

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

**MINUTES OF THE
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE NO. 1 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD MARCH 3, 2016
AT THE NOVATO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
7025 NOVATO BLVD, NOVATO**

Board Members (AB) Present

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

District Staff (Staff) Present

Roger Leventhal, Acting Principal
Liz Lewis, Planning Manager
Laurie Williams, Senior Planner
Dave Nicholson, Zone Engineer
Hannah Lee, Associate Engineer

Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 4, 2016

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

M/S: DS/EG **Ayes:** Five, **Nay:** None, **Abstain:** None

Item 2. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda

There were no items brought up during open time.

Item 3. FEMA Hazard Mitigation Funding Opportunity

A discussion of the FEMA hazard mitigation assistance ensued. See 3/3/16 staff report for information. DS recommended moving forward with pursuing the application. JG inquired as to the timeline and responsibility assignment and staff responded that applications for funding to elevate individual homes are due on June 16, 2016 and outreach to homeowners must take place at least 60 days in advance. District or County staff would need to apply on behalf of residents.

Action by Board: Recommend outreach to potential eligible homeowners and application for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding assistance for home elevation.

M/S: DS/DM **Ayes:** Five, **Nay:** None, **Abstain:** None

Item 4. Watershed Program Update

District staff presented the short-term alternative projects that would improve conveyance and reduce flooding upstream.

District staff proposed two options of funding; 1) a stormwater fee that would push the ballot measure to 2017, or 2) a ballot measure for a tax that could potentially be on the November 2016 ballot. The AB consensus leaned toward the stormwater fee in June 2017.

BC inquired of the benefits to implementing the improvements. District staff provided the following responses:

- Improved flood protection to residents and business in vulnerable areas of the City
- Improved sediment transport and a possible reduction in dredging frequency

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- Creek improvements that reduces sediment accumulation in the mainstem Novato Creek channel by allowing overbank flow and sediment deposition in the overbank restored areas of the channel
- Potential trail improvements and associated recreation benefits
- Beginning work in the baylands could improve the efficiency of the City's stormwater drainage system

JG requested more details on the upper watershed areas, to include a break-down of the proposed improvements and identification of potential improvements in Bowman Canyon that will reduce sediment transport. BL recommended that staff approach Parks about their interest in acquiring Bowman Canyon.

DS reiterated the importance of reducing sediment discharge from Bowman Canyon.

DM informed that Bel Marin Keys residents have expressed interest in projects that benefit them and asked if there are any projects on the table. EG expressed concern that none of the proposed short-term projects serve as improvements to the Bel Marin Keys community.

In reply, District staff pointed out that the short term projects do provide some benefits for BMKCS D by improving flows and circulation in the creek and made a few suggestions to include 1-2 med-long term projects such as the East Basin tidal restoration in future funding scenarios:

BL pointed out that residents whose properties don't flood can still benefit from flood control projects because they need to move through town on roads to go work, the hospital, etc. BL inquired if any of the proposed short-term projects serve to decrease flood insurance rates for property owners. District staff replied that the FEMA base flood elevation may be lowered, but if so, would be minimal. However, there is a higher probability that it will increase our CRS score, which in turn would reduce flood insurance rates.

Item 5. Review Draft Budget

DM recommended formatting changes to the budget which will be presented at the 4/7/16 AB meeting.