

FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 9 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MARCH 21, 2017

SAN ANSELMO TOWN HALL

STAFF REPORT

Item 1. Election of Advisory Board Chair and Vice Chair

Action by Board: Advisory Board members will elect a Chair and Vice Chair.

Item 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2016

Action by Board: Advisory Board members will review meeting minutes from the December 20, 2016 meeting, make corrections and approve the minutes as corrected.

Item 3. 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 4. Staff Updates

Recent Storm Events

While detailed storm data will be compiled at the conclusion of the wet season; Staff will provide an update on stream flow data from the gage on Corte Madera Creek through March 1 of the 2017 water year.

Response to Advisory Board Inquiry on Advisory Board Alternates

At the last December 20, 2016 meeting, the Advisory Board requested an agenda item be included regarding Advisory Board member alternates. No procedures or provisions are available for appointing alternate members of a Marin County Flood Control Zone Advisory Board.

Item 5. San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project Update

The San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project (Project) environmental review (CEQA) process will assess flood reduction measures including one flood diversion and temporary storage basin at the former Nursery site coupled with removal of a commercial building over San Anselmo Creek and creek improvements, along with three other alternatives and the “no project” alternative. As discussed in the December 20th Advisory Board Staff Report, an Agreement between the District and the Town of San Anselmo for Phase 1 of the project (previously recommended by the Advisory Board and approved by the San Anselmo Town Council in September 2016 and the Board of Supervisors in October 2016) included a provision that the District shall hire consultants to undertake work including Project CEQA assessment and supporting engineering services.

On March 7, the District Board of Supervisors authorized a contract with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this Project. A contract for engineering services is currently being negotiated with a consultant, CH2M Hill, who was selected via a competitive process conducted by the Town of San Anselmo. The process

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included the submittal and review of a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) and an interview of the highest ranked firms. District staff participated in the SOQ review and interviews. Four firms were interviewed and ranked with CH2M Hill demonstrating the best qualifications of the SOQs received.

District Staff anticipates completing negotiation of the CEQA Engineering Services Scope of Work by late March 2017. The Scope includes topographic surveying, right-of-way coordination, geotechnical investigations, geomorphic and groundwater assessments, and development of conceptual designs to support CEQA and allow for transition to full project design development. To ensure alignment with the CEQA schedule, Staff request that the Advisory Board recommend completion of the contract negotiations for a total amount (not to exceed) \$850,000 and to take the resulting agreement to the Board of Supervisors for authorization in April.

The Project Environmental Impact Review Scoping Meeting is scheduled for the evening of April 20 at San Anselmo Town Hall to collect public comment on potential environmental effects. More specific meeting details will soon be available on the Program website (<http://www.marinwatersheds.org>). District Staff is also working on a scope of work for the engineering feasibility to support the CEQA analysis.

Recommended Action: Recommend District Staff complete contract negotiations with CH2M Hill for performing Project CEQA Engineering Services at a not to exceed cost of \$850,000 and request Staff proceed with taking the CH2M Hill contract to the District Board of Supervisors for their authorization.

Item 6. Program & Other Project Updates and Future Proposed Work in Fiscal Year 2017/18:

Announcement of Recently Held and Upcoming Public and Technical Work Group Meetings

a. Recently Held Meetings

A Program EIR scoping meeting

A Program EIR scoping meeting was held on February 16, 2017 at Marin Art and Garden Center in Ross. Approximately 100 attended the event and the meeting materials including the audio recording are available from the RossValleyWatershed.org website.

Flood Zone 9 Technical Work Group (TWG)

A TWG meeting was held on February 21, 2017. Topics covered included next steps following the Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) scoping session held February 16, 2017, presentation format of updated Program Costs & Estimates (formerly referred to as Attachment A), San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project, Phoenix Lake Project and the preliminary 2D Hydraulic Model.

b. Upcoming Meetings

Sunnyside Neighborhood Committee

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A Sunnyside Neighborhood Committee meeting is planned for April 2017 and will discuss the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project with a focus on the former nursery site.

A San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project EIR

A San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project EIR public comment scoping meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at San Anselmo Town Hall. Please check RossValleyWatershed.org for more details closer to the planned meeting date.

Granton Park Neighborhood

Staff is coordinating a meeting with the Granton Park Neighborhood in Kentfield to discuss local and reoccurring flooding impacts from the recent storm events and how those relate to the proposed Program flood reduction elements.

Ross Valley Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Program Workshops

Staff is currently planning additional community workshops for the Program. A schedule will be posted to the Program website in April 2017.

Three Upcoming Countywide Public Meetings for BayWAVE Sea Level Rise

The County will be hosting three public meetings regarding the public release of the [draft Vulnerability Assessment](#). Additional information including access to the draft document can be found at the following link:

<https://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/planning/sea-level-rise/draft-vulnerability-assessment>

The tentative meeting dates are:

- 7:00 PM Wednesday April 19th in the Multi-Purpose Room of Pickleweed Park located at 50 Canal Street in San Rafael 94901
- 7:00 PM Tuesday April 25th in the Cascade Room at Mill Valley Community Center located at 180 Camino Alto in Mill Valley 94941
- 10:00 AM Saturday April 29th in Novato City Hall located at 901 Sherman Avenue Novato 94945

Phoenix Lake Integrated Regional Water Management Project

The draft engineering study of the Phoenix Lake dam indicates the cost of the dam retrofit will exceed the project budget and the time to complete the retrofit will extend beyond the grant agreement deadline, even if a deadline extension is granted to June 30, 2020. FZ9 staff is preparing a grant migration study to evaluate other projects which may use the Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant awarded to the Phoenix Lake IRWM Project in the amount of \$7,661,000 for a total project of \$19,691,150. The criteria used to evaluate the alternate project(s) as outlined in the grant agreement and to meet the program goals are:

- Flood Risk Reduction
- Improved Water Supply
- Improved Water Quality
- Ecosystem Restoration

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- Improved Recreation & Public Access
- Within project budget
- Within schedule (complete by June 30, 2020)
- Has Community Support

Several other projects have been identified in previous studies and in discussions with MMWD. The alternate projects being assessed for feasibility in the study are:

- Option 1: Phoenix Lake Phase 1 (Incorporating a combination of creek improvements, upstream flow detention, restoration and water quality benefits)
- Option 2: Morningside/Lower Sleepy Hollow Creek + Upstream Detention Basin
- Option 3: Building Bridge #1 modifications + Upstream Detention Basin
- Option 4: Upstream Detention Basin
- Option 5: San Anselmo Creek Improvement Option

The results of the completed study will be presented to the Technical Work Group and then to the Advisory Board at a future date.

Bridges in Fairfax, San Anselmo and Ross

a. *Azalea Avenue Bridge Replacement in Town of Fairfax*

The Town's design consultant (California Infrastructure Consultancy) completed the site surveys and initial geometric studies based on the hydraulic data. The new bridge alignment and profile will have to fit with the existing site constraints and the designers will be meeting with the Town and District in March to present conceptual designs. Preliminary design will continue and result in the first public meeting in May 2017. Construction is expected to begin in 2020.

b. *Nokomis and Madrone Bridge Replacements in Town of San Anselmo*

The flood design flow used to determine the size of the bridge openings was previously decided upon and the environmental technical studies needed for the CEQA process are to proceed. Currently, the Town is scheduling to meet individually with local neighbors who will potentially be affected by the design and construction of the new bridges. Following these efforts, a public workshop will be organized in spring 2017. The design team, consisting of the Town and Quincy Engineering, is expecting to apply for extra funds from Caltrans that are needed to complete the projects. The construction schedule will be set after the environmental process is complete but is expected to begin in 2019.

c. *Center Boulevard/Sycamore Avenue Bridge Replacement in Town of San Anselmo*

The design team completed conceptual design and will schedule a Field Review with Caltrans in order to apply for the funds to complete Preliminary Engineering, including the environmental review.

The Bridge Avenue Bridge is located immediately adjacent to the current proposed bridge alignment for the Center Boulevard Bridge and needs to be replaced to conform to the new configuration. In the newest inspection by Caltrans, the Bridge Avenue Bridge was rated structurally deficient and the Town has submitted a funding application to Caltrans.

d. *Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement in Town of Ross*

In response to the request by the Ross Town Council at the public meeting in October 2017, the design team is still investigating alternative alignments of the bridge and determining

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their impacts to homes and traffic. The design team will return to the Ross Town Council to present these results in spring 2017. Following this task, the environmental technical studies will proceed and are expected to be completed by December 2017 with CEQA and NEPA approval in 2018. Construction is still expected to begin in 2019.

Morningside/Lower Sleepy Hollow Creek Feasibility Study

A study is underway to assess hydraulic feasibility to raise the level of flood protection in the Morningside neighborhood from an existing 7-year level of protection to a 25-year level of protection through a combination of bridge replacement(s) and new flood barriers along Sleepy Hollow Creek. At the December 20, 2016 meeting the Advisory Board recommended that a project alternative that includes the removal of the Mountain View Bridge, construction of flood barriers along Sleepy Hollow Creek and the Nursery Site detention basin be included and analyzed as an alternative through the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project EIR. Completing CEQA will improve the District's ability to pursue grant funds for this project. District staff anticipates the final study will be available from RossValleyWatershed.org in Spring of 2017.

Lower Corte Madera Creek Improvements

a. Hillview Neighborhood Drainage Improvements

City of Larkspur has been seeking alternatives to the need for performing sediment removal in Corte Madera Creek at storm drainage outfalls which has been necessary to provide gravity flow paths from outfalls to Corte Madera Creek carrying Hillview neighborhood drainage. The Hillview neighborhood resides on the west side of Corte Madera Creek, just north of the Bon Air Road Bridge. At the December 20, 2016 Advisory Board meeting, a Memorandum of Agreement was recommended between District and City of Larkspur to fund a preliminary conceptual design as Phase 1. Pending results of Phase 1, Phase 2 and 3 will involve performing permitting, final design and construction of the proposed improvements. The City is currently securing a consultant to complete the conceptual design.

b. DWR Local Levee Evaluation Grant

The District has been approved to receive the Local Levee Assistance Program (LLAP) grant that will provide 55% reimbursement for about \$400,000 of proposed work to include field surveys, hydrologic and hydraulic analyses and evaluation of levees along Lower Corte Madera Creek, downstream of the concrete channel. Staff is reviewing the grant application for any potential changes and negotiating the grant agreement between the District and Department of Water Resources (DWR). In 2015, Staff presented the list of sites to be evaluated under the grant to the Zone 9 Technical Working Group for their review and input and subsequently reported back to the Zone 9 Advisory Board that the grant application had been submitted. The grant also includes a reimbursement of most of the local cost share for the Corte Madera Creek Units 2, 3 and 4 Project that is described in the relevant section of this report and the final grant agreement will cover both projects.

c. Geomorphic Dredge Study

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District staff, in coordination with Watershed Sciences, are making progress on a “geomorphic dredge” approach along Lower Corte Madera Creek. Although there is limited comparable data, staff is still collecting, analyzing and evaluating if the data indicates that there is a channel geometry that would be in better equilibrium with the available tidal prism. A draft report available for public review is expected by summer 2017.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Units 2, 3, and 4 Project

Background:

The Project Design Team (PDT) for the Corte Madera Creek Units 2, 3 and 4 Project consists of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – San Francisco Office (USACE) and the District. The task consists of feasibility-level analysis of improvements to Corte Madera Creek from Sir Francis Drake Bridge in Ross to the downstream end of the concrete channel in Kentfield.

Recent accomplishments:

USACE with support from the District and our technical consultant are currently performing hydraulic analyses needed to estimate and compare the cost and benefit ratios of all the alternatives that have been developed. This effort added alternatives that include a bypass conduit and a section of natural creek restoration. This technical analysis is using past models and converting to a recently developed two dimensional model to better capture actual field conditions during flood events. The work is being performed in partnership with the Ross Valley watershed-wide efforts to convert the model in the rest of the watershed. Important information obtained during recent storms this winter is being used to calibrate the models. Real time water surface elevations have been recorded using data-loggers in the concrete channel and Staff have observed and surveyed select high water marks during the peaks of the storms in the earthen channel section of Unit 4. The environmental review process for the Project is proceeding concurrently and technical studies needed for the environmental document are underway.

Next Steps:

USACE is currently scheduled to complete the hydrologic and hydraulic analyses and reviews by the end of April 2017 and cost and benefits estimates of the alternatives by June 2017. Once the results of the analyses are delivered, meetings or workshops with stakeholder groups will be scheduled for their input. The results of the modeling analysis and cost and benefit estimates will be used to compare the alternatives. This will result in development of what is referred to as the USACE’ Tentatively-Selected Plan (TSP). With authorization of funds by the USACE, the draft TSP would be scheduled for estimated completion and for public input by summer 2017. The technical studies for the environmental review will be occurring concurrently and the draft EIR/EIS is scheduled to be released by early 2018. Next steps following development of the TSP will include submitting the package to USACE Headquarters for their review and approval of the project, referred to as the Agency Decision Milestone.

When the Project was re-initiated in 2015, it was intended to be performed according to the USACE’s 3x3x3 planning process, which would complete the feasibility-level study within three years, for under \$3 million and with three levels of project review. In late 2016, the

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USACE prepared a waiver package that the Commander of the USACE San Francisco District will present to the USACE Headquarters to request approval to exceed the \$3 million and 3 year time frame. The waiver stems from the need for extra time and costs to complete additional items not included in the original project budget that include:

- more refined hydraulic analysis to better capture the field conditions during high flow events;
- new improvements to be analyzed and considered for removal of a section of the concrete channel and restore to natural creek in the Town of Ross and a bypass channel to re-route high flows through publicly owned property;
- the analysis of the structural integrity of the existing concrete channel to determine the feasibility of features to improve fish passage through the concrete channel; and
- additional technical work to address critical review comments and to resolve complex environmental compliance issues raised by the agencies that will ultimately permit the Project

If the waiver is approved by USACE Headquarters, this would add extra cost of \$800,000 (to be shared 50% between USACE and the District) and result in a delay in schedule of 14 months to the feasibility-level design.

Upcoming Planned Meetings:

Following the completion of hydraulic analyses, the District and the USACE will plan a series of neighborhood meetings or workshops to present and discuss the modeling results of the alternatives for the Project. It is anticipated that these meetings will begin in April 2017 once the analysis described above is completed. Property owners will be contacted by mail with information regarding the meeting place and time. Similar meetings are being held with other key stakeholders, including the Town of Ross, College of Marin and Kentfield School District.

The District has been awarded a grant for reimbursement of the majority of the local cost share of the feasibility study (about \$1.4 million) through DWR's Local Levee Assistance Program (LLAP). The District is currently updating the cost breakdown and schedule to match current conditions and negotiating an agreement with DWR in order to receive grant funds. Depending on DWR's turnaround time, Staff is expecting to present the final agreement to the Board of Supervisors for authorization in April 2017. Even with the potential budget increases described above, the grant and the USACE cost share will pay for the majority of the total cost to complete the Feasibility Study for the Project.

Program Updates

a. Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)

A scoping meeting was held on Thursday February 16th at the Ross Art and Garden Center with approximately 100 attendees. An audio recording from the public speakers, the presentation, Notice of Preparation and other meeting documents is available at RossValleyWatershed.org. The public comment period for the Notice of Preparation document ended on February 24, 2017. All comments on the Program's environmental elements are currently being compiled for incorporation into the PEIR process and document. Further opportunities for public comments will be forthcoming.

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b. Home Elevation Grant Update

The District submitted an application in June to raise 89 homes across the County, including 41 homes throughout Ross Valley, with assistance from FEMA's Home Mitigation Grant funds. The grant will fund up to 75% of the cost to raise a home above the base flood elevation. The project is currently undergoing environmental review by FEMA. Note: due to a \$4 million funding cap, not all 89 homes will receive funding under this current grant cycle.

Creek Maintenance Update

District staff along with representatives from Towns of Fairfax, San Anselmo, Ross, and City of Larkspur will be meeting and planning creek walks to develop the FY 17/18 Creek Maintenance Program work plan.

Rain and Stream Data

The Flood Emergency Response Program (FERP) Grant has also been awarded by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and a contract was signed in August 2016. The District has upgraded all nine (9) of its existing stream and rain gages to ALERT2 protocols throughout the County. The grant also includes four new rain gages for Zone 9 and sites tentatively are Fairfax Fire Station, Phoenix Lake, Former Nursery Site or White Hill School, and Sleepy Hollow Fire Station 20. A new stream gage is also included in the grant and a site is tentatively identified for Sleepy Hollow Creek also at Fire Station 20 to supplement or upgrade the existing creek gage installed in 2016.

As a side note, District Staff is evaluating a new tide gage and real-time camera feeds in Corte Madera Creek at a yet unidentified location. This gage would not be covered by the FERP grant, however will be paid for through Zone 9 funds and if a suitable site is found will be planned for installation in FY 2017/2018.

Item 7. Program Planning Fiscal Year 2017/18

As a part of a Flood Control District-wide effort to maximize feedback and transparency in the annual Flood Zone budget planning process, Staff prepared the attached "2017/18 Draft Work Plan" to further refine the budget and program planning process.

The process will first include a presentation of the Draft Flood Control Zone 9 Work Plan (attached) that outlines the projects and initiatives planned for the coming year, including high level details such as proposed budget, milestones and line item descriptions. Next, Staff will solicit feedback and recommendations on the "Draft Fiscal Year 17/18 Work Plan" from the Flood Zone Advisory Board. Then, the Work Plan will be finalized and used alongside the Program "Costs and Revenues Estimate" (formerly referred to as Attachment A) included in this Staff Report to develop the Draft FY17/18 Program Budget. The FY17/18 Budget and Final Work Plan will be presented to the Advisory Board at a subsequent meeting for final recommendations before both are adopted by the District Board of Supervisors in July/August 2017.

Item 8. Confirm Next Meeting Date & Adjourn

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Staff recommends holding the next Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board Meeting on Tues, May 16th, 2017, at 7:00 pm.