

FLOOD ZONE 1 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MARCH 28, 2013

STAFF REPORT

Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 5, 2012

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. Novato Watershed Program Update

Staff will present the status of on-going Novato Watershed efforts including an update of the hydraulics and hydrology study. Also, information will be provided on the EPA Flood Control 2.0 Grant, FEMA map revisions and the Army Corps of Engineers San Pablo watershed program.

Item 4. Vineyard Creek Post Construction Monitoring

a. Geomorphology Report

Staff will report on the latest monitoring observations included in the Geomorphology Report by Kamman Hydrology & Engineering.

b. Summary of Field Meeting with Residents

In the November 5, 2012 meeting, the AB requested that staff meet with some residents who have raised concerns about the re-vegetation and sediment transport in the creek. On November 14, 2014, Staff and the District's geomorphology consultant, Rachel Kamman, met with the residents to field-check the issues and to answer their concerns. Attached is a written description of the meeting titled "Vineyard Creek Re-vegetation/Sediment Transport Follow-Up".

Staff will provide a short power point presentation of the Vineyard Creek Project showing the creek conditions, before, during and after construction.

Item 5. Novato Creek Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Railroad Bridge

At the November 5, 2012 meeting, the Advisory Board recommended that Staff pursue a re-design of the SMART bridge over Novato Creek that included pier spacing of 28 feet and raising the bridge above the 100-year water surface elevation (WSE). Since that time, Staff has been notified by SMART that due to the aggressive schedule of the project and a lack of available funding that re-design of the bridge to include increased spacing of the piers would not be performed.

The existing SMART bridge over Novato Creek consists of 14 feet pier spacing, piers aligned with the direction of the track (not with the creek flow) and a deck elevation of about 8 feet (NGVD).

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

The design configuration that SMART is now planning to construct will include 14 feet pier spacing, re-aligning the piers to be parallel with the direction of creek flow and raising the bridge so that the low cord elevation is at or above the 100-year WSE and about 5 feet higher than existing. This configuration is an improvement over the existing bridge with respect to hydraulic passage of flow through the creek.

Staff is continuing to coordinate with SMART regarding the Novato Creek Bridge and the box culverts behind the Vintage Oaks Shopping Center. Staff has requested the hydraulic and hydrologic calculations to verify that the bridge design will not substantially affect flooding in the watershed. In the March 4, 2013 Task Force meeting, SMART stated that they will schedule a meeting with Staff later this month to address the issues that affect Flood Zone 1.

Item 6. Winter Storm Report

On December 2, 2012, Novato experienced a significant storm and Novato Creek came within inches of overtopping its banks. Instruments at the Novato Library reported about 1.7" of rain in 5 hours from the storm after receiving over 4" of rain during the previous week. The following reports from the storm were received:

- Overtopping of Papermill Creek was reported by a member of the Hillside Homeowners Association and he requested that we investigate further improvements in the vicinity.
- Creek levels in lower Novato Creek neared levee crest elevation but there was no overtopping or reported damage in the area.

Item 7. Schedule Next Meeting

Schedule the next meeting of the Zone 1 Advisory Board. The bylaws specify that the next meeting be held on Tuesday May 7, 2013.