

## Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

### 2015-2016 Maintenance & Storm Preparedness Summary Zone 9

*Updated: September 3, 2015*

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#### **Winter Weather Outlook**

The National Weather Service's [Climate Prediction Center](#) anticipates that there will be a strong El Niño this upcoming winter and their latest [precipitation outlook](#) for December through March indicates that Marin is likely to receive higher than average amounts of precipitation. Additionally, due in part to warmer than average ocean waters, tides could be significantly higher than predicted.

#### **Maintenance Overview**

Regardless of predictions, the Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District) prepares for every year as though it is an “El Niño year.” Although two major flooding years in Marin's history occurred during years with El Niño episodes (1997/98 and 1982/83), it is not unusual to experience major flooding in the absence of El Niño, such as in 2005/06. Flooding can even occur during a drought year such as last year, when the County suffered some of its worst flooding damage since 2006.

It is for these reasons that the District follows a consistent system of facility and creek maintenance each year which mitigates the risk of flooding. We conduct regular inspections of the creeks, floodwalls, and levees within our jurisdiction, and frequently test our pumps, motors, and generators. Creeks, drainage ditches, pipes, trash racks, and pump wet wells are cleared of vegetation, sediment, and trash in the fall and throughout the winter as needed. A flood control zone-specific update regarding maintenance, storm preparedness and response in your local area is provided below.

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#### **Pump Station Maintenance**

There are no District-operated pump stations in Flood Control Zone 9 – Ross Valley.

#### **Vegetation Maintenance**

Vegetation maintenance is performed as needed by the cities and towns in Ross Valley where they have right-of-way. A Creek Cleaning Education Program training session is scheduled for the Kent Avenue area in late September and an annual creek cleaning event in Sleepy Hollow will take place in early October.

#### **Sediment Removal**

Localized sediment removal is performed by the cities and towns in Ross Valley where they have right-of-way and on an as-needed basis. Sediment removal is also performed by the District within the fish resting pools located along the bottom of the Corte Madera Creek concrete channel. A feasibility study is currently underway to evaluate sediment management within the lower reach of Corte Madera Creek partially located within the City of Larkspur.

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

### **Levee/Floodwall Maintenance & Rodent Control**

The Corte Madera Creek channel is inspected every other summer by the Army Corps of Engineers and District staff, including this summer. Patching of the concrete channel is conducted by county staff and/or contractors as needed. Each year county staff inspects, cleans, greases, and repairs as necessary the tide gates on the pipes that penetrate the channel wall.

### **Precipitation and Stream Gauge Maintenance**

The District owns several precipitation and stream gauges throughout the County which help inform us of water levels in creeks and heavy rainfall in real-time. The nearest rain gauge is in Kentfield and there is a stream gauge on Corte Madera Creek in the Town of Ross. For more information on the gauges visit:

<https://marin.onerain.com/home.php>.

Preventative maintenance on the gauges is performed twice annually - September/October and February/March - and as needed. A grant has recently been awarded to install additional rain and stream gauges, and to upgrade the gauge software. This work is expected to be underway after this rainy season.

### **Storm Response**

Before, during, and after storms, the Conservation Corps North Bay inspects and clears facilities as needed. They are also available for sandbagging and/or tarping levees and creek banks if requested. The District has a fleet of portable pumps which are maintained and tested prior to the winter season and some are pre-deployed in key locations.

The District is evaluating and has received a bid for temporary removable flood barriers which could be deployed quickly and in lieu of sandbags at flood threatened locations. The barriers are made of high strength plastic and achieve their stability by filling them with water.