

**MINUTES OF THE  
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 3 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015  
AT THE HANNAH GALLERY  
170 DONAHUE STREET, MARIN CITY**

<b><u>Advisory Board (AB) Members Present</u></b>	<b><u>District Staff (Staff) Present</u></b>
Penelope Alexandris (PA)	Neal Conatser, Assistant Engineer
Robert Burton (RB), Chairperson	Hannah Lee, Associate Civil Engineer
Dan Frost (DF)	Roger Leventhal, Senior Civil Engineer
Garry Lion (GL)	Scott Lyle, Principal Civil Engineer
Linda Rames (LR)	
<b><u>Advisory Board (AB) Members Absent</u></b>	<b><u>Others</u></b>
Shawn McGhie (SM), Vice Chairperson	Jill Barnes, City of Mill Valley Director of Public Works
Curry Ecklehoff (CE)	

Meeting commenced at approximately 6:33 PM with PA, RB, DF, GL, and LR present. District staff began by presenting a general description of Flood Control Zone 3 and its funding tools, and noted the locations within the room of the sign-in sheet, meeting agendas, comment cards, and a microphone for public comment. RB then welcomed comments and questions during presentations, introduced new AB member Dan Frost, and expressed appreciation for Garry Lion's service on the AB.

**Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: March 19, 2014**

**Action by Board:** Approve with one correction; to correct the spelling of the last name of the late Advisory Board member, Godfrey "Paul" Zimmerman.

**M/S:** GL/LR, **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **Abstain:** None

**Item 2. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda**

The following documents were received from the public and will be distributed to the AB by staff.

- Recommended articles for AB and staff to read regarding episodic megafloods in California and impacts of the lunar nodal cycle on tidal rhythms. These articles may contain information to help with mitigation projects and advance emergency planning.
- Documents, including a map, dating back to 1973 describing restoration of Bothin Marsh as a mandate that followed flooding of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer project in Coyote Creek.

**Item 3. Zone Engineer's Report**

a. Flood Preparedness

Staff provided a brief presentation about El Nino and the District's winter preparedness activities. See the November 18, 2015 Staff Report for more information.

A member of the public inquired about maintenance of a drainage ditch off Waldo Court that had previously plugged up where it enters an underground pipe. Staff stated this drainage ditch is on the District's storm patrol list of sites inspected and cleaned before, during, and after storms as needed. Maintenance staff will evaluate the existing extents and level of maintenance to see if improvements can be made to prevent future flooding.

Another member of the public requested an explanation about why creek sediment removal sites vary in effectiveness and regulatory agency permit-ability. Staff provided examples of sediment removal sites and varying degrees of regulatory agency oversight.

b. Lower Marin City Drainage Study

Staff described flooding observed at the Highway 101 and Donahue Street interchange last year and a soon-to-be grant-funded study to evaluate mitigation alternatives. For more information on the study see the November 18, 2015 Staff Report. RB commented that flooding which blocks ingress and egress to Highway 101 is extremely important to resolve quickly.

The following comments were received from the public:

- Install a pump with the funds proposed for the study.
- Begin study right away, especially considering potential high tides and major storms this year.
- Frame needed work as maintenance of existing facilities rather than improvement.
- Focus on prevention of flooding instead of funding response measures.

**Action by Board:** Recommend increasing the FY 2015-16 Zone 3 budget by \$210,500 to serve as the 50% matching funds for the TAM grant-funded Lower Marin City Drainage Study.

**M/S:** DF/LR, **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **Abstain:** None

c. Coyote Creek Levee Evaluation

Staff presented the findings of the geotechnical analysis and types of alternative improvements to evaluate in the next phase of the Coyote Creek Levee Evaluation project. A draft alternatives assessment report will be presented to the AB this winter and will be posted on [www.marinwatersheds.org/southern\\_marin.html](http://www.marinwatersheds.org/southern_marin.html) for a 30-day public comment period. For more information, see the November 18, 2015 Staff Report.

**Item 4. Highway 101 / Shoreline Highway at Manzanita Flooding: Presentation by Caltrans Staff**

Caltrans staff presented information about why it floods at the Highway 101 and Shoreline Highway interchange (Manzanita) and how facility closures are communicated to the public. They reported that the lot provides 300 spaces and ½ to ¾ are closed when high tides are forecasted. Caltrans staff also stated that they close the shoulders of Highway 1 to parking. Feedback was sought regarding public notification of flooding of Caltrans facilities. Additionally, an informational sheet was provided at the meeting. LR asked about the parking area under the bridge that was leased to an office building. Caltrans staff stated they needed to check with their right-of-way group for more information. A member of the public indicated that the lot may have been rented to satisfy a parking ratio requirement set when the office building was being developed.

A member of the public requested clarification about the two tide gates at Manzanita into Richardson Bay. District staff explained that the area subsided following installation of the tide gates and now tides overtop the shoreline, therefore the gates no longer function as designed to keep tides out. Another member of the public asked which entities own the various facilities in question.

A member of the public stated that Caltrans used to overlay Highway 1 every 4 to 5 years to raise the grade due to settlement in this area, but stopped doing that. Caltrans reported that they cannot raise the pavement of northbound Highway 1 due to clearance issues under the bridge.

The following additional comments were received from members of the public:

- There are concerns about displaced parkers when the park and ride lot is closed due to flooding. Coordination with all the transit providers is needed so that the public is informed in advance.
- A schedule was requested for solving flooding problems in Southern Marin along Highway 101.
- A suggestion was received to reroute southbound Highway 1 going south along a former alignment closer to the Fireside, which is an elevated route.
- A suggestion was made to reroute northbound Highway 1 north into the Caltrans maintenance yard to provide more bridge clearance.

**Item 6. Watershed Program Update**

a. Richardson Bay Shoreline Study

District staff presented a brief summary of the draft Richardson Bay Shoreline Study, a sea level rise vulnerability assessment with conceptual adaptation alternatives, which is currently posted on [marinwatersheds.org](http://marinwatersheds.org) for public comment through February. See the November 18, 2015 Staff Report for more information.

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

b. Southern Marin Watershed Guide

Staff provided an overview of the purpose of the guide and related community meetings. See the November 18, 2015 Staff Report for more information.

**Item 7. Schedule Next Meetings**

Staff will send an email to AB with proposed meeting dates this winter and ask for AB preferences.