

Santaquin East Bench Debris Basins

Since the fall of 2017, Santaquin City has been working with NRCS/USDA and with Horrocks Engineers (as the design engineers) to create a “plan” for our east bench to protect homes and businesses from potential debris flows. You can read all about the background, findings, and recommendations in the plan on our website.

There are four parts/steps federal funding process and funding, as available.

First is/was what is called a Supplemental Plan Environmental Analysis (Plan EA). The Plan EA work is now complete and is in the form of our “Plan” discussed recently in City Council Meeting staff reports. This Plan EA is the work that began in the fall of 2017 and was completed and approved in fall of 2020 by the national headquarters of NRCS/USDA. This phase 1 work was **funded 100% by federal funds** available under the NRCS/USDA’s Watershed Operations program. Total amount awarded (from NRCS/USDA) \$370,000.00. Total amount used for Plan EA ~ \$290,000.00 (paid to Horrocks Engineers for design work).

The second step will be the Final Design phase. This phase has not yet begun because we were waiting on the final approved Plan EA and the federal funding for this Final Design work. This Final Design phase will include a full final design for five debris basins along our east bench, as detailed in the Plan EA. The Plan EA just identified what basins the city needs, size, and approximate locations to about a 20% concept design stage. This Final Design work is planned to be **100% fully funded** by funds available under the NRCS/USDA’s Watershed Operations program. Total amount is unknown as a design contract has not been prepared or executed to date. This is our next step phase. With the funding recently approved by NRCS/USDA, we are working to move this phase forward.

The third step will be property acquisition for the land needed to construct the five new debris basins. With no final design, and thereby not knowing exactly how much land and exactly where debris basins can/will go, this phase has not yet begun. It will begin after final design is complete. This phase is the one that Santaquin City has to cover all of the costs. **All land acquisition costs must be paid by Santaquin City** and are not funded at all by NRCS/USDA funds.

Fourth will be construction of the debris basins. With no final design, and no land acquisition, this phase has not yet begun. This construction work is planned to be **100% fully funded** by funds available under the NRCS/USDA’s Watershed Operations program. The total amount is unknown as a Final Design is not yet complete. This phase can only move forward with an approved by NRCS/USDA final design and once property acquisition is complete.

A potential timeline could look something like this:

- The Plan EA took 3 years (fall of 2017 to fall of 2020) (COVID caused a delay in the national review process)
- Final Design, once begun, could take 18-24 months (possible completion fall of 2022)
- Property acquisition could take 6-12 months, due to following federal processes and requirements (possible completion fall of 2023)
- Construction could take 18-24 Months (possible completion fall of 2025)

These times and approximate dates are only estimated. Santaquin City must follow all federal processes and requirements to qualify for the funding, which adds complexity and time to these projects.

