

**MINUTES OF THE  
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE NO. SEVEN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 2010  
AT THE SANTA VENETIA KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
635 ADRIAN WAY, SAN RAFAEL**

**Board Members Present**

Jeffrey D. Krupnick, chairperson  
Evan Marks  
Michael Perani  
Timothy Ribble, vice chairperson

**District Staff Present**

Farhad Mansourian, director of public works  
Tracy J. Clay, principal engineer  
Neal Conatser, assistant engineer

**Board Members Absent**

Denise Blades

**Others**

Supervisor Adams

**Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 4, 2009**

**Action by Board:** Reviewed meeting minutes from the August 4, 2009 meeting and approved minutes as written.

***M/S: TR/EM, Ayes: All, Nay: None, Abstain: None***

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

- A member of the public reported that the water level in estancia ditch appeared to be higher than witnessed in the recent past.
- A member of the public read, and later submitted to the Advisory Board, a letter (attached) expressing their views and concerns on various zone issues.
- A member of the public reported that a culvert near the end of Meadow Way was largely full of silt.
- A member of the public made comments on the levee work conducted at the San Rafael Airport.

**Item 3. Project Status Updates**

Staff reported on the status of the following projects (see staff report for detail):

- a) Pump Station No. 2 Rehabilitation (separate handout provided)
  - Staff noted the project site consists of land owned by both the Flood Control District and Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District (LGVSD) and that coordination with the LGVSD was required to review site constraints and operational requirements and ensure that they are incorporated into the design.
  
- b) Estancia Ditch Drainage Improvements (separate handout provided)

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

- Staff noted that if funds for the ditch portion of the project can be raised by passage of the special tax, the County may be able to fund the associated road drainage improvements.
  - Staff offered to share results of engineering study/designs to the Advisory Board at a future meeting.
- c) Las Gallinas Creek Levee Evaluation (separate handout provided)
- Staff offered to provide the Advisory Board with a preview of the presentation prior to holding a public meeting.
  - An error was noted to the separate handout provided; the schedule specified a date of 2009, whereas it should have read 2010.
- d) Pump Station No. 5 Outfall Rehabilitation –
- Repairs to outfall pipes were made this fall. Project is complete.

**Item 4. Special Tax 2010: Overview and Funding Options**

Staff provided a brief overview of the election planning process and discussed the next steps towards placing a special tax assessment measure on the June 8, 2010 ballot. The Advisory Board was presented with probable costs for each project that may be included as part of the ballot measure and a total of seven different funding options (see staff report for detail).

Based on a poll of meeting participants, *Option 7* at 10 years appeared to be the most widely supported option for a special tax assessment. There also appeared to be strong support for additional study efforts to establish a vision for the community that incorporates flood damage reduction with habitat improvements. The public also expressed a desire for infrastructure improvements to be designed to the extent possible to reduce flood insurance cost.

Members of the attending public as well as the Advisory Board expressed interest in knowing what the total cost for all potential projects in the Zone would be. A request was made by a member of the attending public to create a flyer detailing what the special tax would fund and how completion of the projects would benefit Santa Venetia.

Discussion also included whether or not the special tax options could be laddered (i.e., varying fees for each year of collection) and to inform residents of what would be required to reduce or eliminate flood insurance requirements.

**Item 5. Next Meeting**

A meeting was scheduled for January 12, 2010 for continued discussion and to receive a policy recommendation from the Advisory Board.

Flood Zone 7 Advisory Board Meeting  
January 5, 2010

Russ Greenfield  
104 Mabry Way  
San Rafael, CA 94903

Many of the residents I have spoken with out here are unhappy that:

1. The flood zone has no strategic master plan –to bring Santa Venetia to at least 100 year storm protection
2. Santa Venetia residents are being asked to fully fund the major upgrade to PS#2 – yet the County has determined that the County should pay for levy repair work @ the San Rafael Airport – despite it being within the City of San Rafael and privately owned, creating a double standard
3. The surface runoff in parts of Santa Venetia not only creates flooding issues for residents / home owners, but it is also creating a huge inflow & Infiltration problem for LGVSD. Despite the fact that LGVSD has, in recent years, replaced and or retrofitted both the public and private sewer system in more than 90% of Santa Venetia, I & I continues to be problematic. It is evident that the storm water, without the proper means to be discharged to the bay, is finding its way into the sanitary sewer system owned by LGVSD.
4. How can any flood zone be expected to operate when storm drains and culvert pipes are not considered to be part of the flood zone? To me, it is no different than a human heart not being tied with arteries. Could we really hope a heart would be able to work efficiently, if the nervous system was in charge of maintaining the arteries? Levies, pump Stations and storm drain pipes are all required to give any community flood protection. Placing maintenance of the storm drains in this flood zone under a separate division is not helping achieve proper flood protection.

In my opinion, the best solution is for the flood zone to construct a few small automated pump stations and improve the storm drain efficiency / capacity in areas of Santa Venetia that have chronic flooding. Areas such as Estancia, Palmera, and Little Vendola are good examples. Not only does the flood zone need to protect Santa Venetia from flooding, Santa Venetia has the stigma / reputation of being one of the worst areas in Marin because of the flooding. Areas where portable, yet permanently placed pumps are placed only strengthen that image. By the time County crews arrive in a time of need to run the pumps, it is really already too late.