

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 1 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD JUNE 29, 2017
AT 922 MACHIN AVENUE, NOVATO**

Board Members (AB) Present

Bill Long (BL) – Chairman
Drew McIntyre (DM) – Vice Chairman
Ernie Ganas (EG)
Jim Grossi (JG)

District Staff (Staff) Present

Tony Williams (TW), Principal Civil Engineer
Liz Lewis (LL), Planning Manager
Laurie Williams (LW), Senior Planner
Craig Tackabery (CT), Chief Assistant Director

Board Members (AB) Not Present

None

Item 1. Remembrance of Diet Stroeh

Diet Stroeh, a long-time Zone 1 Advisory Board member, passed away on May 31, 2017. Members of the Advisory Board, staff, and members of the public recounted memories of Mr. Stroeh and his long association with water and flood issues in Novato. Diet was known as a man of action, and BL ended with a comment that moving forward, “we should all be a little Diet.”

Item 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: April 13, 2017

Action by Board: Approve minutes as written with no amendments.

M/S: DM/EG **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **Abstain:** None

Item 3. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda

A resident and business owner said that while he is not necessarily opposed to a tax, he and his community have been waiting for a plan to resolve the bottleneck of Novato Creek at Highway 37. His business flooded twice in 2015. He felt the first thing to address is maintenance to improve flow.

A resident near Vineyard Creek at Wilson Avenue mentioned that cattails and debris in the creek are impeding flow. District staff have done some clearance work, but he feels more needs to be done. Staff advised that the resident should contact maintenance staff, who will shortly be starting the summer vegetation maintenance program.

Item 4. Zone Parcel Tax Revenue Measure

LL made a presentation on the Novato Watershed Program and the proposed special tax. She highlighted some of the resolution language, and read the ballot language in its entirety. The presentation and resolution will be posted to both the main page and Novato page of the website:

<http://www.marinwatersheds.org/>
<http://www.marinwatersheds.org/novato.html>

EG commented that members of the public may want more detailed information, but the ballot language needs to be general in order to comply with CEQA requirements.

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

DM recommended that the resolution contain language that highlights how local funds allow the District to leverage grant funds.

BL commented that a lot of work has taken us to this point. We started five years ago with a watershed-wide study, which not only provides a better understanding of how water moves through the watershed, but also allows us to better compete for grants. The current Zone 1 annual budget is about \$2 million; the proposed parcel tax would add another \$1 million.

JG commented that community involvement is very important as we move forward to an election.

Russ Thompson, Novato Public Works, said the City really appreciates all the work of the District and Watershed staff to chip away at flooding issues. He asked whether the resolution or ballot language allows for any increases in CPI. LL replied that the Zone has the ability to bond, so it can take advantage of that to construct with current dollars without increasing the tax amounts over the length of the tax period.

A resident asked whether levee improvements could be made to current levee codes and standards. If so, then future damage costs might be reimbursable through FEMA. TW replied that this is not part of the current levee program since the levees were built prior to FEMA standards being established, but the State has recognized issues with levees like these and we have received Local Levee Evaluation grants from the Department of Water Resources to develop a baseline of geotechnical data as the first step towards identifying what is needed to meet the standards.

A resident asked about the exemption for low-income seniors. LL replied that people will need to apply every year and that the income cap follows HUD and is currently \$68,000.

A resident asked why the presentation didn't show any photos of areas downstream of Highway 37 including to the tidal marsh, where he feels maintenance has not been sufficient for 30 years. LL pointed out that the resolution language specifically addresses issues in "lower Novato Creek" and that the 2016 Novato Watershed Study describes long term conversion of the hayfields downstream of Highway 37 to the tidal marsh. We are working with Bel Marin Keys Community Service District to look at these areas for mutual benefit. Some of these areas are under leases until 2023.

Action by Board: Recommend the resolution of the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors calling for an election to impose a special tax upon parcels location within Flood Control Zone 1 for the purpose of reducing community and roadway flooding, restoring creek and marsh habitat, and adapting to sea level rise.

M/S: EG/JG **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **Abstain:** None

Item 5. Next Meeting Dates

Next meeting scheduled for August 3, 2017.

District staff reiterated the established AB meeting date for upcoming year:
November 2, 2017

A meeting on November 2, 2017, was previously identified; however, staff propose moving this date until after the November 7, 2017, election.