

FLOOD ZONE 9 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2013
SAN ANSELMO TOWN HALL
STAFF REPORT

Item 1. Approval of meeting minutes for May 13, 2013

Action by Board: Advisory Board members will review meeting minutes from the May 13, 2013 meeting, make corrections, and approve the minutes as corrected.

Item 2. Open time for items not on the agenda

Item 3. Program Updates

The program has secured or is in the process of securing \$30 million in grant funds.

Recent presentations included: Annual Community Meeting, July 13, 2013, Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission on July 23rd 2013.

Staff has been discussing the program with stakeholders, and has identified the following issues: project implementation and priorities, funding of projects, improvement of public education and outreach, and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all of the agencies and partners involved. We plan to continue to develop policy options on these issues for your Board's future consideration.

We plan to reestablish regular meetings of the Technical Working Group (TWG). The TWG is meant to augment town staff by providing more in depth technical information to town/city-designated representatives and resident volunteers. TWG members can then serve to team with town staff in understanding and disseminating correct information about the projects to the community at large. A meeting of the Technical Work Group will be held in December or January. Project updates, a financial overview and upcoming efforts will be presented. We also look forward to working with town staff to explore how TWG members from their towns can help them.

Item 4. Project Status Updates

Corte Madera Creek Unit 4 – US Army Corps of Engineers Project Update
Implementing agency – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Cost Estimate – Planning/Study Phase \$3,000,000, Construction \$6,560,000 (Source – USACE)

A planning Charrette was held from September 10th through September 12th at the offices of the San Francisco District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Participants in the charrette included Supervisor Rice, Congressman Huffman's District Director Jenny Callaway; Advisory Board members Tom McInerney, David Weinsoff, and Chris Martin; Ross Councilmember Rupert Russell; Sandra Guldman of Friends of Corte Madera Creek; Anne Petersen of the Kentfield Planning Advisory Board; County DPW Assistant Director Craig Tackabery and Flood Control staff members Tracy Clay, and Jack Curley; and Zone 9 consultant James Reilly of Stetson Engineers.

The purpose of the charrette was to develop an updated Project Management Plan (PMP) for

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

the project. This is a necessary first step in keeping the project in “Active” status and will lead to a new Federal Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) that will serve to improve our competitiveness in receiving funds in the President’s budget for Fiscal Year 2015 and beyond. There are no funds for the project in the President’s Fiscal Year 2014 budget.

Next steps include further refinement of the Project Management Plan and development of a Federal Cost Sharing Agreement. If approved, this agreement will commit Flood Zone 9 to paying 50% of the study and design phase of the project with the maximum commitment being \$1.5 million. The planning phase must cost less than \$3 million and take less than 3 years to complete according to the new USACE SMART planning process directives. We are working on a final draft of the FCSA with a USACE target of executing the agreement by January 1, 2014, in time for budget planning for the following fiscal year. At this point, we are not proposing a new cost sharing agreement for construction.

Memorial Park Multi-Use Detention Basin Project

Implementing agency: Town of San Anselmo

Cost Estimate: \$17,441,000 (Source – DWR Prop 1E Grant Application 9/20/2013)

The final grant awards were announced on September 20th 2013. Fifty percent (50%) of the project cost, \$8,720,500, will be paid for by the grant with the remainder to come from Flood Zone 9, Town of San Anselmo, and other grant sources. Sean Condry, DPW Director of the Town of San Anselmo, will update with any recent details.

Item 5. Status of Ross Valley Cities and Towns Local Hazard Mitigation Plans

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)

During open time of the last May FZ9 Advisory Board meeting, a Q & A was held amongst the public, Flood Control staff, and the Marin County Sheriff’s Offices of Emergency Services (OES) regarding the status of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). As was requested, below is a list of the LHMP status in each of the Ross Valley municipalities:

<u>Ross Valley Municipality</u>	<u>Last LHMP Approval Date*</u>
Marin County	August 29 th 2013
City of Larkspur	December 23 rd 2006
Town of Ross	June 25 th 2012
Town of San Anselmo	March 24 th 2011
Town of Fairfax	June 25 th , 2012

*The LHMP should be reviewed and revised by each municipality prior to being resubmitted for approval by FEMA at least once every five years in order to continue to be eligible for FEMA hazard mitigation project grant funding

Approval of the LHMP ensures continued eligibility for project grants under FEMA’s hazard mitigation assistance programs which includes: the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance grant programs.

Item 6. Informational Items

Phoenix Lake IRWM Retrofit Project

Implementing Agency: Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Cost Estimate: \$19,700,000 (Source – DWR Prop 1E Grant Agreement 5/8/2013)

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

The grant was received from the California Department of Water Resources' Stormwater Flood Management Grant Program (Proposition 1E) – Round 1. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for geotechnical services, feasibility study, and preliminary design was issued on November 4, 2013 with a due date of December 6, 2013. It is expected that this work will be complete in early 2015 with allowances for threatened species work constraints. This work will be used to confirm project feasibility and provide the initial stages of design. Other feasibility studies just beginning include the Hydrologic Study of Long-Term Yield of Phoenix Lake and the Ross Creek Instream Flow Study.

Lefty Gomez Field Dual-Use Detention Basin Project

Implementing Agency: Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Cost Estimate: \$6,400,000 (Source – Ross Valley Capital Improvement Plan, May, 2011)

A Geotechnical Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released after the first of the year. The RFP will include the installation of monitoring wells which is the first step in confirming feasibility of the project and providing data for the design. Installation of the monitoring wells will be performed outside of school hours as much as practical to limit impacts to the school and its students.

Loma Alta Detention Basin Project

Implementing Agency: Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Cost Estimate: \$1,900,000 (Source – Ross Valley Capital Improvement Plan, May, 2011)

Staff presented the Loma Alta detention basin concept to the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission on July 23rd 2013. The Parks & Open Space District desires that the current use of the area continue, that the detention basin blend in with the surrounding terrain, and as much vegetation be maintained as practical. A permit will be required between the Flood Control District and the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission to carry out soil sampling to develop this detention basin design to a “grant-ready” status. Geotechnical services will be procured early next year. A subsequent agreement will be required before submitting a grant application in the future.

Creek Cleaning Program

Implementing Agencies: Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Towns of Fairfax, Ross, San Anselmo, City of Larkspur

This year there were two creek cleaning efforts in the Ross Valley. The first effort was undertaken by the Ross Valley Cities and Towns with funding provided by Flood Zone 9. A second effort was done by volunteer residents within the Sleepy Hollow Community with guidance and support from the Flood Control District.

The first creek cleaning effort removed vegetation and large debris from various locations in the watershed in preparation for the rainy season. Staff members from the 4 towns formed the 2013 Ross Valley Watershed Creek Maintenance Committee (Committee). The Committee held two meetings with the intent of reaching agreement on where the most effective cleanup should be regardless of their jurisdictional boundaries. In June, they met and prioritized creek cleaning locations from a watershed perspective. This year, the Committee decided that tree trimming and dead tree removal were the priorities. Creek Maintenance Agreements between each of the four Ross Valley Cities and Towns and the Flood Control District will now last five years. A multi-year approach will allow more effective creek cleaning efforts by focusing on

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

creek cleaning tasks in a prioritized way during each of the five years. A small amount of reserve funds will be held by the Flood Control District for responding to emergencies this winter.

The second creek cleaning effort was initiated by the Sleepy Hollow Homeowner's Association with guidance provided by Supervisor Rice and District staff. On Saturday September 7th, Sleepy Hollow residents came together to clean Van Winkle and Sleepy Hollow Creeks on numerous private properties. Permission was received from the property owners before any work was carried. The volunteers trimmed and removed approximately 1,100 cubic yards of debris. This successful effort was a result of the local community identifying a need for cleaning the creek channel and was organized by the Sleepy Hollow Homeowner's Association Creek Committee in cooperation with Supervisor Rice's office. Flood Control Staff, Bene Da Silva and Hugh Davis, provided focused support through a training presentation to the community volunteers on August 25th detailing how to achieve flood prevention while also preserving habitat. The Road Crew from the County of Marin Department of Public Works removed the green waste debris and the Marin Sanitary District provided extra dumpsters needed to store the debris before pickup.

These positive results will serve to guide future volunteer and public outreach efforts valley wide. District staff is continuing work with the Ross Valley Cities and Towns to identify similar volunteer led efforts for the future.

Annual Community Meeting

A community meeting was held on Saturday, July 13th from 10 AM to 12 PM at Sir Francis Drake High School. The topic for the meeting was detention basins. Staff gave a presentation about detention basins and how they work. The meeting was attended by 96 residents who participated enthusiastically in the discussions. A Question and Answer session followed at the end of the meeting. A video recording of the meeting and all meeting documents can be viewed on the program website's new [Community Meetings page](#).

One of the requests from the public asked staff to investigate the possibility of installing underground tanks on Center Blvd. and Butterfield Road that would take the place of detention basins in the watershed program. Our engineering staff investigated and consulted with a manufacturer of precast concrete tanks and found that to install two 16 feet wide by 12 feet deep continuous tanks, side-by-side, under 3.8 miles of Center Blvd. in San Anselmo, Broadway Blvd. in Fairfax, and Butterfield Road in San Anselmo with a holding capacity of 165 acre feet would cost \$167 million for the tanks, road demolition and reconstruction, and tank installation costs. (The combined capacity of the detention basins proposed in the Ross Valley CIP Study Report is 646 acre feet). This estimate does not include design and permitting costs, right of way costs, or utility relocation costs. Utility disruption would also likely require us to pay for homeowner relocation costs due to lengthy suspensions of utility services.

Website and Email Notifications

We publish project documents to the www.rossvalleywatershed.org website as well as videos from community meetings, the Annual Report, the Memorial Park Detention Basin Grant Application, and the Phoenix Lake project documents. Subscribers receive email notifications when new documents are posted, meetings are scheduled or other news items are posted. During the winter rainy season, the <https://marin.onerain.com> website provides links to stream and rain gauge data and other important websites for local weather information.

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Winter Storm Readiness

Each year on October 1st, Flood Control staff begins to closely monitor weather predictions and creek stage and rainfall information. Our staff coordinates with key county staff, first responders, and the National Weather Service in Monterey to facilitate information exchange and timely response. Recently, Flood Control staff met with NWS' Service Hydrologist and the Warning Coordinator Meteorologist and took them on a tour of the Ross Valley watershed so that they can better understand local conditions. We plan to work closely with them this winter. The combination of their extensive radar and weather data and our "on-the-ground" observations will help to improve the operations of both of our agencies.

Item 7. Next Meeting Date – December 2013