

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 1 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2016

STAFF REPORT

Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 29, 2015

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. Zone Engineer's Report

a. Vehicle and Trucking Routes to avoid SMART Train Tracks

As a result of increased train operation, access to the Novato Creek levees across the railroad tracks will be extremely limited, which may affect trucking routes and future project costs.

b. RFP for Weir Design

The District has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for final design and preparation of plans and specifications for a flood flow diversion weir and modifications to the North Deer Island Basin to replace the emergency levee breaching during flood events. The RFP scope includes geotechnical investigation along several existing and proposed levee alignments in order to develop more accurate cost estimates for levee construction within the flood basin. Additionally, it will include two of the watershed program's short term restoration projects.

A pre-bid meeting was conducted on January 21st with bids due February 8th. We anticipate bringing a contract recommendation to the District Board of Supervisors in March/April 2016. Much of the design work is being paid for by the EPA Flood Control 2.0 Grant with additional funding from the upcoming Local Levee Evaluation Project (LOLE) DWR Grant. We will provide more details on the recommended firm, scope and costs at the next Advisory Board meeting.

The District has just received the final notice of award for \$1.5M from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the North Deer Island Basin overflow weir. The preliminary estimated cost of the weir construction is \$2.5M, of which \$1.0M will be from Zone-1 matching funds. The DWR grant stipulates that construction be completed by October 2019.

c. Novato Creek Sediment Removal Planning Update

The District is planning for the 2016 quadrennial Novato Creek sediment removal project. District staff has been meeting with state and federal permitting agencies before submitting permit applications to provide for clearer planning of new project parameters. Specifically, the District is proposing to implement an advance beneficial re-use of the dredged material, providing that it is determined to be cost-effective. Potential uses could include construction of coastal flood protection levees and/or raising wetlands (for sea level rise mitigation). Implementation of this beneficial re-use option depends on the construction costs, permitting costs, permitting requirements and feasibility. Alternatively, the sediment will be placed in upland locations as done in previous sediment removal events.

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d. FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) Update

The CRS program provides federally-backed flood insurance discounts directly to property owners in turn for actions taken by local jurisdictions to improve flood protection measures above the Flood Insurance Program base level requirements. Marin County staff completed a CRS application and audit last spring to bring unincorporated Marin County into the CRS program. The audit resulted in a CRS rating of Class-7. This rating translates to a 15% discount on flood insurance directly to property owners within unincorporated Marin County. The City of Novato is already in the CRS program and has been awarded a Class-6, which translates to a 20% discount on insurance rates. While the result is good, it is important to note that FEMA continues to raise their flood insurance rates. Therefore, individual property owners will still likely see their overall rates rise, but at 15 or 20% less than otherwise.

Item 4. Watershed Program Update

a. Hydraulic Modeling of Alternatives – Presentation by Kamman Hydrology

Alternatives were identified for three categories of potential projects: short-term, medium-term, and long-term. Final model results and costs for the short-term alternatives will be presented. These short-term alternatives are the focus of the next phase of work as the County and City of Novato consider a potential election.

b. Hydraulic Modeling - Next Steps

Final results for all alternatives will be summarized and detailed in the Draft Alternatives Assessment report, which will be released for public comment in February. We anticipate a final Alternatives Assessment report by February 28, 2016.

c. Community Meeting #2

The second community meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2016 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Novato City Hall Chambers. Kamman Hydrology will report on the hydraulic modeling results and staff will report on the potential for a fee measure on the November 2016 ballot.

d. Election Schedule

The Novato Watershed Program Policy Advisory Committee has recommended moving ahead with planning to place a fee measure on the November 2016 ballot. Staff will report on the schedule for polling, development of the ballot language, and Registrar of Voters deadlines.

Item 5. Budget

The Zone 1 budget for FY 2016-2017 (begins July 1, 2016 and ends June 30, 2017) will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at a hearing this summer. A proposed budget summary will be presented to the AB by staff for review.

Recommended Action: Recommend Board of Supervisors approve budget.

Item 6. Schedule 2016 Meetings

Due to the proposed polling and election schedule, the District recommends the following meeting dates:

April 7th

May 5th

November 10th