

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

**MINUTES OF THE
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE NO. 7 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2013
AT THE OSHER MARIN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (KURLAND LOUNGE)
200 N. SAN PEDRO RD., SAN RAFAEL**

Board Members Present

Michael Perani (MP), Chairperson
Jacqueline Garcia (JG)
Jeffrey D. Krupnick (JK)
Evan Marks (EM)
Timothy Ribble (TR), Vice-Chair

District Staff Present

Craig Tackabery, Assistant Director
Tracy J. Clay, Principal Engineer
Liz Lewis, Principal Planner
Hugh Davis, Associate Engineer
Hannah F. Lee, Assistant Engineer

Board Members Absent

none

Others

Supervisor Susan Adams

Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 20, 2012

Action by Board: Approve minutes from the September, 2012 meeting as written.

M/S: EM/JK, Ayes: All, Nay: None, Abstain: None

Item 2. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda

The Advisory Board (AB) listened to comments on items not on the agenda, including items "a" through "g" listed below.

a) New Zone Engineer

Tracy Clay introduced the new Zone Engineer, Hannah Lee, and explained that Neal Conatser will still be managing the Las Gallinas Creek Levee Evaluation, but all other zone activities will be overseen by Hannah Lee.

b) 650 N. San Pedro Development - Opportunity for Flood Zone Boundary Amendment

A community member reported an approximately 10 home development at 650 N. San Pedro Road has been approved and as a condition of approval property owners shall not object to incorporation of the entire property into the Zone.

c) Advisory Board Meeting Location and Outreach

The AB was informed that the cost to rent the room at that JCC is \$200 per night. AB would like to continue holding meetings at the JCC due to its ideal location for community involvement. To further encourage attendance, JG offered to include a note in the Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association Newsletter about how to sign up for the flood control email distribution list to be notified of scheduled Zone Advisory Board meetings.

d) Sewage Spill on Descanso

Flood Control and Building Maintenance staff assisted the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District (LGVSD) in cleanup of a sewage spill from a force main at a sanitary sewer pump station on Descanso Way. Coliform concentrations were monitored by LGVSD Staff in all connected

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drainage ways until they fell to acceptable levels.

As part of the Watershed Program's storm drain modeling efforts, data regarding locations, connectivity, and flow direction of storm drains is being updated. This incident highlights the utility of this effort and coordinating with other agencies to ensure that everybody has the most recent data.

e) Ice on N. San Pedro Road

During a recent cold snap there was ice on N. San Pedro Road due to poor drainage. In response, AB inquired about whether there is any action the Zone can take to prevent this. Staff said maintenance of cross road culverts in that location is the responsibility of the Road Maintenance division and not the Zone's.

f) Birch-Mabry Ditch

A resident at 105 Birch Way reported additional cracking along his and his neighbor's back yards and differential settlement of his neighbor's swimming pool that has occurred after completion of the Birch-Mabry Ditch Improvement Project in 2003. Staff agreed to review the project files and observe site conditions with the property owners.

Item 3. Project Status Report

Staff provided an update on active projects / initiatives occurring in the zone, including items "a" through "e" listed below. See more information in the staff report.

a) Gallinas Creek Flood Protection & Watershed Program

Staff presented a slideshow on the status of the Watershed Program. Highlights include that the program is already attracting State and Federal grants, is partnering with Parks & Open Space and Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District on the McInnis Wetland Restoration proposal, and is getting ready to send out a Request for Proposals for a consultant to prepare a zone-wide stormwater system model. Supervisor Adams also mentioned that the program has attracted the attention of the San Francisco Estuary Program.

b) Las Gallinas Creek Levee Evaluation

Supervisor Adams referred to the meeting between her, two Advisory Board members, District staff and the new staff at the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and said it was very beneficial to have Advisory Board members there to provide their perspective on why it is an important project. The Advisory Board asked what will come out of phase I of the feasibility study once it is completed. Staff explained that phase I will determine preliminary feasibility of a joint project with the Corps, but additional studies and design (and funding) would be required in order to proceed with a project.

The Corps makes their determination based on a cost benefit analysis. If the outcome of this analysis does not support a Corps decision to jointly fund this project, the District will still have valuable items such as the Alternatives Analysis report, the Geotechnical Investigation Report, the Hydraulics and Hydrology Study, and Flood Damage Analysis which with to develop alternatively funded levee, pump improvement and restoration projects.

c) Pump Station No. 2 Afterbay Reconstruction

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The District is finalizing a Request for Proposals to send to engineering contractors to solicit bids to reinforce the existing plywood walls that serve as a discharge chamber (afterbay) for the pump station. This will be performed as soon as a suitable proposal is received.

d) La Pasada Interceptor Drain Improvement

Staff reported on project design and construction schedule. See staff report for more details. Construction is scheduled to occur between September 1 and October 15, 2013. A construction budget will be presented at the May meeting.

e) Storm Drain Near 503 Vendola

Staff reported on follow up investigations and recommended next steps for this project (see staff report). In short, homeowners have been advised to take care of their own drainage and the zone plans on abandoning the pipe in the summer.

Item 4. Winter Storm Report

Staff reported on the December 2nd, 2012 storm, the first significant (1-2 year event) storm of the year. Please see the January 14, 2013 Staff Report for a summary. Advisory Board mentioned that residents reported localized ponding on Facebook and other online venues during and after that event.

The Advisory Board expressed appreciation for the email they received earlier in 2012 regarding the completion of annual maintenance and requested that this continue. Staff agreed to send this type of update annually.

Item 5. Community Requests and Responses

Please see the January 14, 2013 Staff Report for summary. One of the residents emailed related public testimony and also expressed concerns that were discussed at the meeting that include:

a) 911 Response

The apparent failure of the after-hours flood control emergency response number, posted on the Flood Control website, to provide a resident's expected response during the storm on December 2nd. It was reportedly busy or off the hook when she called during the storm. The District appreciates this resident's timely report. There has been a recent change in management at Dispatch and the DPW directors met with Emergency Services to review the response protocol. The District will continue to coordinate with Emergency Services and Fire Department to improve response to flooding.

b) Automated Pump Requested for Estancia

The operation of one of Zone 7's portable pumps that is located near 870 Estancia Way. The resident suggested that the Zone install an automated pump at this location. In response, the District looked at three options for an automatic system which are described in the staff report.

Staff said it may be also be possible to rent a self-priming automatically operated diesel pump for about \$2,000 per month. In order to prevent short cycling, this pump would be manually turned off and would likely run dry for extended periods. The third option in the staff report had been proposed as part of a project to be funded through a Zone-wide special tax measure. A model of the storm drain and the levee toe drain that it drains into confirmed that the

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effectiveness of increasing the size of the storm drain is limited by the water level in the ditch. Therefore these improvements should be coupled with re-grading of the ditch and/or addition of another pump station along the levee toe drain to improve drainage. Toe drain improvements could cost between \$200,000 and \$500,000, depending on the method chosen.

Through the Watershed Program, staff is modeling the Zone's storm drains which will help refine design alternatives, prioritize projects, and possibly open the doors to outside funding. Given the message from the voters to evaluate projects through this comprehensive watershed approach and due to the high cost of these options, staff does not recommend initiating a project at this location at this time. The Advisory Board generally agreed with this recommendation.

In the meantime Supervisor Adams pointed out the potential to involve the County's large volunteer force in operation of the existing portable pumps. JG also stated that Santa Venetia has a high proportion of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members who have general emergency response training and the required insurance coverage. Staff agreed to investigate potential use of volunteers to operate the portable pumps during storm events.

Another potential recourse for community members is to form a subzone contingent on the passing of a special tax measure to fund the construction and maintenance of a permanent pump station which would affect a relatively small portion of the community. An example is Flood Control Zone 4A in which 28 properties on Strawberry Circle in Mill Valley pay an ongoing annual tax to maintain a pump station that serves only that community.

Item 6. Next Meeting

Staff recommended that the next meeting be tentatively held on the first Tuesday in May to go over the current and next fiscal years' budgets, but will confirm the exact date with Advisory Board members in the spring.

JG requested that the next meeting agenda include an examination of the existing Zone by-laws. The District will return to the Board with suggested changes in May.