

**Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District**

**FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 7 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**APRIL 20, 2016**

**STAFF REPORT**

**Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 24, 2016**

**Recommended Action: Approve minutes.**

**Item 2. 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 3. Zone Engineer's Report**

**a. Wooden Floodwall Update**

At the last meeting Staff reported that about 25% of property owners along the non-engineered wooden floodwall (also called timber-reinforced berm) had not provided permission to enter to perform the District's biannual inspection. That proportion was on par with prior inspection years. However, due to continued outreach through March and April by Staff and the Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association, the proportion of property owners that have not provided permission is now about 15%.

Five high priority properties along Vendola Drive were identified during the inspection and as many as possible will be repaired this year by contractor, Forster & Kroeger, using the \$50,000 budgeted for services for this repair work. Repair of the floodwall on the first property has already begun and this year's work will likely be completed by early fall.

**b. Proposed Pump Station No. 2 Portable Generator Electrical Hook-up**

Bids for the electrical work to install a receptacle and manual transfer switch along with additional site improvements to prepare for connection to a portable back-up generator were much higher than anticipated (engineer's estimate was \$50,000, and low bid was \$94,320). Due to the higher than expected costs, Staff chose to proceed only with the electrical work this past winter for \$33,200 after consultation with the Advisory Board Chairperson. The project specifications stipulated that construction be completed by January 1, 2016, but there was a several month lead time to obtain a critical part. The District has purchased the part from the contractor and will rebid the work this summer when better prices are more likely.

Because the delays have pushed electrical work beyond the 2015-16 rainy season, the District recommends proceeding this summer with the originally intended accessory site improvements: 1) extending the fence so it will protect the portable generator and 2) expanding the platform at the electrical panel to conform with updated code. District staff are currently seeking better prices for this work than the 2015 bids, and pursuing opportunities to reduce costs and cost share with the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District as appropriate. Site improvements and electrical work will be completed this summer.

**e. FEMA Hazard Mitigation Funding Opportunities**

Last fall, the California Valley and Butte Fires led to the declaration of a major disaster. As a result, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has made available hazard

## ***Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District***

mitigation assistance to the State of California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). The District will apply for hazard mitigation funding for upgrades to the timber-reinforced berm and to elevate private homes. 75% of eligible costs for these projects may be available through the grant program. If these grants are awarded, application costs may also be reimbursable at that same rate.

*i. Santa Venetia Timber-Reinforced Berm Improvement Project*

This is a project that would target more vulnerable areas of the wooden floodwall (also known as a timber-reinforced berm) and make upgrades where feasible. Upgrades may include using alternatives to wood such as composite decking, increasing height and embedment of boards into the underlying earthen levee, and/or adding buttressing fill and deadman anchors. All modifications must be compatible with the adjacent structures.

Project Budget:

\$300,000 Federal Share (FEMA)

\$100,000 Local Share (Flood Control Zone 7)

The estimated application cost is \$10,000 (staff labor), with an additional \$25,000 expected in project development costs (preliminary design and analysis) and benefit-cost analysis assistance from Kleinfelder. The existing labor budget is sufficient to cover these costs, however an increase in the professional services budget is needed. Funds that had been set aside for the winter's storm response are now available to use for this purpose so the overall zone budget does not need to increase to fund this application process.

*ii. Marin County Structure Elevation Program*

This is a program whereby individual homeowners can raise their homes above the FEMA base flood elevation with 75% of their costs reimbursed by the federal government. Homes in the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area ("100-year floodplain") which would cost less than \$175,000 to elevate above the flood elevation with projected sea level rise over 30-years are considered eligible.

The District advertised this opportunity in the Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association newsletter and as of 4/11/16 received inquiries from four potentially interested homeowners. The Staff labor cost to prepare grant applications is estimated to be \$1,000 per individual property and is expected to be covered under the existing labor budget. Additional interested persons may contact the Zone 7 Engineer, Jon Liang at [jliang@marincounty.org](mailto:jliang@marincounty.org) or 415-473-6215. Based on the total program budget, it is anticipated that there can be up to 20-30 grant recipients countywide.

Program Budget:

\$3,000,000 Federal Share (FEMA)

\$1,000,000 Local Share (Individual Property Owners and Flood Zones)

## ***Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District***

### **Item 4. Watershed Program Update**

#### **a. Community Meeting Update**

We will provide a report of the April 5<sup>th</sup> Gallinas watershed Program community meeting.

#### **b. Status of Program Products**

A public draft Lower Gallinas Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment is scheduled to be released in April.

In partnership with the City of San Rafael, the Gallinas Watershed Program developed the Upper Gallinas Restoration Opportunities study to assess what a natural channel alignment could look like and whether it can be constructed within existing rights of way. A public draft of the Study will be released this spring.

The Gallinas Watershed Program's final report describes the current and historical conditions in the watershed; summarizes each of the six studies and assessments; and draws connections among them. The public draft of the final report is scheduled for release this spring.

All program documents will be posted to the Gallinas Watershed webpage:

[http://www.marinwatersheds.org/gallinas\\_creek\\_flood\\_protection.html](http://www.marinwatersheds.org/gallinas_creek_flood_protection.html).

#### **c. Presentation on Polling Results**

Godbe Research conducted polling in late March/early April to gauge community support for a parcel tax in Zone 7 and in the entire watershed. Bryan Godbe will present the polling results. This is an informational presentation followed by discussion. We anticipate that the Advisory Board will make a formal recommendation on a potential election at the May 18<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board meeting.

#### **d. Election Update**

We will report on the schedule for preparation of a tax study, the proposed final ballot language, and Registrar of Voters deadlines.

### **Item 5. Schedule Next Meetings**

It is recommended that the Advisory Board consider the need for meetings in the upcoming calendar year and adopt a meeting schedule for the year. Based on the election schedule, Staff propose the following meetings this year:

May 18, 2016 - formally recommend ballot language and review ballot measure fact sheet

November 16, 2016 - review election results and winter preparedness activities