

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

**MINUTES OF THE
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 9 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
7:00 PM MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015
AT SIR FRANCIS DRAKE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CENTER
1327 SIR FRANCIS DRAKE BOULEVARD**

Board Members Present

Tom McInerney (TM), Chairperson
Chris Martin (CM)
Peter Hogg (PH)
David Weinsoff (DW)
Richard Gumbiner (RG)
Sandra Goldman (SG)

Board Members Absent

Dan Hillmer (DH)

District Staff Present

Raul M. Rojas, District Engineer (DPW Director)
Craig Tackabery, Assistant Director
Scott Lyle, Ross Valley Program Manager
Russ Eberwein, Senior Civil Engineer
Carey Lando, Senior Planner
Hugh Davis, Associate Civil Engineer
Felix Meneau, Assistant Engineer

Other Staff Present

Debra Stutsman – San Anselmo Town Manager
Gerhard Epke – Hydrologist, consultant to
Town of San Anselmo

**Item 1. Approval of meeting minutes for June 16, 2015 and Responses to Meeting Questions
Raised as Attachment**

Action by Board: approve June 16, 2015 minutes with following correction to first paragraph within page 2 of 6:

DW suggested that Wood Lane and nearby hillside, around the corner from Deer Park, should be studied to assess any future potential hazards from liquefaction, which was previously reported there in 2005/2006.

M/S: RG/CM, **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **Absent:** DH, **Abstain:** None

Public comment was provided by Ross Asselstine of San Anselmo in reference to John Wright's presentation at the June 16, 2015 Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board Meeting regarding the Memorial Park Dual-Use Detention Basin Project.

Item 2. Open time for items Not on the Agenda

Public comment was provided by Cindy Winters of Larkspur requesting that large maps be provided at future meetings and events to show the starting location of the flood control project and its location in Larkspur.

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Item 3. Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program Update

a) Program Outreach

District staff provided an update to ongoing Program Outreach efforts. These efforts include the Fiscal Year 2013/14 Annual Report, new project fact sheets, frequently asked questions, a San Anselmo Country Fair event booth, the Marin Flood Preparedness Week Fair, a marinwatersheds.org winter preparedness update, a Water Conservation Rainwater Harvesting Class, and updates to the marinwatersheds.org and rossvalleywatershed.org websites (see [Staff Report dated September 21, 2015](#)).

SG asked if the Fiscal Year 2013/14 Annual Report is one year old and District staff confirmed that is true. The Fiscal Year 2014/15 Annual Report is currently being prepared and is expected to be complete in December 2015.

PH suggested additional Memorial Park Dual-Use Detention Basin fact sheets be distributed, and District staff agreed to further discuss this option with the Town of San Anselmo.

TM asked when the updated website will be active and District staff answered 4 to 5 months.

b) Ross Valley Creek Maintenance Update in Incorporated and Unincorporated Areas

District staff provided an update to the Ross Valley Creek Maintenance Program in Incorporated and Unincorporated Areas. District staff, together with Gerhard Epke serving on the Ross Valley Creek Maintenance Program Committee, summarized recent creek walks performed within incorporated areas.

CM inquired about observed overgrowth along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Bridge, the drought, and upcoming winter impacts to currently available creek maintenance funding.

DW asked who is liable, the municipality and/or District or the private property owner, when debris residing within privately owned lands is carried by storm water and causes damage downstream. DW suggested a creekside mailer be sent by mail on colored paper with pertinent information regarding creekside property owner responsibilities regarding maintenance of the creek, creek bank, and lands adjacent to creek banks susceptible debris or material becoming entrained into the creek during a storm. District staff and Gerhard Epke responded that both the District and the Town of San Anselmo are working on outreach material for creekside homeowners.

c) Presentation on Potential Acceleration Measures

District staff, joined by DPW Director and District Engineer Raul Rojas, presented methods and associated risks to potentially accelerate the program schedule (see [September 21, 2015 Presentation on Potential Acceleration Measures](#) available within www.MarinWatersheds.org/fz_advisory.html#zone9).

District staff emphasized the following:

- If site owners are amenable to the initial project concept, District recommends development of feasibility phase concurrently with beginning the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

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- Grant-funded projects often limit schedule to a set sequential process with less flexibility to overlap tasks.
- If grants are not anticipated to be used for a project, concurrent CEQA/Design will be more feasible and will accelerate the project but will also involve greater risk than a sequential phasing of CEQA and design phases.

TM commented that Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) can be lengthy to finalize. Do we have to have MOUs with agency property owners? Staff replied that MOUs are needed with agency property owners.

TM asked what is meant by Design-Build process, and District staff answered Design-Build allows a project to be constructed while being designed, with a contractor secured in the early stages of the project life-cycle.

TM asked what acceleration measure(s) are recommended to be pursued by District staff, and District staff answered the most common acceleration measure could be to pursue the concurrent phasing of the CEQA-Design at Risk and Right-of-Way/Permitting phases, with also the option to pursue a Design-Build. District staff emphasized that acceleration measures are only recommended for projects that have wide-spread community support. District staff suggested a subcommittee be formed to discuss the best ways to accelerate the schedule.

TM suggested the Technical Working Group review ways to accelerate the schedule instead of a new subcommittee.

PH inquired if acceleration measures will be feasible if the 10-year work plan project cost estimates have increased. District staff answered that pursuing acceleration measures will have implications on project cost estimates.

Public comment was provided by Sam Wilson of San Anselmo inquiring how much community input has been received from the Winship Avenue neighborhood regarding the Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement Project and the Corte Madera Creek Units 3 and 4 Project. District staff responded that the Town of Ross will be holding a community workshop in the near future for the Winship Avenue Bridge Project. The District will be meeting with agency partners and neighborhoods in the near future to gather their feedback on potential alternatives for the Units 3 and 4 Project. Public comment was provided by Dick Stutsman of the San Anselmo Flood Committee suggesting that a critical path method chart be completed for the Program.

Public comment was provided by Kathy Schaefer agreeing with the need for a Program schedule, requesting additional community outreach such as regarding the Memorial Park Dual-Use Facility, and asking if District staff is working with the Office of Emergency Services to develop the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Public comment was provided by Lise Stampfli of San Anselmo recommending use of additional outreach mediums such as a watershed-wide mailer.

Public comment was provided by Brian Crawford of San Anselmo requesting information about the design details of Memorial Park Dual-Use Facility. District staff answered that some of the design

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details have yet to be determined as the project has only been developed conceptually for purposes of receiving grant funding.

Public comment was provided by Kathy Schaefer of San Anselmo regarding suggestion that District staff investigate pursuing a fully integrated water management plan.

The Advisory Board (AB) recommended the Technical Working Group further discuss the use of acceleration measures and impacts to program cost estimates and then staff to report back to the AB. SG agreed further discussion was needed such as through the Technical Working Group, and SG did not think at this time a fixed schedule was needed for each project nor that acceleration measures be employed for projects without wide-spread community support.

d) Flow Reduction Study Update and Request for Action to Revise Baseline Measure Projects

District staff provided an update regarding the Flow Reduction Study (see [Staff Report dated September 21, 2015](#)).

DW stated that we need to ensure public safety. He indicated that the Deer Park site should not be included as a potential detention basin site because of the landslide that occurred near that site in the 2005 flood that destroyed a house. He feels no further geotechnical study is needed because of the history of landslides in this area.

PH and SG said it is appropriate to have additional geotechnical study of the specific site.

TM asked why it was needed to revise Attachment A showing Baseline Measure Projects. District staff answered it would assist in understanding project costs and where costs will be spent.

Public comment was provided by John Wright of San Anselmo supporting the use of Deer Park as a primary detention basin site.

Public inquiry was provided by Ross Asselstine of San Anselmo regarding:

- long-term overall program funding outlook and accountability by the Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board Ad-Hoc Budget Subcommittee,
- options for funding the \$1.5 million CEQA/Design phase of the Memorial Park Dual-Use Facility, and
- water surface elevation reduction resulting from the proposed Memorial Park Dual-Use Facility.

Public comment was provided by Liz Stampfli of San Anselmo regarding:

- importance of watershed-wide flood protection including within the Morningside Drive/Mountain View Avenue area of San Anselmo
- pursuing the detention basin sites at Hidden Valley and Brookside Schools or the performance of cost-benefit analysis within this area,
- pursuing water storage/detention within streets similar to City of San Jose.

RG inquired if there might be sufficient support to spend flood fee funds to complete all feasibility studies for both the primary and backup detention basin sites now.

SG supports construction of more than just the primary detention basin sites because it will facilitate less precision of operation of the detention basins.

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TM asked if feasibility cost estimates can be provided, and District staff answered they will be provided at the next Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board meeting.

District staff, per discussions brought up by RG, SG, and TM, discussed that the Technical Working Group will consider and report back identified potential impacts to overall budget and schedule by funding the feasibility studies for one or more backup sites in addition to continuing the feasibility studies for the primary sites.

Action by Board: Recommend revising the Baseline Measure Projects by adding Former Nursery and Deer Park sites to Baseline Measure Project list and retaining Loma Alta Dual-Use Facility as a Baseline Measure Project.

M/S: PH/SG, **Ayes:** TM, CM, PH, SG, RG, **Nay:** DW, **Absent:** DH, **Abstain:** None

Item 4. Project Status Updates (Information Item):

a) Phoenix Lake Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Retrofit Project

District staff provided an update to the Phoenix Lake IRWM Retrofit Project (see [Staff Report dated September 21, 2015](#)).

b) Memorial Park Dual-Use Facility

District staff provided an update to the Memorial Park Dual-Use Facility (see [Staff Report dated September 21, 2015](#)).

Public comment was provided by Steve Emery from San Anselmo regarding the dry weather observed during collection of monitoring well water level data at the site, and the need for feasibility studies to incorporate social elements through additional community engagement.

Public comment was provided by Steve Lamb of San Anselmo requesting information be provided regarding the Environmental Impact Report cost-sharing agreement between the Town of San Anselmo and the District. District Staff answered that they are working with the Town of San Anselmo on the cost sharing agreement. Debbie Stutsman also stated the California Environmental Quality Act will involve assessing alternative projects.

Public comment was provided by Ross Asselstine of San Anselmo regarding information stated at a prior Town of San Anselmo meeting regarding the draft cost sharing agreement for completion of a future Environmental Impact Report between Department of Water Resources, District, and Town of San Anselmo.

A correction was noted from Staff Report dated September 21, 2015 in that the San Anselmo initiative measures would be presented to the San Anselmo voters on November 3, 2015.

c) Lefty Gomez Field Dual-Use Facility

District staff provided an update to the Lefty Gomez Dual-Use Facility (see [Staff Report dated September 21, 2015](#)).

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Action by Board: Recommend the Board of Supervisors approve a budget of \$70,000 in the Lefty Gomez Dual-Use Facility Fiscal Year 2015/16 budget for “Professional Services”.

M/S: PH/SG, **Ayes:** TM, CM, PH, SG, RG, **Nay:** None, **Absent:** DH, **Abstain:** None

d) Deer Park Dual-Use Facility

District staff provided an update to the Deer Park Dual-Use Facility (see [Staff Report dated September 21, 2015](#)).

e) Former Nursery Growing Grounds

District staff provided an update to the Former Nursery Growing Grounds (see [Staff Report dated September 21, 2015](#)).

Lise Stampfli said the flood program was set up with the promise that no area would be left out. The Morningside area has been left out so the Hidden Valley detention basin and Brookside detention basin should be included in the program. There should be a benefit/cost analysis done for all proposed improvements.

Scott Hochstrasser, serving as land use planner for some of the Former Nursery Growing Grounds owners and also a San Anselmo resident, inquired if placing the Former Nursery Growing Grounds as a Baseline Measure will allow Zone 9 Fee funds to be spent on the feasibility phase of the project? District staff answered that yes, placing the project as a Baseline Measure will allow spending Zone 9 storm drainage fee funds on feasibility which includes paying appraisal fees and commencing with geotechnical study pending approval of homeowner agreement. Scott Hochstrasser stated full cooperation with the feasibility phase will be provided by the owners as stated in the letter submitted to District.

f) Bridge Replacements in Town of San Anselmo

District staff provided an update to the San Anselmo Bridge Replacement projects (see [Staff Report dated September 21, 2015](#)).

g) Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement in Town of Ross

District staff provided an update to Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement project (see [Staff Report dated September 21, 2015](#)).

h) Azalea Avenue Bridge Replacement in Town of Fairfax

District staff provided an update to Azalea Avenue Bridge Replacement project (see [Staff Report dated September 21, 2015](#)).

i) Corte Madera Creek Units 3 and 4 Project

District staff provided an update to the Units 3 and 4 Project (see [Staff Report dated September 21, 2015](#)). District staff also stated Kent Middle School and Town of Ross have been contacted, in addition to the College of Marin, regarding coordinating the project with each of their respective master plans. District staff will request CM attend future project meetings with Town of Ross.

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CM asked if concurrent phasing of project elements is possible, and District staff answered it would be possible to further discuss with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

RG suggested that the Kentfield Planning Advisory Board be contacted regarding the project status, and District staff agreed.

j) Lower Corte Madera Creek Improvement Project

District staff provided an update to the Lower Corte Madera Creek Improvement Project (see [Staff Report dated September 21, 2015](#)).

Item 5. Adjourn, Confirm Next Meeting on December 15, 2015.

The Zone 9 Advisory Board set their next meeting for December 15, 2015.