

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 1/1A ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Meeting Location:** Sheriff's South Patrol Station, 1681 Front Street Oceano, CA

**Meeting Agenda**

1.	Welcome & Introductions	Gary Kobara, Chairman
2.	Announcements	All
3.	Review and Approval of Past Minutes: <i>Tuesday, September 19 2023</i>	Advisory Committee
4.	Ongoing Updates: a) Storm Response Efforts b) Annual Workplan Efforts c) Emergency Response Plan d) Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Conservation Project e) Other Flood Protection Planning Efforts	County Staff
5.	Approval of the 2024 Quarterly Meeting Schedule: • March 19 <sup>th</sup> • June 18 <sup>th</sup> • September 17 <sup>th</sup> • December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Advisory Committee
6.	Public Comment	All
7.	Open Forum (Questions/Suggestions for Next Agenda)	All
8.	Adjourn	All

Meeting agendas and attachments can be viewed at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone1-1a>

**Contact:** County Public Works Dept, Rm 206, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

**Email:** [publicworks@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:publicworks@co.slo.ca.us)

**Phone:** 805-781-5252

**AMERICAN DISABILITY ACT (ADA) ACCOMMODATIONS:**

All possible accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, so they may participate in the meeting. Persons who require accommodations for any audio, visual or other disability are encouraged to request such accommodation 48 hours in advance of the meeting by contacting Joey Steil at (805) 781-4076.

*The purpose of the Committee is to provide recommendations to the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control District regarding appropriate actions to provide flood protection for the properties within the boundaries of Flood Control Zones 1 and 1A.*

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ZONE 1/1A ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Meeting materials can be viewed at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone1-1A>

Members Attending:

Gary Kobara (Chair)  
Charlie Lackie  
Dianna Lackie  
Linda Austin  
Victoria Cardoza  
Jeremy Ghent  
Greg Cobb

Staff and Guests Attending:

Alejandra Celio, Public Works  
Brandon Zuniga, Public Works  
Angela Ford, Public Works  
Courtney Howard, Public Works  
Karen White, Community Member  
John Taylor, Community Member  
Penny Oakes, Community Member  
Diane Wilcock, Community Member  
Michael Ostrovsky, Community Member  
Tim Crawford, Community Member  
George Prats, Community Member  
John Taylor, Community Member

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Introductions begin at 3:00 p.m. and a quorum is established.

**2. Announcements**

None

**3. Review and Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, June 20, 2023**

Jeremy Ghent: States he was at the last meeting and his attendance was not noted.  
County Staff: Confirmed correction will be made to the minutes.

Motion to approve: Linda Austin  
Seconded by: Charlie Lackie  
Approved by: Approved by all present Members

**4. Ongoing Updates**

a) Storm Response Efforts

County staff provide a verbal update on storm response efforts.

Victoria Cardoza: Is the County planning on removing the crossbars from the creek, if not, why not use an alternative as the crossbars cause the flooding issue?

County Staff: The permit requires the crossbars not be removed and their purpose is to catch sediment for removal. No current analysis is planned for researching alternatives to crossbars.

Victoria Cardoza: Is the County planning annual sediment removal and will there be a need for the County to get permits for the work.

County Staff: Annual sediment removal is part of the maintenance plan and how much to be removed is measured by annual surveys. The County has the permits to conduct the work but there are certain restrictions in terms of how much of the area can be worked on each year to reduce area disturbance.

George Prats: Has the County considered changing the benchmark for when they do the sediment removal in certain areas?

County Staff: The change to those benchmarks is determined by the consultants and modeling team.

Victoria Cardoza: Are these the same consultants that predicted the creek would not flood?

County Staff: Cannon and Waterways Consulting were the primary consultants that helped work on the Waterway Management Program.

Victoria Cardoza: Will staff take into consideration what didn't work and try to come up with something different?

County Staff: There are other efforts being pursued on how to better protect Zone 1/1A beyond the channel design capacity.

Pennie Oakes: Jimmy Paulding spoke about the AG Creek Levee sedimentation removal recently. Will sediment be removed from the whole levee or just in specific areas where the crossbars are located?

County Staff: There are 22 different areas with crossbars installed per the Waterway Management Program that are designed as sediment management zones. Those zones are areas the County focuses on excavation and sediment removal to keep sedimentation from dropping into other areas.

George Prats: The 12,000 cubic yards (of sediment), what formulated that number? Is that the maximum you are allowed by the state?

County Staff: 12,000 cubic yards came from aerial surveys that took place in 2020 after the completion of the Waterway Management Program and compared those numbers to aerial surveys that took place this year to determine the difference in sediment and elevation.

John Taylor: How many yards will a 10-wheeler haul?

County Staff: Roughly 10 cubic yards.

Greg Cobb: Do you have a map of where these sediment zones are located?

County Staff: Yes, our webpage has a Waterway Management Program link that provides the sediment zoning map.

Greg Cobb: Can you talk a little bit more about the hydraulic barrier walls in Phase 2?

County Staff: A summary of Phase 2 work and the hydraulic barrier wall is verbally provided.

Charlie Lackie: When you rebuilt the levee on my property, there was a discussion about putting a cutoff wall there.

County Staff: Right now, it would be difficult to construct a cutoff wall on your property due to the large boulders in that area used to reconstruct areas of the levee, but it may potentially be included as part of a separate improvement project. The cutoff walls currently being installed are to fix the areas that are damaged and are potentially at risk for future erosion.

Charlie Lackie: Will some of the sandbars be removed down near the "trestle"?

County Staff: We are currently trying to work with Union Pacific Railroad for right of way access to remove the sediment that goes under the railroad bridge. Talks are still ongoing.

Victoria Cardoza: Where are you going to put the rodent barriers at?

County Staff: Locations are still being determined.

George Prats: Regarding risks to the north side, how are you assessing those risks? Is it based on the condition of the property on the north side or the levee itself?

County Staff: It's a conditional assessment at the moment. The consultant made bore holes in 4 different areas and based on their analysis the factor of safety was lower for those north levee sections than the south levee section.

Committee members and staff discuss risk comparisons between north and south levee sides, concerns about specific areas, rodent control issues and what mitigation efforts can be done.

Diane Wilcock: Is there an online source or something that can be provided that will provide an easier explanation on the work taking place?

County Staff: We can send additional information through the Committee's mailing list and will be updating the public website. Please reach out to staff if you need help accessing additional information.

George Prats: Can you talk a little about raising the levee elevation as well as taking out the sediment for the current project?

County Staff: The south side is a foot lower in elevation, but there is no plan to change

the elevation right now. To do so, the bridges for Union Pacific, 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, and HWY 1 would also have to be elevated to achieve those flood protection goals.

Committee members and staff discuss the levee elevation and other potential flood protection measures.

Karen White: Have you considered a process for getting an emergency permit to clean out areas of the levee as soon as it starts raining?

County Staff: Considerations are being evaluated for emergency permitting work.

Committee members discuss the effects and impacts of the crossbar installations in the creek.

Greg Cobb: Has anyone addressed the train trestle bridge supports not being parallel to the flow of the creek and how it impacts water direction?

County Staff: It is unclear if anyone reached out to the County when those were installed. These are questions we can look into.

b) Annual Workplan Efforts

County staff provide a verbal update on emergency response planning efforts.

Karen White: appreciates the ongoing maintenance efforts removal of debris near the bridge and along other areas.

c) Emergency Response Plan

County staff provide a verbal update on emergency response planning efforts.

George Prats: Have you updated the 22nd Street Bridge trigger? Last time we didn't get an evacuation warning, it went straight to a notice and the levee had already breached by that time.

County Staff: Response triggers will be set lower to provide more time to notify residents to prepare for a potential evacuation.

Diane Wilcock: There is a lot of preparation for storms currently, what are the predictions for storms in 2024?

County Staff: While it can be unclear to predict with El Nino, we will be actively tracking the duration, intensity and behavior of storm systems and the levels at Lopez Lake.

Gary Kobara: Are there any further updates on lowering the storage capacity at Lopez?

County Staff: There are no new updates. The interim downstream release schedule will continue for the time being.

Committee Members and staff discuss Lopez Lake management, funding for drinking water, capacity, and restrictions relating to the release of water for flood control purposes.

Karen White: comments that flood maps/zones need to have better identification markers, as some notations were not clear or incorrect.

Greg Cobb: Reiterates the importance of updating the response plan triggers for notifying the residents in affected areas of warning or evacuation orders; adding that a 3-level trigger system may be beneficial.

Karen White: Do fire departments use the 3-level trigger notification system? Maybe that is something that can be implemented?

County Staff: We can look into that.

d) Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Conservation Project

County staff provide a verbal update on the Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Conservation Project.

Karen White: Did last winter's floods impact change any of the actions planned for Meadow Creek?

County Staff: Possibly. However, any actions will need to be evaluated to ensure that the actions do not increase flood risk. Water quality monitoring has been conducted for AG Creek and Meadow Creek to see if one of the alternatives is worth pursuing for the upper Meadow Creek area and potentially connecting it to the lower Meadow Creek area.

Greg Cobb: In talking about restoration, is the historical role that Meadow Creek played in steelhead habitat?

County Staff: Staff are looking at what Meadow Creek is currently doing now due to the development increase and water quality in the area, but the suggestion of looking at the historical role will be relayed to project staff for consideration.

Greg Cobb: Is there a map of Meadow Creek and how far up the 8 acres go?

County Staff: There is a map and over time it has changed as we have seen some constraints with that area. Due to the constraints, we are expanding on the possibility of implementing alternative measures in different areas.

Greg Cobb: Can we expect updates on this project in the next few meetings?

County Staff: This will be an ongoing update for the Committee.

e) Other Flood Protection Planning Efforts

County staff provide a verbal update on other flood protection planning efforts.

Karen White: Who is in charge of Corbett Canyon Creek and other (inaudible) creeks in Arroyo Grande?

County Staff: Mainly private landowners. The Coastal San Luis RCD has received grant funds and are working with private landowners on ways to organize long term maintenance strategies and other projects. There are other active projects being coordinated between the City of Arroyo Grande, the RCD, and the County.

George Prats: Have you considering leasing private land and building a secondary channel that wouldn't be under the steelhead regulations?

County Staff: This is one of the alternatives that we plan on evaluating.

Charlie Lackie: Can the 10-foot buffer be negotiated to 15-feet?

County Staff: There is a potential for this to be renegotiated.

## **5. Public Comment**

None

## **6. Open Forum**

Jeremy Ghent: Have there been discussions about raising Lopez Lake storage by a few feet or installing gates for flood control?

County Staff: This has been evaluated as a way of increasing supply, not for flood control purposes.

## **6. Adjourn**

Motion to approve: Vickie Cardoza

Seconded by: Jeremy Ghent

Approved by: Approved by all present Members

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 PM**

**TO: Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee**

**FROM: County Staff**

**DATE: December 12, 2023**

**SUBJECT: Item 4: Ongoing Updates**

**Recommendation**

Receive updates on various ongoing efforts.

**Discussion**

**a) Storm Response Efforts**

*Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Emergency Capacity Restoration Phase 1 Project*

Construction is completed for the Phase 1 AG Creek project in the Arroyo Grande Creek Channel. The project scope included excavation of approximately 11,100 cubic yards of storm deposited debris and sediment by the District's contractor: Rahmina Construction, Inc. Work also included the removal of several debris jams and armoring of scoured section of the South Levee downstream of Hwy 1.

*Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Emergency Levee Rehabilitation Phase 2 Project*

The District began construction of the AG Creek Phase 2A project on November 27, 2023. The scope of work includes re-grading of the South Levee outer slopes and repair of approximately 3,000 square yards of turf reinforcing mat from Creek Road to just downstream of the UPRR bridge. Construction is anticipated to be completed by the end of December.

The District will be opening bids for the AG Creek Phase 2B project on December 14, 2023. The scope of this project will consist of construction of four hydraulic barrier walls down the centerline of damaged sections of levee to protect from future seepage and erosional damages. Staff is currently planning for the BOS to award the contract on January 9, 2024 and anticipates construction commencing in February 2024.

**b) Annual Workplan Efforts**

District staff and its consultant team finished annual woody vegetation maintenance in October but will continue to remove hazardous/fallen trees as the need arises.

**c) Emergency Response Plan**

Staff prepared an interim update to the Emergency Response Plan for this storm season to incorporate lessons learned from last season and to provide protocols should storms happen during construction of Phase II efforts. Preparation efforts included training response personnel on various scenarios, purchasing and staging response materials, identifying balanced emergency notification triggers, calibrating field gages, setting up contracts in advance with emergency response contractors to the extent feasible and holding a community meeting on December 11, 2023, to discuss the

condition of the levee, Lopez Lake, Emergency Plan involving evacuation warnings and orders, etc. A more comprehensive update of the Plan will be prepared as needed after construction is complete.

**d) Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Conservation Project**

The District has been working with Stillwater Consulting to run modeling simulations of two project alternatives for restoring habitat in Meadow Creek Lagoon or Arroyo Grande Creek Lagoon. The consultant provided updated modeling results to staff on Oct. 26, along with a draft report to explain the modeling approach (inputs, assumptions, etc.). The County has been reviewing the report and there will be more rounds of discussion/questions for Stillwater. The earliest staff expects to have results to present to the Advisory Committee is early 2024.

**e) Other Flood Protection Planning Efforts**

District Staff has not yet received updates from the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) regarding the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) subapplication submitted to FEMA earlier this year. They have, however, provided District Staff with information on another Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant opportunity known as Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC). This grant opportunity is similar to HMGP in which it provides support to states and local communities who are looking to undertake hazard mitigation projects. District Staff is working with Cal OES to submit a subapplication for the 2023 BRIC funding round.

Staff also submitted a Letter of Interest to the Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) requesting funding via the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Staff are coordinating with NRCS staff to understand eligibility requirements for a potential project to purchase and remove vulnerable structures from the flood plain on a voluntary basis. Currently, District staff is working with a consultant to quantify the cost-to-benefit ratio requested by NRCS for determining the eligibility of the project for the funding.

Staff is coordinating with members of the Arroyo Grande Creek and Watershed Memorandum of Understanding agreement to look at how to sustainably fund ongoing operation and maintenance of planned flood management projects with source sediment reduction benefits in the Corbett and Tally Ho Creek sub-watershed. This area contributes to the sediment load in Arroyo Grande Creek.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 1/1A ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meetings are held quarterly from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
Location: Sheriff's South Patrol Station, 1681 Front Street Oceano, CA

---

**PROPOSED 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE**

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**

**June 18<sup>th</sup>**

**September 17<sup>th</sup>**

**December 10<sup>th</sup>**

Meeting agendas and attachments can be viewed at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone1-1a>

**Contact:** County Public Works Dept, Rm 206, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

**Email:** publicworks@co.slo.ca.us

**Phone:** 805-781-5252

*The purpose of the Committee is to provide recommendations to the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control District regarding appropriate actions to provide flood protection for the properties within the boundaries of Flood Control Zones 1 and 1A.*