

BV Resident possible Comment to USACE

The paragraphs below provide a framework for a Comment to USACE re their Clear Creek project. All comments must be postmarked by 2/14/12.

1. The 75 acres in our Nature Reserve is a healthy ecology with a wide range of flora and fauna including coyotes, bobcats, and most recently river otters. This riparian habitat has developed since the channelization in the 50s. This is a balanced ecology and should be left alone.

The process of excavating high wall channels below the actual 1955 level of the oxbows will totally destroy this balanced ecology. This ecology will not be repaired in the lifetimes of most of the current residents of BellaVita.

2. The largest oxbow fronts the base of the main embankment of the BV detention lake. Any river flow water would create the potential of eroding this earthen dam. If this dam were to be eroded under flood conditions a minimum of 50 acre feet of water would be immediately released into Clerk and would undoubtedly be catastrophic down stream. What is USACE doing to prevent this scenario?

4. The berm and the dense foliage create a privacy and sound break for the South side of BellaVita, which is gated and fenced on all other sides. BellaVita needs this privacy break to be maintained. What will USACE implement to replace this security function? Also, USACE documents indicate potential for 'recreational development'. BellaVita does not intend to ever have this private property open to the public. Does USACE intend to develop public recreation along this part of the Creek?

5. It is our opinion that creating channels for moving water that are closer to housing areas than currently creates a higher potential for those houses to flood. In BV this directly affects 65 houses that back onto Clear Creek worth \$13M, 58 adjacent houses on the street worth \$11.6M, 41 houses on the lake worth \$12.3M, and 34 adjacent houses on lake street worth \$9.3M. In addition the BellaVita clubhouse backs on lake and is worth \$2.5M. This is a \$48.7M total potential direct affect on lake or reserve streets. This number is approx \$150M for BellaVita total and does not include Villa d'Este which may also be impacted. If any of these numbers are added back to the project as 'new structures now in danger' the cost benefit of the project is significantly reduced.