

NOVATO FLOOD PROTECTION AND WATERSHED PROGRAM

Winter Storms 2016-17 While this summer’s sediment removal project and recent improvements to the SMART bridge over Novato Creek reduced flood risk, Novato’s flood infrastructure experienced almost \$1.7 million in damages last winter. Without additional funds, the Flood Control Zone 1 cannot construct projects or increase maintenance to reduce flood risk.

Looking ahead with sea level rise, the baylands along Highway 37 are a prime candidate to receive grant funding to reduce flood risk and restore marsh habitat. However, a local match is required to secure those funds.

To address storm damage, restore habitat and infrastructure, the Zone 1 Advisory Board and the Marin County Board of Supervisors are discussing the possibility of placing a special tax on the November 2017 ballot. The measure could collect \$47 from a single-family parcel per year for 18 years and generate \$1,100,000/year that could be used for these potential improvements.



Reduce local flooding in the City of Novato [20%]

- Reduce flooding downtown and on Armstrong Avenue by improving maintenance of the drainage system on North Redwood Blvd.
- Reduce roadway flooding by fixing pipes and drains identified in the City of Novato’s Stormwater Master Plan
- Funds can only be spent on priority city drainage projects



Restore habitat with nature-based solutions [50%]

- Widen and restore lower Novato Creek to reduce flooding
- Improve water quality at Pacheco Pond to reduce odors
- Restore tidal marsh habitat for fish, wildlife and birds
- Restore tidal action to promote natural movement of sediment
- Provide local funding match to help leverage state and federal restoration grant funds



Maintain and repair flood protection facilities [30%]

- Repair storm-damaged levees east of Highway 101
- Begin adapting levees to sea level rise
- Install new pump at Simmons Slough to keep southern Atherton Avenue from flooding
- Repair and replace aging pumps east of Highway 101

Flood Zone 1 is our largest flood control zone that includes the entire city of Novato plus a sizeable amount of unincorporated area around the City. The County Board of Supervisors is the District’s Board.

For more information, please visit: www.MarinWatersheds.org/novato.html.

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Any new parcel tax funds can only be spent within Novato’s Flood Zone 1.

Without Parcel Tax

Funding limited to:

- Small percentage of property taxes and a 1984 maintenance assessment of \$9 per parcel.

Without a parcel tax:

- Pump and pump station maintenance may be deferred
- Many levees may continue to degrade
- Sediment removal from creeks may be less frequent
- There will be limited ability to assess and correct flooding problems
- There will be no funding for habitat restoration and for adaptation to sea level rise

With Proposed Parcel Tax

Proposed Funding (plus existing sources)

- \$47 per single family parcel per year for 18 years (proposed)

Additional funding could go to:

- Improve water quality in creeks, wetlands and the Bay
- Restore creek and wetland habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife
- Reduce roadway flooding by funding high-priority City storm drainage projects
- Strengthen and repair storm-damaged levees and pumps
- Begin adaptation to sea level rise
- Design and construct nature-based flood projects
- Provide local match to attract state and federal grants

To learn more, attend a Zone 1 Advisory Board meeting. View meeting information at:
http://www.marinwatersheds.org/fz_advisory.html#zone1



For more information, contact:
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