

**Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District**

**FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 1**

**March 6, 2014**

**STAFF REPORT**

**Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 22, 2013**

**Recommended Action:** Approve minutes.

**Item 2. Open Time (for Items not on the Agenda**

Comments will be heard for items not on the agenda (limited to three minutes per speaker).

**Item 3. Storm Report**

The atmospheric river storm that hit Marin County Wednesday, February 5th through Sunday February 9th brought an estimated 4" of rain to the area. In some parts of the County there were upwards of 20"! Overall the Zone's creeks, drains and pump stations fared very well.

A resident of McKeon Court and of Wilmac Avenue reported a couple of downed trees in Vineyard Creek during the storm. Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) crews removed the trees under District staff direction the week following the storm. For future reference, staff provided the following information to the residents regarding notification of emergency responders during non-business hours:

*If there is a flooding emergency please call 911. They will route the calls to whoever is on call with the County of Marin Flood Control Division, Road Crew or City of Novato. If flooding is not eminent, residents may call and leave a message on the DPW main number (415-473-6530) and it will be routed to the appropriate person when offices open.*

**Item 4. Pacheco Pond Management Plan Update**

Last fall, Flood Control District staff opened the tide gates at Novato Creek to alleviate the foul smell emanating from Pacheco Pond and to increase flow to discourage breeding mosquitoes. The District is coordinating with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to prepare a Pacheco Pond operations plan to address water management, tidal circulation, mosquito abatement, and other related issues consistent with the District's 1980 agreement with the California DFW. The draft plan will be posted on [marinwatersheds.org/novato.html](http://marinwatersheds.org/novato.html) this summer. Staff will continue to provide updates to the Bel Marin Keys Community Services District at their regular Board meetings and in communication with their engineering staff.

**Item 5. Novato Creek Watershed Program**

A draft Existing Conditions Report for the Novato Creek Watershed Study by Kamman Hydrology & Engineering, Inc. is being finalized and will be posted on [marinwatersheds.org](http://marinwatersheds.org) in May. Staff will notify Technical Working Group and AB

members when the report is posted. At the next AB meeting, Watershed Program staff will lead a workshop to review the considered alternatives. At today's meeting, staff will preview a primary alternative for the North Deer Island Basin. The District has received \$250,000 in funding from the US EPA to pursue a detailed design for this alternative.

#### **Item 6. Annual and Preventive Maintenance Report**

The following is a summary of the Zone's annual and preventive maintenance work program.

##### Pump Station

The two large pumps at the Lynwood Pump Station were pulled out, inspected, tested, and repaired. Corroded structural beams and some electrical and mechanical parts that were worn out were replaced. The pumps were reinstalled prior to the onset of the winter in October 2013.

##### Vegetation

Vegetation maintenance within flood control properties and easements started in the first week of July and was completed in September 2013. Maintenance work includes brush trimming, debris removal and fire suppression mowing. The work was performed under contract with the North Bay Conservation Corps.

##### Vineyard Creek Vegetation Monitoring Report

The 2008-2009 Vineyard Creek Flood Control Improvement Project included a riparian habitat restoration component and five years of annual vegetation monitoring and reporting to track the success of the restoration effort. The final results of the Year 5 vegetation monitoring are as follows:

- The site was planted in accordance with approved permits and agreements. The site was also hydroseeded with an appropriate native grass seed mixture.
- Year 5 plant survival in the riparian planting area was estimated at 94% for the Phase 1 area (downstream Center Road) and 92% for the Phase 2 area (upstream of Center Road), and therefore meets and exceeds the overall Year 5 survivorship performance standards for the project (85-90% survival) and is considered complete.
- Both the riparian planting area and the hydroseeded grassland area are fully established, with observed vegetation cover averaging 85% for the planted riparian areas and 98% for the hydroseeded grassland areas and are considered successful.
- Overall creek channel establishment is high, with some areas of the creek with 75% cover of cattails and watercress in the creek channel and a mixture of willows, mint, umbrella sedge, and other wetland and aquatic plants occupying the creek channel edge and low flow channel. Planted channel edge vegetation in 2013 was estimated at 90% of the overall 95% of creek channel vegetation present, and is considered successfully established.

In conclusion, the Vineyard Creek site was planted in accordance with approved permits and specifications and has met project performance standards. Recommendations for

completing the project include discontinuing irrigation, removing irrigation equipment, and removing the remaining wire cages/deer browsing protection. The final report was sent to Resource Agencies for their review and no comments have been received so far. For the full reports from the last 5 years please visit the Watershed Program website library at this address:

[http://www.marinwatersheds.org/pubs\\_reports.html#zone\\_1](http://www.marinwatersheds.org/pubs_reports.html#zone_1).

The fifth year geomorphic monitoring report for the project site will be posted here as well once it is available.

Following project completion, the District will implement periodic site maintenance on a 3-5 year basis, beginning in 2016. Periodic maintenance would include ongoing control of invasive plants to ensure long-term survival of planted species, removal of emergent aquatic vegetation (mostly cattails) from the creek channel to maintain long-term stormwater flow capacity, and assessment of ongoing trespass issues.

**Item 7. Novato Creek Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Railroad Bridge**

Recently, staff was informed that SMART would consider an all- steel bridge with an average of 30-foot bent spacing that is three feet higher than the existing rail elevation provided the Zone agrees to pay for the design and construction surcharge of \$250,000. Contribution from the City of Novato towards the design and construction of the bridge with improved flood capacity in the amount of \$158,844 has already been received by the District. A funding and maintenance agreement has been agendized for the March 11 Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting. The AB recommended the Zone fund up to \$500,000 towards this project at your November 5, 2012 meeting. Zone 1 contributions under the proposed agreement are \$91,156.

**Item 8. Zone Budget for FY 2014-15**

The Zone 1 budget for FY 2014-2015 (begins July 1, 2014 and ends June 30, 2015) is attached and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at a hearing this summer.

**Recommended Action:** Recommend Board of Supervisors approve budget.

**Item 9. Schedule Next Meeting**

Schedule the next meeting of the advisory board. The next meeting, per the bylaws, is scheduled on May 6, 2014.

