



## Tice Creek @ Rossmoor Basin

The Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (FC District) received a grant from the State of California Department of Water Resources. The grant program was the Statewide Flood Emergency Response (FER) Grant Round 3 Under, Proposition 84: "The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality & Supply, Flood Control, River & Coastal Bond Act of 2006 Et Seq." The purpose of the grant awarded to the FC District was to fund a project that would determine flood stage elevations at 12 of the FC District's stream gauges and outreach to agencies and the public about the findings and use of those flood stages. This report documents the flood stage determination for Tice Creek using the stage at the stream gauge at Rossmoor Basin located off of Rossmoor Parkway near the entrance to Rossmoor in Walnut Creek.

### **RESULTS AND HOW TO USE THEM:**

Model analysis of the creek shows there could be several flood stage locations along Tice Creek. Table 1 lists the stream gauge stages along with locations where the associated flooding could occur. A map showing the locations in Table 1 can be found at the end of this document. The creek stage and flood stage can be read from a plot on the FC District's **RainMap** at [www.ccflood.us/rainmap](http://www.ccflood.us/rainmap).

*Table 1: Tice Creek @ Rossmoor Basin Gauge Stage and Flooding Location List*

Flooding Order	Gauge Stage	Flooding Location
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.0	Downstream of Castle Hill Road
1 <sup>st</sup>	7.0	Meadow Lane Bridge

**Note:** The gauge stage listed is the height of water above the sensor at the gauge. It is not the depth of water in the creek because the sensor is not set at the low point of the creek. The elevation of the water can be calculated by adding 238.37 feet. In the future we will likely provide both stage and elevation in our flood stage information.

### **Observing Flood Stage**

Anyone with web access can use the FC District's [RainMap](http://www.ccflood.us) ([www.ccflood.us](http://www.ccflood.us)) to observe the stage at the stream gauge. To view the stream gauge stage, go to RainMap. On RainMap, click the "**Datasets**" button in the upper left. A menu will drop down. Click on "**Water Level**" and the map will show all the points for the stream gauges the FC District operates. Then pan and zoom on the map until you find the location of the stream gauge you are interested in. Click on the point at the stream gauge location and a window for the stream gauge will pop up. The popup will have the name of the stream gauge, a table with the latest stage, and a plot of the stage for the last 7 days. The popup will also have links associated with the gauge (see example below).

### **Flood Stage Lines**

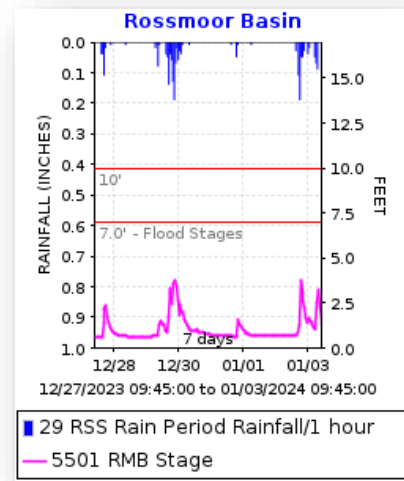
On the plot you see flood stage line(s) matching those in the table above. Not all of the flood stage lines will be shown. Other flood stage lines may be added if it is found they will help communicate the potential flooding better. If you click the plot, it will open another webpage that has the same 7-day plot you see in the popup and a wider plot of the gauge you choose with data for the last day. That page also has plots of all of the FC District stream gauges with their respective flood stage lines they have been determined.

### Flood Stage Information

Above the graph on the popup is a link that says, "[Flood Stage Information](#)". Clicking this link will go to a webpage with information about the flood stage. That page has a link which can be clicked to email feedback about when and where flooding from the creek was observed. This feedback is critical for confirming and correcting the flood stage.

### HOW THE FLOOD STAGES WERE DETERMINED:

The FC District engineering personnel (staff) started the development of the model by searching for existing models, creek flow data, terrain data, and engineering drawings. These were used to build the initial model. The following explains how each component that went into the model was developed.



### Model Limits

The limits of the model for Tice Creek were from upstream of Orchard Lane to the downstream end of the culvert under Rossmoor Parkway and Tice Valley Boulevard.

### Hydraulic Model

For this study, a new hydraulic model was created using 2008 LiDAR data from Contra Costa County. Geometric data was organized in the ESRI ArcMap GIS program and processed using the HEC-GeoRAS application tools. The output from these tools was used to create the HEC-RAS program. LiDAR was used to extract the cross sections used in the model.

Old creek models of Tice Creek were found but they were done many years ago. We were able to import those models into HEC-RAS but the cross section were found to minimally define the creek and the bridge and culvert data was hard to convert.

Staff collected as-built plans for several, but not all, bridges. The staff performed field surveying on some key bridges and cross sections. In the end the geometric data for the model was not perfect and the effort to make it perfect was beyond the scope and budget of the grant funded project. However, the FC District felt the model was adequate for the limited purpose of the project.

### Hydrology

Initially, steady flow hydrology data from the FC District records were used. Later, flow data from the USGS StreamStats website were incorporated to create multiple flow values along the creek, increasing progressively downstream. StreamStats is a website based program operated by the US Geological Survey (<https://streamstats.usgs.gov/ss/>). Flow estimates from StreamStats were generated for locations at Rossmoor Detention Basin, upstream of Tice Vly Blvd, upstream of Castle Hill branch, downstream of Castle Hill branch, Near Countryside, Meadow Lane Bridge, Castle Hill Rd, upstream of the confluence near Glen Court. These points were selected based on locations where significant tributary areas flowing into the creek.

For this project, the goal was to establish flows that maintained consistent relative magnitudes for each increase in stage at the stream gauge, rather than flows based on return periods. StreamStats does assign return periods to its flows using statistical regression. Therefore, if you were to examine the models, you would find the flows labeled with return periods (e.g., Q-10yr, Q-25yr). However, these values may not align with the flow rates the FC District would determine using its own standards.

The model was run with 8 different scenarios with increasing flows. Because the gauge is in the basin a bit upstream of the creek that was modeled, the stage in at the gauge was based on the stage outflow curve established in the detention basin models. Then the flows down stream of the model were estimated base on the relative magnituded between older design hydrology and the StreamStats values.

Base on older hydrology studies, we gather that flows escape Tice Creek at Tice Valley Boulevard and flow east to Meadow Road, then travels down Meadow Road and overland, likely through residential properties. Also, we know that flooding has historically occurred at the Meadow Lane bridge. Since flows escape at Tice Creek, the total flow would not continue downstream within Tice Creek. Based on notes in other studies, we assumed that only 600 cfs continues downstream from Tice Valley Boulevard. Doing this likely provides a better estimate of the level of flows in Tice Creek at the Meadow Lane bridge.

Flooding from Tice Creek occurs more often than most places in Contra Costa County. The hydrology for the watershed is complex with the detention basin and flows escaping the creek. Adding to that the tree cover making the LiDAR based terrain to be uncertain, will require ground proofing of when the flows escape the creek relative to the gauge stage in the detention basin. Gathering flooding locations and timing are essential to confirming or correcting the flood stages in Table 1.

### **FLOOD STAGE ANALYSIS:**

The HEC-RAS model was reviewed and adjusted to meet the project needs while staying within the project schedule and budget. Flow depths were analyzed using RAS Mapper, which overlays floodwater depths on the terrain, making it easy to identify when water levels exceed creek banks. By reviewing each model run, staff could observe where flooding occurred and document the flood flow scenarios and locations. If the results appeared inaccurate, the model was further reviewed and adjusted. Additional flow scenarios may have been incorporated as discussed above.

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

The flood stages presented in this report are intended to increase awareness of potential flooding. However, since these stages have not been validated by actual storm events, they should be used with caution.

Individuals using these flood stages for situational awareness during storms are encouraged to report observations to the FC District at [hydro@pw.cccounty.us](mailto:hydro@pw.cccounty.us). Please include the location, time of flooding, and any other relevant details. If the water level rises above the flood stage line without causing flooding, or if flooding occurs before the water reaches the flood stage line, the FC District needs to be informed.

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**DISCLAIMER:**

The flood stages in this report are based on models with inherent limitations and assumptions that may change over time. Use them with caution, as conditions in the creek channel and at bridge crossings can change seasonally and during storms due to debris blockages, bank failures, or fallen trees. Sediment buildup, vegetation growth, and human activities can alter the creek's capacity over time, reducing the accuracy of these models. Such changes may obstruct flow and lead to flooding at lower storm levels than predicted. Also, associated maps and websites may have errors or inconsistencies and real-time data is reliant on power and internet connections which can fail to operate and provide data in a timely manner. During stormy weather power and communications are more prone to fail. Use this information with caution and do not rely solely on this information and associated data when making decisions related to emergency situations.

This report may be revised and updated as needed based on feedback regarding flood stages.

**TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS (not all terms used in this report):**

**ArcMap** is a GIS program (see below) that can be augmented with other installed tools such as HEC-GeoRAS (see below). It is used extensively and is the most widely used GIS software and is created by Esri, Inc.

**Geometric data** is data representing the geometrical aspects of the creek including elevations, locations of cross section, spacing between cross sections, and bridge geometry information. It also includes values related to hydraulic aspects of the creek including roughness, obstructions, expansion and contraction coefficients.

**Graphical Information System (GIS)** is a type of mapping software used to store, map, and analyze geographic data in point, line, polygon, raster and database formats.

**HEC-GeoRAS** and **HEC-RAS** are software developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Hydrologic Engineering Center (HEC) who developed the River Analysis System (RAS) software. RAS Mapper works inside HEC-RAS.

**LiDAR** stands for **L**ight **D**etection and **R**anging and is a remote sensing technology that uses lasers to measure distances and create 3D maps. The data used was collected by LiDAR equipment mounted in an airplane.

File path: G:\fldctl\Hydrology\Streamflow\Flood Stage Reports\Final Flood Stage Reports\Tice Creek @ Rossmoor Basin.docx

Attachment: Map



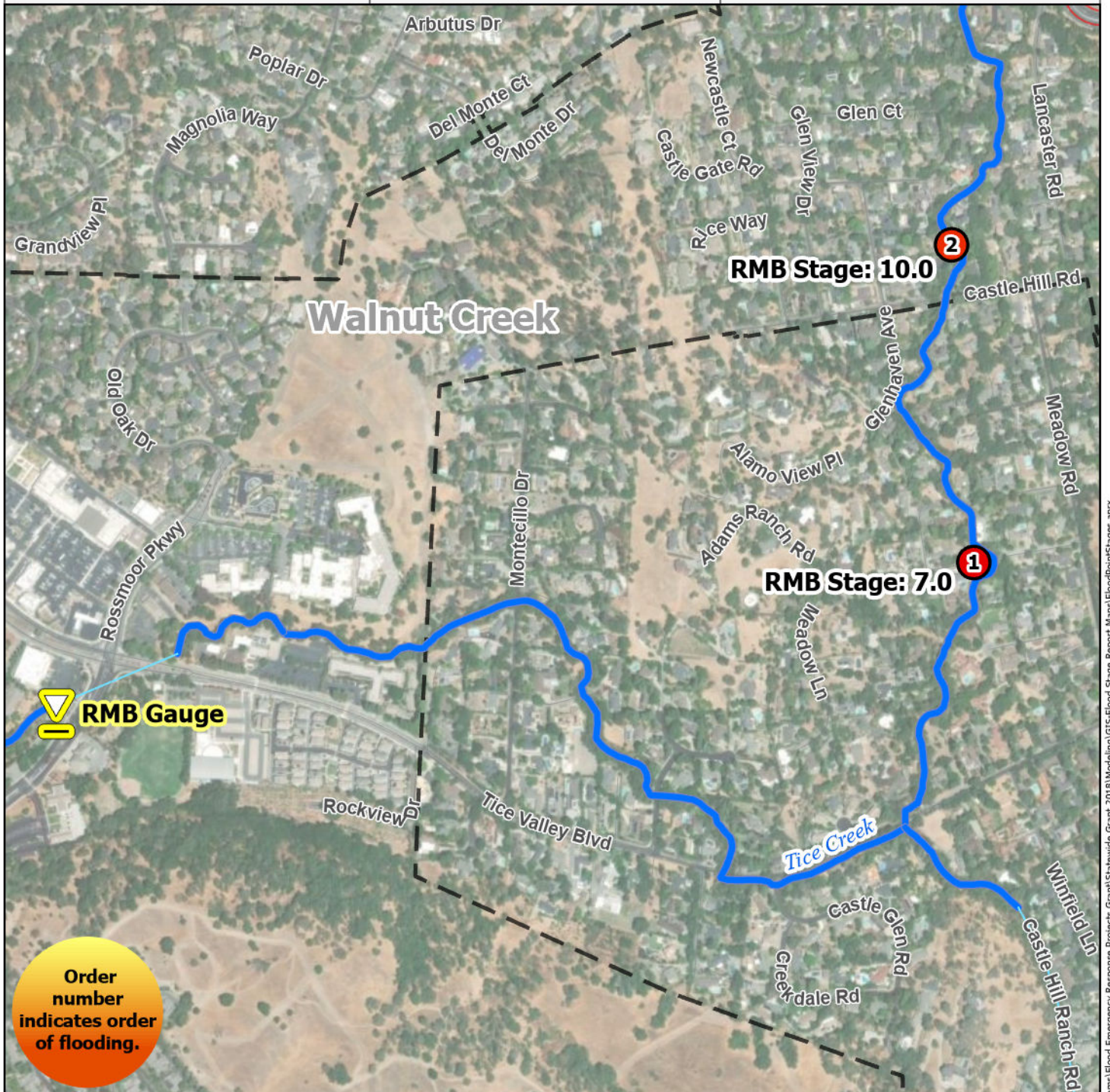


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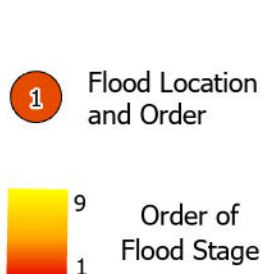
# Flood Stages

## Tice Creek @ Rossmoor Basin (RMB)

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**MODELING DISCLAIMER**  
The flood stages on this map are based on models with inherent limitations. Use with caution, as creek and bridge conditions may change before and during storms due to debris blockages, bank failures, or fallen trees, potentially causing flooding at lower levels than indicated.



Stream Gages



Creeks

Underground Creeks

1:8000



Pg 1 of 1 RMB

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