

Prompted by flooding in the southeast part of town last week, the city will spend up to \$487,000 for flood-control improvements.

The spending plan, approved by the City Council last night, includes new water pumps, design of a new pump station, 13 pump failure alarms and a system that will page a city worker when the high-water alarms go off.

The city will try to recover some of the money from the county and the Zone 7 Storm Maintenance District. About half of the money being spent was already included in this year's budget.

An intense storm Feb. 20 caused flooding in the Bay and Pajaro Village retirement communities and on Bridge and Blackburn streets.

Koch said the flooding was caused by runoff from 400 acres of farm land between the city limits and Salipuedes Creek.

The runoff coming into the city's residential areas has increased because the fields have been converted from orchards to row crops, Koch said, and the water flows faster when



Becky Kimball

The city will add more water pumps like this one on Marchant Street.

there's no trees.

There are storm drains in Bay and Pajaro villages, Koch said, but they are not designed to handle water coming from outside the area.

Councilman Tony Campos said that because the water comes from outside the city, the city should ask the county to take care of the problem.

"Good luck," said Councilman Oscar Rios.