



## Item No. 4 Town of Atherton

### **ATHERTON CHANNEL DISTRICT – REGULAR AGENDA**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER**

**FROM: ROBERT OVADIA, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

**DATE: JULY 18, 2018**

**SUBJECT: ATHERTON CHANNEL DISTRICT OVERVIEW AND FINANCES  
– DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Discuss and provide direction regarding district financing options.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Atherton Channel District was formed in 1958 as a subsidiary district of the Town to construct and maintain stormwater collection facilities in areas determined to be in the local stream flood plain. District boundaries include most of the Town, a portion of unincorporated University Heights, and small areas of City of Menlo Park and Town of Woodside (see attached boundary map).

Under the direction of the City Council as the policy body, the Town manages the District, performing improvements based on revenues available. District accounting and administrative functions performed by Town staff and the District receives advances from the Town to finance operations. The financial activities of the District are included in the Atherton Channel District Capital Projects Fund in the Town's basic financial statements.

The district is comprised of approximately 2,470 parcels, broken down as follows: 1,354 in Atherton, 1,041 in Menlo Park, 12 in Woodside and 62 unlisted. The District receives a small share of the 1% property tax assessed on each of the parcels within the District Boundaries. The Town's FY 2018/19 operating budget estimates District Revenues at approximately \$83,000. These funds are used for channel cleaning and capital improvements, but revenues are insufficient to fund replacement of channel lining now fifty plus years old. The proposed water detention project within the Town has been proposed to be located within boundaries of the Atherton Cannel District. Maintenance costs of the proposed facility are estimated at approximately \$73,000 annually.

#### **ANALYSIS**

The San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission, prepared a Municipal Service & Sphere of Influence Review in 2008. The review indicated that revenues received by the District are insufficient to fund the full cost of maintenance channel and associated drainage systems, replacement of channel lining, creek bank stability and scour protection or reversal in unlined sections.

The Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP) requires that Permittees shift their impervious surfaces and storm drain infrastructure from gray, or traditional storm drain infrastructure where runoff flows directly into the storm drain and then the receiving water, to green — that is, to a more-resilient, sustainable system that slows runoff by dispersing it to vegetated areas, harvests and uses runoff, promotes infiltration and evapotranspiration, and uses bioretention and other green infrastructure practices to clean stormwater runoff.

Additional revenues will need to be identified to adequately maintain the Atherton Channel and its associated facilities as well as to maintain compliance with the MRP. Most options for increasing revenue will require a Proposition 218 vote by residents within the District boundaries.

### **POLICY FOCUS**

The Council's policy discussion should focus on revenue options and strategies for the Atherton Channel District, potential future projects within the District, organization/size of the District and timing of projects.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None at this time.

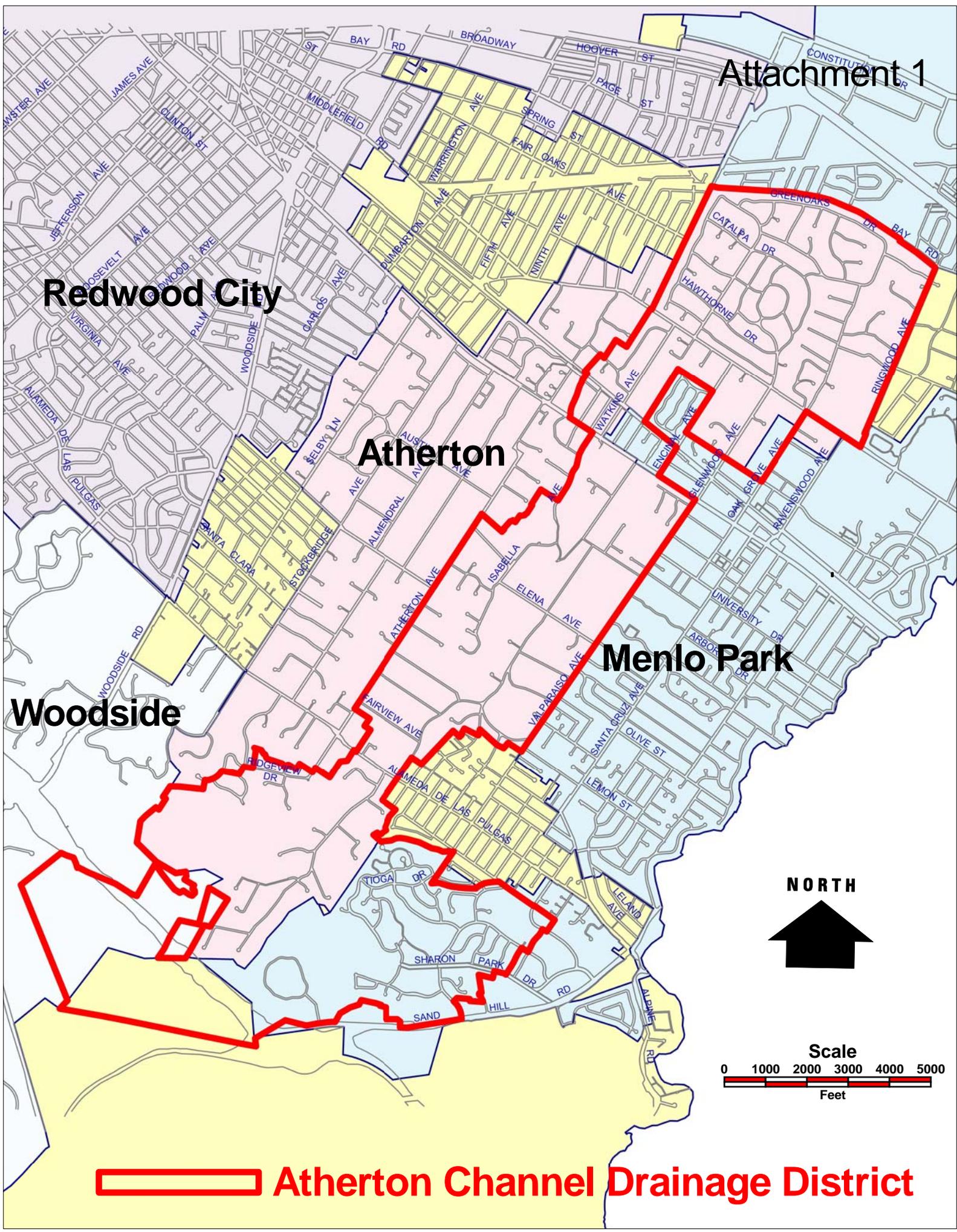
### **COMMISSION/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/REFERRAL**

This item \_\_\_ has or X has not been before a Town Committee or Commission.

- Audit/Finance Committee (meets every other month)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (meets as needed)
- Civic Center Advisory Committee (meets as needed)
- Environmental Programs Committee (meets every other month)
- Park and Recreation Committee (meets each month)
- Planning Commission (meets each month)
- Rail Committee (meets every other month)
- Transportation Committee (meets every other month)

### **ATTACHMENTS**

ATTACHMENT 1 – Channel District Boundary Map



**Redwood City**

**Atherton**

**Menlo Park**

**Woodside**

**Atherton Channel Drainage District**