

**FLOOD ZONE 5 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**JUNE 18, 2008**

**STAFF REPORT**

The following is a staff report for the items listed on the agenda for Flood Zone #5 Advisory Board (AB) meeting held on June 18, 2008:

**Item 1. Approval of Minutes: October 17, 2007**

Action by Board: Board will review meeting minutes from the October 17, 2007 meeting, make corrections, and approve 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. Zone Budget FY 2008-2009**

Action by Board: Staff will present and Board members will review and consider for recommendation the proposed Zone budget for FY 2008-2009.

**Item 4. Update: Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Project**

The Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Project, a collaborative effort between Marin County Open Space, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) released a draft of its *Recommendations for Restoration and Management* in May 2008. An electronic copy of the plan is available at:

<http://farallones.noaa.gov/ecosystemprotection/bolinas.html>

Contained in the report are several recommendations for Easkoot Creek, all which relate to the project's objective of restoring natural sediment transport and ecological functions of the lagoon by ameliorating the negative efforts of human induced changes.

Recommendations specific to Easkoot Creek include:

- 3a-LPP (recommendation of the locally preferred plan) - Investigate restoring a substantial portion of the GGNRA Stinson Beach parking lot to a seasonal floodplain.
- 1b-MG (recommendation for management action) - Work with stream-side property owners to assure protection of summer flow throughout the Bolinas Lagoon watershed (Pine Gulch Creek and Easkoot Creek).
- 1d-MG (recommendation for management action) - Protect floodplain functions of Easkoot Creek through the implementation of an education program.

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Recommendation 1d-MG requires that a quantitative sediment analysis be conducted for Easkoot Creek and that if the creek is identified as a problem area, that an education campaign addressing the area be implemented.

Staff has drafted a letter of support for further consideration and development of these recommendations and will seek potential funding opportunities in collaboration with the locally preferred plan (LPP) for projects within the Easkoot Creek watershed, including bypass and sediment studies.

**Item 5. Easkoot Creek Sediment Removal**

Completed

Easkoot Creek was dredged at the following bridge crossings in late-October 2007:

- Calle del Pinos - upstream and downstream of crossing.
- Calle del Pradero - approximately 50 ft. downstream of crossing. No dredging was performed upstream or under the crossing due to the formation of, and evidence of fish in, a significant pool.
- Calle del Onda - upstream and downstream of crossing.
- Calle del Arroyo - upstream only. No dredging was performed downstream due to the formation of, and evidence of fish in, a significant pool.

Dredging was not performed at:

- Arenal Rd. – no dredging was performed due to good channel bed composition, with little aggradation and intact channel morphology.
- Calle del Sierra - no dredging was performed due to significant pools formed at the crossing and evidence of fish in the pools.

Cost to the zone, not including administrative time, was \$10,937.54. An additional \$3,975.05 was spent for assistance with obtaining the required authorizations and complying with regulations.

The District has also completed two regular stream channel surveys showing post-dredge and post-storm streambed elevations. This action is being undertaken in response to F&G's request to justify sediment removal activities in the creek by demonstrating their effectiveness. Cost to zone of performing surveys, including limited data processing, was \$6,575.93.

Proposed

Sediment removal activities are once again scheduled for this October. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements should be satisfied under a Negative Declaration based on the Initial Study prepared during last year's effort. An application for sediment removal was submitted to California Department of Fish and Game (F&G) last fall and at that time staff received verbal confirmation that F&G would authorize the permit for 2008 (and possibly additional years) upon receiving evidence of the District's commitment to pursue a long term solution other than dredging (i.e., a bypass). A copy

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of the request for proposals (RFP) staff has written for the bypass will be provided to F&G and it is staff's hope they will then honor their previous statement regarding approval of District plans for sediment removal.

Action by Board: Board will provide recommendations to staff regarding sediment removal activities.

**Item 6. Easkoot Creek Bypass**

The bypass is being proposed to accommodate creek overflow through National Park Service (NPS) lands and into the Pacific Ocean, mainly crossing an existing parking lot serving Stinson Beach Park. Last year, District staff submitted a letter to the NPS in which they sought a refined understanding of the process and criteria against which project proposals and designs will be reviewed. The NPS responded by outlining the process and criteria, which included concerns with the protection of the steelhead trout and the impact a bypass would have on visitor services at the park. In response, District staff consulted with a fish passage design engineer and fisheries biologist, conducted an initial site visit, and received appraisal level observations.

Staff has refined the project description and written a request for proposals to secure a professional services contract to continue with an appraisal level study. The appraisal level study will provide preliminary design recommendations, which will be included in a final report to be presented to the NPS for further review. The completed study is planned for this summer, with a final report to the NPS late this summer or early this fall.

**Item 7. Engineer's Report (an update on various items within the zone)**

- Annual Creek Vegetation Management Program: Vegetation removal will be carried out this summer per the Annual Creek Vegetation Management Program.
- Changes to FEMA Flood Elevations: Changes to the county's flood hazard zone maps are under way as part of FEMA's map modernization program. The period for appeal ended in April and FEMA plans to issue a letter of final determination in November 2008. The map effective date is slated for May 2009. Those homeowners who were previously not required to carry flood insurance, but who (under the new maps) are now required, may have the opportunity to be grandfathered in at the current, lower rates. Property owners who have a particular question related to their specific property are encouraged to contact FEMA directly or seek assistance from the Public Works Land Development Engineering staff (phone: 415-499-3755).
- Stinson Beach Park Storm Damage: Residents of the Stinson Beach community contacted staff at the Marin County Flood Control District following the January 25th, 2008 storm to inform them that a portion of the dunes adjacent to the north parking lot at Stinson Beach Park had eroded, the parking lot had been undermined and a beach access path had been washed out. Their observations substantiated that heavy rains resulted in high flows in Easkoot Creek, causing it to overtop its banks and overflow into the parking lot. They described that water entering the parking lot on the creek (i.e., east) side then passed through the north parking lot and exited through the west (i.e., ocean) side, destabilizing a section of asphalt before pushing through the dunes and

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onto the beach. Consequently, they believed that these series of events likely thwarted what would have been a flooding event downstream of GGNRA property, an area populated with numerous homes.

The District, long recognizing the potential benefits of an engineered permanent overflow bypass for the creek on GGRNA property, wrote a letter encouraging the Park Service to consider plans that would accommodate and support the use of the parking lot as a vessel for carrying creek overflow. District staff later met with NPS staff to assist them with their evaluation of the event and to discuss their plans for rehabilitating the parking lot.

**Item 8. Schedule Next Meeting**

Action by Board: Board members will set a date for the next meeting.