

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

**MINUTES OF THE  
FLOOD ZONE 9 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD  
7:00 PM TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015  
AT SAN ANSELMO TOWN HALL  
525 SAN ANSELMO AVENUE, SAN ANSELMO**

**Board Members Present**

Tom McInerney (TM), Chairperson  
Chris Martin (CM)  
Dan Hillmer (DH)  
David Weinsoff (DW)  
Richard Gumbiner (RG)  
Sandra Goldman (SG)

**District Staff Present**

Tracy Clay, Principal Civil Engineer  
Scott Lyle, Ross Valley Program Manager  
Russ Eberwein, Senior Civil Engineer  
Felix Meneau, Project Engineer  
Alan Turner, CH2M HILL Consultants  
Laura Harnish, CH2M HILL Consultants  
Connie Gazaway, CH2M HILL Consultants

**Board Members Absent**

Peter Hogg (PH)

**Item 1. Approval of meeting minutes for February 17, 2015**

**Action by Board:** approve February 17, 2015 minutes as written.  
**M/S:** DW/CM, **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **Absent:** PH, **Abstain:** None

**Item 2. Open time for items not on the agenda**

The Advisory Board and District staff expressed appreciation for the many years of hard work by District staff member Tracy Clay serving her last week with the District. The Board was thankful for her service and wished her the best in her future endeavors.

Public comment was provided by Steve Lamb of San Anselmo inquiring if dredging will eliminate the need for constructing Detention Basins.

Public comment was provided by Michael Mackintosh, owner of Town and Country Club in Fairfax, regarding his property having the potential for 22.5 acre-feet of flood water detention storage by constructing underground parking and further potential for 100 acre-feet of water detention within a proposed cistern area as was previously discussed with the Marin Municipal Water District.

**Item 3. Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program Updates**

a) **Audio Taping Cost Research**

District staff and members of the Advisory Board discussed challenges and potential benefits with audio taping public meetings. General consensus was reached that audiotaping future Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board public meetings would be considered again should future requests be made by members of the public.

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b) Ad-Hoc Budget Subcommittee Update

District staff discussed a meeting held by the Ad-Hoc Budget Subcommittee and District staff on March 4, 2015, see [Staff Report dated March 17, 2015](#). Another Ad-Hoc Budget Subcommittee meeting will be planned prior to the next April 2015 Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board meeting.

c) Strategic Communication Plan Update

District staff discussed the Strategic Communication Plan Update, see [Staff Report dated March 17, 2015](#). District staff plans to present a draft plan at the next April 2015 Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board meeting.

DH noted he received the mailed Agenda notice yesterday, March 16 and suggested members of the public should have as much notice as possible prior to scheduled meeting. CM suggested District staff consider posting upcoming Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board meetings and events within the community meeting section of the Independent Journal. District staff responded that email subscription is the most effective means of reaching members of the public with the latest information and District continues to also send mailed Agenda notices ahead of upcoming meetings for those that have requested mailed notices as a substitute for, or in addition to, electronic notifications.

d) Flood Emergency Response Project Grant Program

District staff discussed the Flood Emergency Response Project Grant Program, see [Staff Report dated March 17, 2015](#).

e) First Addendum to Stetson Engineers' Professional Services Contract

District staff discussed the Addendum to Stetson Engineers' Professional Services Contract, see [Staff Report dated March 17, 2015](#).

f) Flow Reduction Element Study

CH2M HILL Consultants Laura Harnish, Connie Gazaway, and Alan Turner, provided a presentation regarding the Flow Reduction Element Study draft selection criteria, see [Staff Report dated March 17, 2015](#), [Presentation Materials dated March 17, 2015](#) and [Draft Alternative Flood Control Elements memorandum dated March 6, 2015](#).

Laura confirmed that the evaluation criteria are based on the fee ballot language. She also confirmed that the criteria includes schedule of implementation.

Laura clarified criteria B1 "Minimize Environmental Impact: sediment loading downstream of Ross" listed within the draft March 6, 2015 memorandum is referring to minimizing measures that can cause sediment to be deposited and require dredging/sediment removal.

Alan Turner emphasized that the goal for the study involves reducing the flow during a 100-year flood event from 6,900 cubic feet per second to 5,400 cubic feet per second at the entrance to Corte Madera Creek Unit 3 and Unit 4 Project.

DW suggested that Cascade Canyon be removed from consideration.

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TM commented that the weighting factors of all five selection criteria should be "5". The importance of schedule warrants more than a weighting factor of "2".

Connie Gazaway described the possibility of performing sensitivity analysis regarding application of different weighting factors and impacts of different weighting factors to final project rankings.

At the request of the Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board, District staff will post CH2M HILL presentation from today on the [www.RossValleyWatershed.org](http://www.RossValleyWatershed.org) website.

Public comment was provided by Michael Mackintosh, owner of Town and Country Club in Fairfax, regarding:

- If condemnation becomes a part of the Program, then all and not only a portion of the property should be condemned,
- The assessed value of his property,
- The process can be improved for notifying private property owners regarding those alternative Flood Control measures that reside within their private property,
- Pastori culvert was planned to be increased in size on four separate occasions, but each time the project was halted because it was seen as potentially causing flooding downstream,
- Request for a comprehensive process for evaluating how all flood points enter the system,
- Reducing all pipe sizes and allow roads to serve as storm water retention during flood events,
- Public property should be used, such as within Center Boulevard, in order to channelize water.

Public comment was provided by Matt Brown, resident of San Anselmo, regarding the approvals by the District Board of Supervisors for a consultant contract with Stetson Engineers and a Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Town of San Anselmo for a grant application relating to Building Bridge #2.

Public comment was provided by Steve Lamb, resident of San Anselmo, inquiring:

- About cost/benefit analysis between program and individual project elements.  
District staff was asked by Advisory Board to respond and District staff said the program cost/benefit analysis would be packaged for all detention basin projects in order to achieve design flow of 5,400 cubic feet per second at the inlet to the Corte Madera Creek Unit 3 and 4 Project.
- How the Pine Mountain Tunnel can store water as identified within Draft Alternative Flood Control Element memorandum.  
District staff was asked by Advisory Board to respond and District staff described the Pine Mountain Tunnel alternative had potential to provide temporary flood water storage. CH2M HILL further added that flood water would be gravity drained to, and from, the tunnel because pumping additional flood water to and/or from the tunnel would incur additional expense.
- What would be the function of a horizontal levee?  
District staff was asked by Advisory Board to respond and District staff described horizontal levees as generally functioning within a coastal area such as a bay or marsh, and that they can be used to help address impacts from sea level rise.

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Public comment was provided by Rich Cimino, resident of Larkspur, regarding satisfaction with continued evaluation of dredging in the Larkspur area and that a recreational permit is being used for dredging within the old Marina area.

Public comment was provided by Jon Wright, resident of San Anselmo, regarding:

- Support for continuing the alternatives analysis being undertaken by District,
- Recommendation for maintaining comprehensive list of alternatives throughout the process,
- Parking limitations exist in San Anselmo and are being investigated by a separate Town of San Anselmo parking committee,
- Recommendation to match individual projects with their individual cost/benefit.

Public comment was provided by Brian Crawford, resident of San Anselmo, regarding that all alternatives should remain on the table including the Cascade Canyon alternative.

Public comment was provided by Lise Stampfli, resident of San Anselmo, inquiring what is proposed at the Marin Stables Alternative and when can the public provide further input relating to the alternatives. District staff was asked by the Advisory Board to respond and stated that public input was requested from the Ross Valley Watershed website last Friday and a deadline of March 27 was established for public input regarding the selection criteria. The public will also have an opportunity to provide input during the CEQA process. Opportunities for public input during various stages of project and/or program review will continue to be requested from within the Ross Valley Watershed website and during future Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board public meetings and events.

TM conveyed that members of the public have continuously asked why all finished floor homes currently residing in the floodplain cannot be raised out of the floodplain. CH2M HILL responded that raising all homes out of the floodplain was included as part of the flood proofing alternative within the Draft Flow Reduction Element Study.

TM inquired about a possible alternative for an underground vault in streets, like Center Blvd., also serving as temporary stormwater storage during flood events. District staff responded that the bypass conduits through San Anselmo included in the draft study could also provide stormwater storage. However, there are increased operations and maintenance costs associated with detention storage within the bypass conduit. TM closed by stating the existing set of alternatives within the draft Flow Reduction Element Study was comprehensive.

### **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 March 17, 2015](#).

DW inquired if it would be possible to parallel track the environmental and design phases of this and other projects within Attachment B, similar to what he had heard the Richmond San Rafael bridge project (I-580 Access Improvement Project) was doing to accelerate the schedule for adding a new bike/pedestrian and vehicular lane. District staff answered that the completion of the CEQA process generally requires the project design be at least at a 30% completion level, so there is some overlap but CEQA and design generally do not start and end at the same time. There is also some risk in progressing too far with the design prior to completion of the CEQA process because

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the CEQA may result in redesign of the project.

b) Memorial Park Dual-Use Facility

District staff provided an update to the Memorial Park Dual-Use Facility, see [Staff Report dated March 17, 2015](#).

c) Lefty Gomez Field Dual-Use Facility

District staff provided an update to the Lefty Gomez Dual-Use Facility, see [Staff Report dated March 17, 2015](#).

d) Loma Alta Dual-Use Facility

District staff provided an update to the Loma Alta Dual-Use Facility, see [Staff Report dated March 17, 2015](#).

e) Bridge Replacements in Town of San Anselmo

District staff provided an update to the San Anselmo Bridge Replacement projects, see [Staff Report dated March 17, 2015](#).

f) Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement in Town of Ross

District staff provided an update to Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement project, see [Staff Report dated March 17, 2015](#).

g) Azalea Avenue Bridge Replacement in Town of Fairfax

District staff provided an update to Azalea Avenue Bridge Replacement project, see [Staff Report dated March 17, 2015](#). District staff confirmed the project was still awaiting federal funding authorization in order to proceed.

h) Corte Madera Creek Units 3 and 4 Project

District staff provided an update to the Units 3 and 4 Project, see [Staff Report dated March 17, 2015](#). District staff discussed a recent meeting held between District staff and the Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding the project and program. District staff will continue to seek opportunities to meet early in the life of the project with as many of the various permitting agencies as possible.

i) Lower Corte Madera Creek Improvement Project

District staff provided an update to the Lower Corte Madera Creek Improvement Project, see [Staff Report dated March 17, 2015](#). District staff commended City of Larkspur staff including Department of Public Works Director Mary Grace Houlihan, thanking them for their assistance and local knowledge within the project area.

Public comment was heard from Arlene Fox, resident of Larkspur, asking for any details relating to proposals for a new pump station and drain line adjacent to Bon Air Bridge. District staff answered

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this concept is not currently funded as part of the Lower Corte Madera Creek Improvement Project. Arlene Fox described Creekside Park area as not always having been a lake during high tide in the past.

**Item 5. Set April and September Meeting Schedule**

The Advisory Board and District staff set next meeting for April 16. District staff at the request of the Advisory Board discussed changing a previously scheduled future meeting from September 15 to September 16 pending future confirmation of availability by members of the Advisory Board.