

## **FLOOD ZONE 9 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**JANUARY 31, 2013**

**SAN ANSELMO TOWN HALL**

### **STAFF REPORT**

#### **Item 1. Approval of meeting minutes for August 28, 2012**

Chair will commence the meeting.

**Action by Board:** Advisory Board members will review meeting minutes from the August 28, 2012 meeting, make corrections, and approve the minutes as corrected.

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

Comments will be heard for items not on the agenda.

#### **Item 3. Community outreach/engagement**

**Annual report:** The Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 is now in final review and expected to be ready for distribution in February 2013. In this year's report, we focus on detention basins and how and why they are used.

**Website and Email Notifications:** The Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program website is a source of detailed and regularly updated information for the program. It currently has links to the 10 Year Work Plan, CIP Study Report, Annual Report 2011/12, and many others. The [website](#) now contains a 'Subscribe for Updates' option. This subscription option is intended to promote email address registration by interested parties in order to receive electronic notifications of future zone meetings, events, and updates.

In order to increase efficiency and reduce overhead zone expenditures District staff has mailed a form to residents on our current mailing list requesting and encouraging them to register their email address. The residents are asked to return the form to the county via an enclosed, stamped envelope. Zone stakeholders preferring to continue receiving traditional mail notifications have the option to do so. Residents who do not reply will not receive future notices.

**Storm Response:** During winter storms, District staff monitors rainfall amounts and creek depths in the Ross Valley. The real-time information we receive from our field gauges, our partners in the towns, our experienced staff, and direct contact with the National Weather Service is used to guide important decisions on storm response during large events. Through the website, <http://marin.onerain.com>, the rainfall amounts and creek depth information that we gather is available to the public at large and to all first responders. (Note: Gauges and communication systems that distribute the collected information are subject to outages and cannot be the only tool used to inform storm response.)

**Stakeholder Meetings – Technical Work Group and Policy Advisory Group:** The Flood Zone 9/Ross Valley Technical Work Group (TWG) was formed to provide community stakeholders, regulatory agencies, and our municipal partners with more in-depth information on the technical aspects of the projects in the Flood Zone 9/Ross Valley Flood Protection and

Watershed Program. As we have been working chiefly on administrative milestones during 2012 we have not held a meeting in many months. We will be resuming TWG meetings and we are surveying TWG members for availability in February 2013.

The Flood Zone 9/Ross Valley Policy Advisory Group also conducts periodic meetings to discuss strategies regarding longer term planning efforts, public outreach, and how to promote federal, state, and local agency support for the Flood Zone 9/Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program.

**Creek Maintenance Fact Sheet for Creekside Property Owners:** District staff is developing a fact sheet for creekside property owners in coordination with the towns/city staff as part of the Creek Cleaning Program. The fact sheet will address the responsibilities of creekside property owners for maintaining the creek on their property and provide information on permit requirements and other helpful resources. Once completed and approved by our partners, each jurisdiction will make required modifications and do a coordinated mailing to main stem and large tributary creekside property owners in their jurisdiction.

#### **Item 4. Project Status Updates**

**Phoenix Lake –** The cost sharing agreement with the CA Department of Water Resources has been finalized by the state. An agreement with the Marin Municipal Water District to collaborate for the completion of engineering, environmental and permitting studies to evaluate the feasibility of the project must be reached before we request that the Board of Supervisors of the Flood Control District execute the agreement. Public Works and Flood Control management are in continued discussions with the water district to complete the agreement.

District staff is finalizing the data processing from the completed 2012 pre-construction monitoring activities in Ross Creek and Phoenix Lake. These field monitoring activities are required by the terms of the grant funding agreement. Monitoring begins before the project and continues through and after construction.

**Memorial Park –** The grant application for this project is ready for submission on February 1, 2013. The application process is managed by the Town of San Anselmo Department of Public Works. Stetson Engineers Inc. carried out the technical work and application composition. The grant application preparation is funded by Flood Zone 9/Ross Valley of the Flood Control District and the Town of San Anselmo.

The Town of San Anselmo has taken the lead on the development of the plans required for submitting an application for Prop 1E - Round 2 Stormwater Flood Management Grant from the California Department of Water Resources for the Memorial Park Detention Basin project.

Multiple benefits of the project have been identified in addition to flood control such as storm water quality improvement, water conservation, and improved public recreation facilities.

The town has held 3 public meetings which have provided valuable input from the town residents. The town responded to community concerns in a direct and engaging manner and helped ensure that the concerns of the community are addressed to the extent possible in project planning with the Flood Control District.

District staff managed the installation of monitoring wells to determine underground water levels

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

and soil sampling. The water level monitoring is being done by San Anselmo town staff and the data is used in the design of the field dimensions and underlying drainage system.

**Lefty Gomez Field** – The Ross Valley School District and the Flood Control District have reached an agreement that will allow the Flood Control District to carry out ground water level monitoring and soil sampling to develop this detention basin design to a “grant-ready” status. A subsequent agreement will be required before submitting a grant application in the future.

**Creek Cleaning Program** – District staff met with representatives of the towns to discuss lesson’s learned from the 2012 program efforts and to develop next year’s 2013 creek maintenance program. Additional meetings of municipal and district staff are planned to discuss developing program elements such as:

1. Preseason creek walk by district and town staff to create a list of maintenance requirements
2. Coordinated public outreach and abatement procedures valley wide
3. Shared services across jurisdictions to help accomplish the creek maintenance goals

**Unit 4 Project** – Efforts are focused on restoring regular, annual funding for the project. Supervisor Rice and Marin County Director of Public Works Bob Beaumont visited the offices of our elected officials in Washington D.C. during the week of January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Item 5 Report on BCDC Project - Research on Bayshore Marshes in Town of Corte Madera**

In December 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded a grant of \$640,000 to the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) for the Estuary 2100 program, an integrated set of ecosystem-based projects aimed at protecting and enhancing San Francisco Estuary, while anticipating the effects of our changing climate. This grant funded a study to evaluate the vulnerability of tidal wetlands wave attenuation characteristics to sea level rise, and to identify strategies that could be used to protect and enhance this key flood risk reduction service. The study is being managed by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). The Flood Zone 9/Ross Valley CIP Study Report was used by BCDC to help meet federal funding match requirements.

BCDC was able to utilize our hydraulic modeling data and cross sections in their complex 3D modeling of the bay shore marshes in the Town of Corte Madera. Included in the report will be a suite of alternative management measures that could be implemented either individually or together to preserve tidal wetlands, and the services they provide, in light of accelerating sea levels and declining Bay sediment supply. **Opportunities for beneficial reuse of sediment removed from the creek could be incorporated into the sediment management strategy in Corte Madera Creek.** Small amounts of sediment removed from the creek and placed on the mudflats/marshes could be used to preserve the wetlands in that area of Greenbrae and Town of Corte Madera which would act as a buffer against sea level rise. A draft report is to be released in February 2013. For more info see:

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/funding/sfbay-water.html>

### **Item 6 Next Meeting Date - April 2013**