

**MINUTES OF THE
FLOOD ZONE 9 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
7:00 PM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 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
Felix Meneau, Assistant Engineer
CH2M: Laura Harnish, Allan Turner,
and Connie Gazaway

TM introduced DPW Director/District Engineer Raul Rojas who spoke regarding importance of the program and involving the public in the process.

Item 1. Approval of meeting minutes for May 20, 2015

Action by Board: approve May 20, 2015 minutes as written.

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

Item 2. Open time for items not on the agenda

No public comments were received during open time.

Item 3. Draft Flow Reduction Study Presentation

District staff provided an update to the draft Flow Reduction Study (see [Staff Report dated June 16, 2015](#)). As additional information to the Staff Report, District staff discussed the intention to move forward with including detention basins at the Former Nursery site, the Camp Bothin site, the Ross Valley School District sites at Hidden Valley and Brookside Schools, and Deer Park in the programmatic environmental review documents, in addition to the current detention basin sites. The San Domenico School site was removed from further consideration as a potential detention basin site per the property owner's written request.

The District's consultant, CH2M, then presented the draft Flow Reduction Study (see [Staff Report dated June 16, 2015](#), [presentation of June 16, 2015](#) and [draft Flow Reduction Study dated June, 2015 by CH2M](#)).

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District staff added that although Phoenix Lake and Lefty Gomez sites were listed within the draft Flow Reduction Study as being recommended to start with the feasibility phase, the feasibility analysis is already in progress for both sites. Feasibility assessment has not yet started for the Deer Park site.

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

SG asked if the Deer Park site could avoid Ross Valley School District-owned lands by moving upstream in order to only impact Marin Municipal Water District lands. CH2M responded that this was possible, but storage may be reduced as you move the site further upstream.

CM asked for a timeframe and costs to further evaluate and develop these new alternate sites. District staff answered 18 months is the best-case timeframe to bring projects to a "grant ready" status, and \$350,000 an average estimate per site.

CM asked if Phoenix Lake is recommended to continue serving as a detention basin site, and District staff answered yes.

DW offered his assistance to join in future conversations with the School Board regarding the Lefty Gomez site.

DW asked if funds can be borrowed against future flood fee funds in order to accelerate the process and shorten the expected 5-year timeframe. District staff answered yes, money can be borrowed, but not without incurring a debt.

DW asked what other avenues might be available to accelerate the project lifecycle. District staff answered as follows:

- The environmental process timeline is difficult to accelerate due to seasonal requirements and mandated public review periods.
- Identified detention basin site owners can help accelerate the environmental process by being decisive and responsive.
- Fee revenue could be used for debt service.
- Additional ways to accelerate projects will be further developed and presented during the next advisory board meeting.

TM asked that the Flood Control District receive from the identified potential detention basin site owners, preferably in writing, that they are willing to move forward with programmatic environmental review for possible use of their site as a detention basin.

TM asked if alternative lower storage volume concept designs can be developed for the Memorial Park Dual-Use Detention Basin Facility site than what was developed for the Department of Water Resources Prop 1E Round 2 grant application. CH2M answered that yes, this is possible in the environmental review phase depending on what the local lead agency would like to do. CH2M emphasized that it is preferable to start with the largest possible project footprint in the environmental review phase as significant delays typically result by increasing the project footprint after the environmental review has begun.

Public comment (1) was provided by former Marin County Supervisor Gary Giacomini serving as legal

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representative for San Domenico School. He expressed support for the program, but not any identified potential detention basin site within San Domenico owned lands.

Public comment (2) was provided by Steve Lamb of San Anselmo inquiring why page 2 of the Staff Report describes two week public comment period beginning on June 9 and ending on June 16 which is only one week. District staff said this was in error, therefore the public comment period will be extending through June 23rd to allow for a full two week public comment period.

Public comment (3) was provided by Lucy Wilson of San Anselmo in the Morningside/Meadowcroft neighborhood:

- (3a) What percentage of downtown San Anselmo flooding comes from Sleepy Hollow Creek versus the subterranean creek passing through Memorial Park?
- (3b) Are Hidden Valley and Brookside elementary schools on Sleepy Hollow Creek?
- (3c) Why is the percentage of total flow contributed by each creek and proposed detention basin site not shown?

Public comment (4) was provided by John Wright of San Anselmo speaking only as resident and not as member of the San Anselmo Town Council. He recommended that compromise be developed and promoted within the Town as a way to garner support for the Memorial Park project currently facing an initiative by project opponents of the project.

PH recalled that Memorial Park detention basin design alternatives with less capacity existed, and TM clarified that this alternative concept was not publically available as it had been submitted in response to a request for proposals for the CEQA/design phase of the project.

Public comment (5) was provided by Kathleen Lapinski of San Anselmo inquiring (5a) why Pine Mountain Tunnel was taken off the table and (5b) why is there a price discrepancy between Memorial Park and other identified potential detention basin sites. CH2M responded that Pine Mountain Tunnel is in poor condition and would not be cost effective to rehabilitate for the benefit received. District staff responded that the Memorial Park detention basin cost estimate was developed in more detail than many of the other detention basin sites and also included other benefits such as daylighting the creek and recreational elements.

Public comment (6) was provided by Matt Brown of San Anselmo asking what is the storage volume and cost for the Pine Mountain Tunnel site. CH2M responded that on the RossValleyWatershed.org website the draft Flow Reduction Study contains estimated flood detention storage for all potential identified sites in addition to preliminary cost estimates.

Public comment (7) was provided by Brent Davis of San Anselmo inquiring on the status of the 160 downstream channel improvements discussed in today's slide presentation. District staff responded that the some of the downstream-most in-creek measures identified are proceeding such as the Corte Madera Creek Unit 3 and 4 Project. CH2M assumed all identified 160 downstream in-creek measures were in place as a baseline to compare the alternative 32 flow reducing elements.

Public comment (8) was provided by Lise Stampfli of San Anselmo (8a) regarding recent District Staff communications with the San Domenico School and (8b) concerns brought up by San Domenico School regarding the proposed detention basin concept. Also she emphasized (8c) the need for greater than 25-year flood level of protection and the continued need to address Morningside neighborhood flooding, as requested a year ago.

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Public comment (9) was provided by Doug Kelly of San Anselmo Town Council requesting to: (9a) confirm if 80 acre-feet of flood water storage is expected at Memorial park, (9b) confirm if the Memorial Park detention basin would reduce flood water elevation by 2 inches or 2 feet when the detention basin is used to store flood water during a 100-year flood, and (9c) if the San Anselmo cost estimate for the proposed Memorial Park Detention Basin includes \$3 to \$4 million dedicated to recreation improvements.

Public comment (10) was provided by Eric Cutter of San Anselmo asking why Loma Alta scored lower than sites at Hidden Valley, Brookside, Oak Manor, and Marin Stables yet it is being included in recommended sites to consider within the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report. CH2M stated Loma Alta is considered a viable backup site because it is a publicly owned site and could therefore be more feasible than other privately owned sites identified. Additionally, the Loma Alta site is in closer upstream proximity to areas that were identified as flow reduction targets within the CH2M draft Flow Reduction Study compared to sites residing at Hidden Valley, Brookside, Oak Manor, and Marin Stables.

Public comment (11) was provided by Jody Holstein of San Anselmo asking if fee revenue can be used to clean up trees and debris within the creeks to prevent flooding.

Public comment (12) was provided by Frank Egger of Fairfax regarding historic detention basins along Fairfax Creek and the need to replace Memorial Park and Lefty Gomez Field sites with other sites that can provide both flood reduction and water storage benefits.

Public comment (13) was provided by Steve Emery of San Anselmo that (13a) Memorial Park in its current state is something that the community treasures and a compromise design should not be pursued. (13b) Pine Mountain Tunnel was not designed to be a storage facility but was intended to provide continuous flow from one area to another. (13c) Identified owners of potential detention basin sites should be approached in a sensitive and thoughtful manner. (13d) Would the Memorial Park detention basin, when used to detain flood waters, reduce flood elevations by 2 inches or 2 feet downstream?

Marin County Supervisor Katie Rice discussed the importance of the draft Flow Reduction Study. Flexibility was gained by identifying additional sites. It was disappointing that San Domenico School asked that a proposed detention basin at their site no longer be considered, however it is better to have obtained this information earlier than later in the process. Supervisor Rice asked that written responses be prepared by staff to answer questions that have not yet been answered at the meeting. Whatever can be done to expedite the program should be done, particularly to keep Phoenix Lake IRWM Retrofit project and the bridge replacement projects moving forward. The program's projects must work as a system and cannot be evaluated individually.

TM hoped that the School Board will give a clear indication, such as a vote, of their support to include their sites in the programmatic environmental review.

PH suggested District staff clarify with San Domenico School regarding the proposed use of their site as a detention basin and not as a permanent lake facility.

TM further stated that although San Domenico School is private and cannot be required to allow use of their site for a detention basin within the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report, communication should continue with the school in the event they agree to reconsider. He would like a report at the next Advisory Board meeting on the status of coordination with the property owners.

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Action by Board: Recommend approval to proceed with Programmatic Environmental Impact Report strategy to include the ten potential future detention basin sites defined in the Draft Ross Valley Flow Reduction Study Report dated June 2015.

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

Action by Board: Recommend approval of Implementation Strategy defined in the Draft Ross Valley Flow Reduction Study Report dated June 2015; to proceed with implementation (discussions with homeowners, planning level studies, cost estimates, conceptual designs, geotechnical studies, etc.) of the elements included in the top scoring Program Alternative 3 “Environmentally Preferred Option” – Phoenix Lake, Former Nursery Site, Lefty Gomez Field, Deer Park, and Memorial Park.

M/S: SG/RG, **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **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 June 16, 2015](#)).

b) Memorial Park Dual-Use Facility

District staff provided an update to the Memorial Park Dual-Use Facility (see [Staff Report dated June 16, 2015](#)).

c) Lefty Gomez Field Dual-Use Facility

District staff provided an update to the Lefty Gomez Dual-Use Facility (see [Staff Report dated June 16, 2015](#)).

d) Loma Alta Dual-Use Facility

District staff provided an update to the Loma Alta Dual-Use Facility (see [Staff Report dated June 16, 2015](#)).

e) Bridge Replacements in Town of San Anselmo

District staff provided an update to the San Anselmo Bridge Replacement projects ([Staff Report dated June 16, 2015](#)).

Public comment (14) was provided by Steve Lamp of San Anselmo asking where the Town of San Anselmo funding will come from to purchase the District's Acorn property at 800 San Anselmo Avenue. District staff answered that funding for the right-of-way purchase is anticipated to come from the Caltrans Highway Bridge Program.

f) Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement in Town of Ross

District staff provided an update to Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement project (see [Staff Report dated June 16, 2015](#)).

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g) Azalea Avenue Bridge Replacement in Town of Fairfax

District staff provided an update to Azalea Avenue Bridge Replacement project ([Staff Report dated June 16, 2015](#)).

h) Corte Madera Creek Units 3 and 4 Project

District staff provided an update to the Units 3 and 4 Project ([Staff Report dated June 16, 2015](#)).

i) Lower Corte Madera Creek Improvement Project

District staff provided an update to the Lower Corte Madera Creek Improvement Project (see [Staff Report dated June 16, 2015](#)).

Item 5. Ross Valley Creek Maintenance Update in Incorporated and Unincorporated Areas

District staff provided an update to the Ross Valley Creek Maintenance in Incorporated and Unincorporated Area (see [Staff Report dated June 16, 2015](#)).

Item 6. Adjourn, Confirm Next Meeting on September 21st

The Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board discussed the possible August meeting ahead of previously scheduled September 21st meeting, following presentations to be made to Ross Valley School District.