

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 7 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MAY 15, 2012

STAFF REPORT

Item 1. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Article VI of the Advisory Board's bylaws stipulate that officers of the Advisory Board be elected to a one-year term by a majority vote of the Advisory Board. There are two officers – chair and vice-chair. The last appointments of chair and vice chair were made at the Advisory Board's April 1, 2010 meeting at which time Michael Perani was elected chairperson and Timothy Ribble was elected vice-chairperson.

Recommended Action: Elect chairperson and elect vice-chairperson.

Item 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: April 17, 2012

Recommended Action: Approve minutes.

Item 3. 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 4. Annual and Preventative Maintenance Plan

This year's annual and preventative maintenance plan includes:

a) Pump stations

Individual pumps and motors are scheduled for major maintenance on a six year interval at each of the zone's five stations. Four pumps and four motors are scheduled to receive maintenance this year:

- Pump and motor no. 1 at Pump Station No. 2.
- Pump and motor no. 2 at Pump Station No. 5.
- Pump and motor no. 3 at Pump Station No. 5.
- Pump/motor no. 2 at Pump Station No. 4 (combined submersible pump/motor unit).

Tests for each motor were conducted and all motors were found to be in working order. Therefore, no major motor maintenance will be conducted this year. Pumps, however, will be removed and maintained.

In addition, all pump station tide gates will be serviced and preventative maintenance at all pump stations will also take place, including inspection, testing, and as needed replacement of electrical and mechanical components.

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b) Intercepting drains

Staff will inspect Meadow and Sunny Oaks drains this month and determine any sediment removal requirements to be carried out this summer. A separate update on La Pasada is provided under *Item 3d*.

c) Vegetation – Vegetation maintenance will occur in all flood control easements.

d) Levees – Inspection and routine maintenance is conducted every two years. The last inspection took place in late-summer / early-fall 2011 and repairs will be made at 105, 107, 207, 809, and 811 Vendola Dr. this year based on last year's inspection.

e) Rodent (Gopher) Control – Rodent control efforts have been underway for the last several years and are an ongoing effort. Traps are set and, following successful rodent removal, holes are filled with bentonite and/or recompacted to restore the levee. Residents who notice rodent activity can contact the District to have traps set near the levees.

In February the District sponsored a community workshop on gopher control. The workshop was well attended and all feedback received indicated that it was a success. Additional workshops are now being planned for other areas of the county experiencing gopher infestation. The Marin IJ ran a front page article (see enclosure) about the workshop and the community's efforts to help address the infestation issue.

Item 5. Project Status Report

An update on active projects / initiatives occurring in the zone:

a) Las Gallinas Creek Levee Evaluation

The District is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on a joint study to assess the current condition of the levees and consider levee improvement alternatives. Additionally, upon its conclusion, the study will also provide an indication of whether or not the project is eligible for additional federal funds to be used for the design and construction of levee improvements.

The District and USACE signed a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) which outlines the work and associated costs of the study. To date, the South Fork hydrology report is complete and significant progress has been made by the Corps on the hydraulics report. Work slowed in 2010 and 2011 due to a lack of budgeted federal funds for the project. The District learned this spring, however, that over \$80K in federal funds had been budgeted for the project and the District met with the Corps last month to discuss how the funds would be used to complete Phase I of the study.

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Remaining Phase I work includes the following:

Work Component	To be completed by...
Completion of hydraulics	Corps and District
Geotechnical evaluation	District
Economic analysis	Corps
Preliminary determination of federal interest	Corps

While a schedule for completing this work is not yet complete, the District and Corps look to complete remaining work by the end of 2012.

b) Gallinas Creek Flood Protection & Watershed Program

At its February 13, 2012 meeting your board recommended participation in and a contribution of \$80,000 towards the program. In addition, staff met with the CSA 6 Advisory Board last month and they reaffirmed their commitment to the program. Staff will be meeting with agency partners as well as working with the Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Work Group this summer to help refine a scope of work and develop a schedule for program deliverables.

Staff are also looking for volunteers from the Advisory Board to serve on the Technical Work Group (TWG) and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). The TWG helps guide the scope and review of studies performed in the watershed and the PAC assists with the coordination of program stakeholders.

c) Pump Station No. 2 Afterbay Reconstruction

At its April 17, 2012 meeting your board recommended that staff proceed with implementation of a project to reconstruct the Pump Station No. 2 afterbay. Designs will be completed and a new afterbay constructed prior to the beginning of the next rainy season. Cost estimates are approximately \$50,000.

d) La Pasada Interceptor Drain Improvement

The District entered into a \$21,850 contract with Noble Consultants to assist with the design to replace the outfall. Permit applications must also be submitted to and approved by resources agencies prior to beginning construction. Regulatory restrictions stipulate that construction must only occur between September 1 and October 31 of any given year. Construction will begin this year should all permits be acquired in time for the project to be completed by October 31; otherwise construction will be deferred to next year. A diver will be deployed to inspect the outfall section to help determine the approximate percentage of the pipe that is full with sediment.

e) Storm Drain Near 507 Vendola

A resident reported that a 4" storm drain pipe draining to the creek at 507 Vendola Dr. was clogged with sediment and causing drainage issues. Staff conducted a field investigation and determined that additional information was required prior to taking any remedial action. A topographic and boundary survey to help determine property ownership was performed last week and staff will evaluate the results of the survey to help guide their recommendations prior to proposing a solution.

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Item 6. Zone Budget for FY 2012-2013

The Zone 7 budget for FY 2012-2013 (begins July 1, 2012 and ends June 30, 2013) is attached and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at a hearing this summer.

Recommended Action: Recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt the budget.

Item 7. Next Meeting

Schedule the next meeting of the Zone 7 Advisory Board. The bylaws specify that the next meeting be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012.

Surge in gopher population damaging levees in Santa Venetia, Tam Valley

Posted:

marinij.com

THEY MAY BE cute, fuzzy and just 6 to 8 inches long, but gophers are causing major headaches for Marin County officials.

A recent population surge of pocket gophers, or a species of *Thomomys* as they're known in scientific circles, threatens to damage levees in Santa Venetia and the Tamalpais Valley, officials say.

"They're little excavators," said Bené da Silva, a technician with the Marin County Department of Public Works. "It can have a negative effect on the stability of the levee."

Public works officials aren't certain why pocket gophers have been multiplying so rapidly in Marin for the past few years — or how many of the furry critters now call our county home. However, they do know that the proliferation of burrows, tunnels and mounds near levees could cause erosion and pose a flood risk.

The population has grown so much that setting traps and plugging holes on the levees is no longer sufficient, da Silva said. As a result, the department has launched a community outreach program to educate homeowners about how to manage the creatures on their property.

The county is recommending specific "kill" traps, because relocating the animals — which are classified as pests in California — isn't possible because it simply transfers the problem to another area, da Silva said. Poison isn't a viable alternative as it can damage the environment and harm other wildlife, he noted.

Gophers mate in the spring and can produce multiple litters, so county officials are trying to control the population now before it explodes.

"Gophers are to the levees as termites are to structures," said Robert Dobrin, president of the Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association. "They live in a different world than we do, underground."

Dobrin and about 35 other residents attended a county workshop on gopher management in Santa Venetia last month, and officials worked out a deal with Marin Ace hardware, where residents got a \$5 rebate on traps last month. The county is planning a similar workshop for the Coyote Creek area of Tam Valley, said Jeri Stewart, a public works spokeswoman.

"When you're living on a mountain or you're living near a body of water, erosion is a major concern," she noted.

"This is the first year we had to do a workshop — before, it was controllable," da Silva added. "The population increased so much that we had to come up with a program."

Santa Venetia resident Mary Feller lives on Estancia Way near the levees and said she never noticed large numbers of gophers in the neighborhood until a couple of years ago.

Feller said she set traps in her yard after a gopher destroyed a vine and ate the roots of her apple tree. Residents are primarily concerned about the levees, she noted.

"It's been a scourge and the county's definitely been very aggressive in trying to deal with the problem," Feller said. "Though it's kind of hard for people, it does really have to be dealt with."

For information on trapping gophers or the county's program, send email to da Silva at BDaSilva@marincounty.org.

Contact Jessica Bernstein-Wax at jbernstein-wax@marinij.com or via Twitter at .

Pocket gophers AT A GLANCE

- **Appearance:** 6 to 8 inches long and brown, gray or yellowish in color.
- **Habitat:** Gophers spend most of their time in a tunnel system 6 to 18 inches below ground. They are extremely territorial and each gopher usually lives alone in a burrow system.
- **Feeding:** Gophers primarily eat plant roots.
- **Breeding:** Gophers breed throughout the year in some areas with peaks in late winter or early spring. Females can bear up to three litters a year.

— Source: University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources

**FY 2012 - 2013 Budget Report
FCZ #7 Santa Venetia
Fund 23770**

Budget Summary

Account Description	FY 2011-12 Budget	FY 2011-12 Projected	FY 2012-13 Budget
Fund Beginning Balance	\$778,090	\$866,939	\$744,364
Expenses			
Salaries and Benefits	\$179,816	\$240,816	\$224,816
Service and Supplies	\$199,150	\$266,716	\$230,580
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0
Loan Repayment and Interest	\$0	\$0	\$0
Departmental Charges (Watershed Program)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$378,966	\$507,532	\$455,396
Revenue			
Taxes	\$375,500	\$380,857	\$374,500
Revenues From Use of Money and Property	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$380,600	\$384,957	\$378,600
Contingencies	\$779,724	\$744,364	\$667,568

Major "Services & Supplies" Expenditures

Professional Services

La Pasada Improvements	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous Studies	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Carried Balance of Previously Committed Items	--	\$4,000	--
Total	\$30,000	\$34,000	\$30,000

From District One Community Services Fund

Las Gallinas Levee Evaluation	--	\$76,236	--
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Construction

La Pasada Improvements	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0

Maintenance & Repair Services - Equipment

ALERT System Maintenance	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Meadow Drive, La Pasada Interceptor Clean Out	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
Major Pump Maintenance	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$80,000
Miscellaneous	\$26,500	\$26,500	\$26,600
Total	\$97,500	\$97,500	\$107,600

Maintenance & Repair Services - Land & Buildings

CCNB (Conservation Corps North Bay)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Limited Levee and "Planter Box" Floodwall Repairs	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Rodent Abatement	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
Miscellaneous	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Total	\$42,000	\$57,000	\$57,000

Other "Services & Supplies" Expenditures	\$29,650	\$1,980	\$35,980
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**FY 2012 - 2013 Budget Report
Expenses Detail
FCZ #7 Santa Venetia
Fund 23770**

Account Description	FY 2011-12 Budget	FY 2011-12 Projected	FY 2012-13 Budget
Administration & Finance Services	3,000	0	0
Communications Services	1,000	1,000	1,000
Construction	0	0	0
Countywide Dues & Memberships	0	2,000	2,000
From District 1 Community Services Fund	0	76,236	0
Maint & Repair Supplies- Land & Bldgs.	3,000	3,000	3,000
Maintenance & Repair Services - Equipment	97,500	97,500	107,600
Maintenance & Repair Services - Land & Bldgs.	42,000	57,000	57,000
Maintenance & Repair Supplies - Equipment	4,000	4,000	4,000
Misc. Supplies	200	500	500
Misc. Services (Trade)	1,500	1,500	1,500
Office Supplies	1,300	2,000	2,000
Oil & Gas	1,000	1,000	1,000
Professional Development Expenses	2,750	7,400	7,400
Professional Services	30,000	0	30,000
Rent & Operating Leases	1,400	1,500	1,500
Travel	500	2,080	2,080
Utilities	10,000	10,000	10,000
Service and Supplies	199,150	266,716	230,580
Interest on Notes and Warrants	0	0	0
Retirement of Other Long-Term Debt	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	0	0	0
Flood Control Division			
Salaries - Creek Maintenance	5,000		
Salaries - Equipment Maintenance	25,000		
Salaries - Support (GIS, Environmental)	5,000		
Salaries - USACE FCSA	20,000		
Salaries - Zone Administration	50,000		
Sub-total	105,000	140,000	140,000
Other Divisions			
Salaries - Building Maintenance	45,000	45,000	45,000
Salaries - Engineering	5,000	10,000	5,000
Salaries - Other - Real Estate, Garage	4,816	9,816	9,816
Salaries - Roads	20,000	36,000	25,000
Sub-total	74,816	100,816	84,816
Salaries and Benefits	179,816	240,816	224,816
Departmental Charges (Watershed Only)	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	378,966	507,532	455,396