

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

**FLOOD ZONE 7 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

***APRIL 1, 2010***

**STAFF REPORT**

**Item 1. Election of Chairperson and Election of Vice-Chairperson (if necessary)**

Elections will be held to fill the positions of chairperson and vice-chairperson (if necessary). The one-year terms are confirmed by a majority vote of the advisory board.

**Recommended Action:** elect chairperson and elect vice-chairperson (if necessary).

**Item 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 2, 2010 and March 16, 2010**

**Recommended Action:** Approve minutes of the February 2, 2010 and March 16, 2010 meetings.

**Item 3. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda**

Comments will be heard for items not on the agenda (limited to three minutes per speaker).

**Item 4. Special Tax 2010 (Measure D) Update**

- Copies of submitted arguments and rebuttals to arguments have been provided by staff.
- Staff will discuss the status of Measure D informational materials.

**Item 5. Estancia Ditch Improvements**

Staff will provide an executive summary of the project and a preview of the information that will be provided in an upcoming community meeting. Topics covered include 1) a brief history of the facility, 2) a description of current needs, and 3) an overview of proposed improvements.

**Item 6. Pump Station No. 2 Rehabilitation**

Staff will provide an executive summary of the project and a preview of the information that will be provided in an upcoming community meeting. Topics covered include 1) a brief history of the facility, 2) a description of current needs, and 3) an overview of proposed improvements.

**Item 7. Schedule Next Meeting**

Schedule the next meeting of the Zone No. 7 Advisory Board.

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE D

Most of Santa Venetia lies below sea level. Because of this, stormwater needs to be pumped over our levees into Las Gallinas Creek and bay tidewaters need to be prevented from breaching our levees and entering our neighborhood.

A well-functioning system of levees and pumps is critical to keeping floodwaters out of our homes. Santa Venetia's system of levees and pumps requires additional work to meet an acceptable level of flood protection. As this system stands today, our homes are vulnerable to the possibility of flooding.

Funds for routine maintenance and repairs of our flood control system are collected through our annual property taxes, but these funds are insufficient for major repair and/or replacement projects of this vital system. Therefore, it is necessary to supplement current funding to make urgently needed improvements. If passed, Measure D will make that possible through a supplemental tax.

The Flood Zone 7 Advisory Board held public meetings to review county engineering studies and has identified three high priority projects for flood protection:

- Pump Station #2 is over 40 years old, undersized, serves one of the largest drainage areas of Santa Venetia, and is at the end of its useful life. Because of this, there is the potential for stormwater to back up in street drains and cause flooding.
- Estancia Ditch collects stormwater and directs it to Pump Station #5. The ditch does not effectively drain to the pump station, causing localized flooding during heavy storms. Proposed ditch improvements would triple its drainage capacity.
- The Las Gallinas Creek levee protects Santa Venetia from overflowing tidewaters. Portions of the levee are deteriorating. Significant county and federal funds have already been spent for preliminary levee studies. Additional Flood Zone 7 funding is needed to continue our eligibility to receive more matching federal funds.

**Your YES vote will help provide the funds to meet our flood control needs.**

KEEP SANTA VENETIA SAFE AND DRY

s/ Jeffrey Krupnick, Chairperson  
Flood Zone 7 Advisory Board

s/ Michael Perani, Vice Chairperson  
Flood Zone 7 Advisory Board

s/ Denise Blades, Member  
Flood Zone 7 Advisory Board

s/ Evan Marks, Member  
Flood Zone 7 Advisory Board

s/ Timothy R. Ribble, Member  
Flood Zone 7 Advisory Board

## **Rebuttal to argument in favor of Measure D**

This \$530 tax is four times what Ross Valley parcels pay for a watershed solution that includes habitat restoration and flood protection.

Closely reading the actual tax language reveals that money would be collected for "reserves" that can be spent by bureaucrats for unspecified projects with virtually no accountability. The stated projects, which may never be completed, do not provide a comprehensive solution for Santa Venetia.

- ✓ During the rainy season, the County litters Santa Venetia with portable pumps that must be manually started, often by residents, to keep our community dry. Efficient, small footprint automated pumps must be strategically installed before we overspend to replace Pump Station #2.
- ✓ The Estancia Ditch proposal is based on questionable and preliminary engineering. Worse, this scheme imposes a double tax on Zone 7 residents for road and drain improvements. We are entitled to the same tax funding for road and drain work that the County devotes to the rest of Marin.
- ✓ After several years, inexplicable delays and \$600,0000 spent on studies, there are no solid plans for Las Gallinas levee improvements. Yet Measure D seeks another \$1,000,000 for evaluation. How much longer are we supposed to study when the County routinely rebuilds levees all over Marin for far less than they have already spent looking at ours? We can't afford more paralysis by analysis.

Measure D will burden Santa Venetia with a tax that robs the community of money that should be spent for a comprehensive, watershed solution.

### Vote NO on Measure D

Robert Dobrin  
Former Santa Venetia Zone-7 Advisory Board Member

Mary Feller  
Former Santa Venetia Zone-7 Advisory Board Member

Art Reichert  
Former Santa Venetia Zone-7 Advisory Board Member

Ellen Stein  
Santa Venetia Resident

**ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE D**

If Measure D passes, homeowners will pay \$530 per parcel annually for narrowly defined flood control projects—more than four times the \$125 average each parcel in Ross Valley pays for an integrated watershed approach that includes flood control and habitat restoration. Measure D represents flawed policies of the past.

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**Measure D is not the right tax.**

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We support an integrated watershed approach to flood protection for Santa Venetia that emphasizes natural waterways so the built and natural environments can thrive in harmony. Historically, Santa Venetia flood control efforts have focused on too narrow goals. Measure D is more of the same.

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The best, post-Katrina, thinking advances a sustainable approach to flood protection. We must rehabilitate the natural network of waterways, ponds and aquifers rather than continuing to embrace failed 1950s policies of artificially engineered solutions. It's better to prevent, absorb and conserve hillside runoff rather than pump it away at great expense during a storm. Many of your neighbors advocated a watershed solution at dozens of meetings including those that put this flawed tax on the ballot. Instead, Measure D earmarks \$1,000,000 of your tax dollars—following \$600,000 tax dollars already spent—on a levee study that narrowly focuses on a single element of the flood control system. And this tax does not fund, nor does it guarantee, actual physical improvement to the levee.

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Marin County embraces the wisdom of a watershed approach for Ross Valley, yet they have effectively abandoned such a plan for our own Las Gallinas watershed.

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**We need a watershed tax, not this one.**

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We need a system where all components provide a 100-year level of flood protection that keeps our environment healthy.

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Your NO vote on Measure D paves the way for a modern, watershed approach to flood control.

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Former Santa Venetia Zone-7 Advisory Board Member

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Santa Venetia Resident

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MARIN COUNTY  
ELECTIONS

## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE D

### Consider these facts:

- In 1962, Flood Zone 7 was formed to address tidal waters repeatedly flooding Santa Venetia. Levees were built to protect the community from tidal waters and pump stations were built to pump stormwater runoff over the levees. Without healthy levees and fully operational pump stations Santa Venetia would flood.
- Large drains were also built to collect hillside runoff and send it via underground pipes directly to Las Gallinas Creek, bypassing street drains and pump stations - which handle local runoff only.
- Measure D earmarks \$1,000,000 towards the levee study because we *must* spend local dollars to get matching federal dollars. Already, over \$300,000 of county and over \$400,000 of federal funds have been allocated towards this study.
- Flood taxes in Ross Valley: **15,000<sup>±</sup> parcels for 20 years** v. Santa Venetia's **800<sup>±</sup> parcels for 10 years**.

We share Mr. Dobrin and company's vision for Santa Venetia that includes a restored Gallinas Creek watershed, protection from 100-year flood conditions, reduction or elimination of exorbitant flood insurance premiums, and infrastructure solutions that respect the integrity of our natural resources and our neighborhood.

Our views differ regarding our responsibility to maintain and improve the levees and pumps that have kept Santa Venetia dry for almost three decades.

**We believe that responsible stewardship of our watershed and maintenance of existing flood control infrastructure are not mutually exclusive goals.**

We believe the wisest course forward for Santa Venetia is a path that incorporates the best of both approaches. Your yes vote on Measure D will set us on that path.

s/ Michael Perani, Vice Chairperson  
Flood Zone 7 Advisory Board

s/ Denise Blades, Member  
Flood Zone 7 Advisory Board