

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE NO. 7 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2014
IN MEETING HALL AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
200 N SAN PEDRO RD., SAN RAFAEL**

Board Members Present

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

District Staff Present

Tracy J. Clay, Principal Engineer
Roger Leventhal, Senior Engineer
Hannah F. Lee, Associate Engineer
Liz Lewis, Principal Planner
Neal Conaster, Assistant Engineer
Dave Nicholson, Assistant Engineer
Laurie Williams, Senior Planner
Craig Tackabery, Assistant Director

Board Members Absent

Jacqueline Garcia (JG)

Others

Supervisor Susan Adams

Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 14, 2013; 6:40 PM

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

M/S: MP/JK, **Ayes:** Four, **Nay:** None, **Abstain:** One absent

Item 2. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda

No items were brought up during open time.

Item 3. Storm Report

Staff provided a synopsis of February 5th- 9th storm. There were no comments by the Advisory Board (AB) or audience.

Item 4. North San Pedro Road Construction Staging

Staff announced the addition of a new clause in the standard Flood Control and County Road construction contracts that will allow the County more control over contractor use of private property for construction staging such as the vacant lot on N. San Pedro Road. For more information see the summary in the 2/26/14 Staff Report.

Item 5. Zone Budget for FY 2014-15

Staff and AB reviewed the proposed budget summary in the 2/26/14 Staff Report. TR requested more details regarding anticipated maintenance costs over the next 5 years.

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Action by Board: Recommend the Board of Supervisors approve the budget.

M/S: JK/EM, **Ayes:** Four, **Nay:** None, **Abstain:** One absent

Item 6. Project Status Report

Staff provided an update on active projects / initiatives occurring in the zone. Please see more information in the staff report posted on marinwatersheds.org.

a) La Pasada Interceptor Drain Improvement

To illustrate the source of additional costs for unforeseen events and environmental compliance, staff showed photos of the many challenges that contractor, West Bay Builders, Inc., faced before substantially completing this project in January 2014.

b) Gallinas Creek Flood Protection & Watershed Program

Staff discussed the status of the Watershed Program and benefits in completing the studies. The Stinson Beach Watershed community survey was given as an example on how to obtain input from the residents once alternatives are developed through the Las Gallinas Watershed studies. Staff also indicated that no Zone funds are being used to finance the Watershed studies aside from the original allotment of \$80,000 to the program.

c) Las Gallinas Creek Levee Evaluation

Staff provided an overview of the Las Gallinas Creek Levee Evaluation results and pointed out that a levee improvement project in Santa Venetia is not a good candidate for federal funding under the Army Corps of Engineers' (ACOE) Section 205 Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) because the project cost is well over the maximum cost. Staff also indicated that the Public Comments and Responses document announced at the meeting will be posted on marinwatersheds.org. Staff reviewed the AB's top three questions as summarized below:

1) What is the cost of a FEMA accredited levee including non-levee aspects?

In the recently completed levee investigation, the minimum cost of constructing a FEMA accredited levee was \$21 million including real estate acquisition. There are other one-time and ongoing costs to levee certification aside from construction of a levee including upgrading the interior drainage system and closures on any levee penetrations, preparing and carrying out a comprehensive Operations & Maintenance Plan, starting a flood warning system, and periodic inspection of interior drainage and levee.

2) What other programs are available that could reduce flood insurance premiums?

Community Rating System (CRS)

Staff provided a status update on the unincorporated County's participation in FEMA's CRS Program which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2013. The goal is to enter the program at a Class 8 or 9 in 2015 which would allow property owners who pay flood insurance a discount on their premium of 5-10%.

Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedure (LAMP)

FEMA's LAMP is a pilot program by which levees that don't meet full certification requirements could get partial credit for the protection they do provide. This program is currently in the preliminary phases of implementation. There are ongoing pilot projects in only two communities in the Bay Area so far. Staff recommended waiting until FEMA

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works out more program details and start checking in on the rollout of this program in 2015.

Individual and Community-Based Options

- As many community members have mentioned at prior public meetings, private insurance carriers are starting to offer flood insurance rates which compete with FEMA of FEMA-backed insurers. FEMA is supportive of this.
- Although Geologic Hazard Abatement Districts (GHADs) have not been formed for this purpose before, they could potentially be used to pool flood insurance costs. See ghad.org for more information.

3) What are other options to move forward?

Staff presented timelines for three options: a) wait until 2015 for the Watershed Program to provide a clear view of the project alternatives, watershed priorities and potential funding sources before implementing any levee improvements; b) focus on maintaining current redwood box levee system now with potential for a small tax measure; and c) start pursuing a special tax for a FEMA accredited levee now which is the most expensive option and would take at least 10 years to complete.

Action by Board: Recommend to discontinue evaluation of the Las Gallinas Levee's feasibility for receiving ACOE Section 205 CAP funding.

M/S: EM/TR, **Ayes:** Four, **Nay:** None, **Abstain:** One absent

Item 7. Next Steps/Zone Planning Discussion

AB recommended continuing to wait for completion of the Watershed study before proceeding with substantial levee improvements or tax measures.

MP also requested to express appreciation on the Zone's behalf in a letter to the ACOE Colonel responsible for finally seeing this feasibility study through to its conclusion. Additionally, he requested to make it clear that although Section 205 CAP funding is not a viable option, the Zone wishes to keep an open dialogue with ACOE in the future and may pursue other options that arise.

Item 8. Next Meeting

Staff suggested that the next meeting be scheduled following the results of the Watershed Program's Santa Venetia Storm Drain Study, expected in the summer.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM.