

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
ZONE 9 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zone 9 Advisory Committee will hold a Regular Meeting at **1:30 PM on Wednesday, August 9, 2023** at the City of San Luis Obispo, Community Development Department in Conference Room #1 located at 919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

To participate via Zoom (NON-VOTING MEMBERS and GUESTS ONLY):

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82060579052?pwd=SVJvZWg0VUd0YUe0eHI3KzNwMUdBZz09>

Call-in information: Dial +1 (669) 900-6833, Meeting ID: 820 6057 9052, Passcode: 351543

AGENDA

1. Introductions and roll call
2. Approval of April 12, 2023 meeting minutes
3. Discussion on the Purpose and History of Zone 9 and the Advisory Committee
4. Discussion on a Waterway Management Plan Update
5. Discussion on a State of the Watershed Event
6. Ongoing Updates
 - a. Mid-Higuera Bypass Project
 - b. Creek Maintenance
 - c. Arundo Removal
 - d. Avila Study
7. Public comment

At this time, the public may address the Committee on any item not appearing on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee.
8. Future agenda items

Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 1:30 PM
City of San Luis Obispo, Community Development Department
919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

“The purpose of the Zone 9 Advisory Committee: SECTION 1: To advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to Zone 9. The Committee shall determine the needs, desires, and financial capabilities of the property owners in Zone 9 and, upon deliberation, shall convey to the Board of Supervisors their recommendations with respect to the objectives of said zone. SECTION 2: To recommend to the Board of Supervisors specific programs to alleviate and control flood damage within Zone 9 with recognition of the ecological and aesthetic values of the programs. Further, to recommend to the Board of Supervisors other programs within Zone 9 concerning the objects and purposes of the Flood Control District Act. SECTION 3: To recommend methods of financing programs for Zone 9.” – Excerpts from the By-Laws adopted March 1, 2011

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ZONE 9 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DRAFT Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Meeting materials and video recordings can be viewed at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone9>

Members Attending:

Wayne Peterson, County At-Large (Chair)
Brian Nelson, City Staff (Vice Chair)
Christine Mulholland, City At-Large
Michelle Shoresman, City Council
Jonathan Hall, County At-Large

Non-Voting Members and Guests Attending:

Janet Andrews, County At-Large
Shelsie Moore, City Staff
Freddy Otte, City of San Luis Obispo
Brendan Clark, County of San Luis Obispo (Secretary)
May Thiri Kyaw, County of San Luis Obispo
Lucia Pohlman, City of San Luis Obispo
Troy Barnhart, County of San Luis Obispo
Joey Steil, County of San Luis Obispo
Reece Jansen, Son Care Foundation
Kathy Borland, Resident
Kim Stickler, Resident

1. Introductions and roll call

The Committee Chair calls the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and a quorum is established. Members and attendees introduce themselves.

2. Approval of February 8, 2023 meeting minutes

Item start time ~ [00:02:45](#)

W. Peterson introduces the item and asks for clarification on the spelling of an attendees' last name which was recorded as Sticker. K. Borland confirms that the correct spelling is Stickler.

W. Peterson comments on Item 5 and the issue of ponding on Buckley Road and compliments those who made repairs to the road.

C. Mulholland motions to approve the February 8, 2023 meeting minutes, as corrected.
B. Nelson seconds the motion.

The Committee approves the February 8, 2023 meeting minutes, as corrected (4-0-0-1)

3. Officer Elections

Item start time ~ [00:04:13](#)

W. Peterson introduces the item and B. Clark provides an overview of the annual officer elections.

C. Mulholland asks W. Peterson if he is willing to serve another term as Committee Chair.
W. Peterson confirms.

C. Mulholland motions to nominate W. Peterson to continue serving as the Committee Chair.
B. Nelson seconds the motion.

C. Mulholland asks B. Nelson if he is willing to serve another term as Committee Vice Chair.
B. Nelson confirms.

C. Mulholland motions to nominate B. Nelson to continue serving the Committee Vice Chair.
M. Shoresman seconds the motion.

C. Mulholland motions to nominate B. Clark to continue serving as the Committee Secretary.
W. Peterson seconds the motion.

The Committee approves the motions to nominate W. Peterson as Committee Chair, B. Nelson as Committee Vice Chair, and B. Clark as Committee Secretary (4-0-0-1)

4. Presentation of the Final East Fork Study and Consider Actions

Item start time ~ [00:06:57](#)

W. Peterson introduces the item and comments on suggested edits to the document related to clarifying maps, exhibits, and charts.

C. Mulholland comments that many of the maps and charts appeared blurry/unclear when viewing the document online.

B. Nelson comments that the maps should have roads included to help clarify specific areas.
W. Peterson adds that the addition of street names would be helpful. B. Clark responds.

B. Clark and T. Barnhart begin the presentation on the Final East Fork Study.

K. Borland asks if the upstream creeks in the watershed converge at a single point and where that location is. B. Clark responds.

B. Nelson asks if the January storm was a 25-year event. T. Barnhart responds.

K. Borland comments on the accuracy of the airport rain gauge.

C. Mulholland comments on the area north of Tank Farm Road which used to be wetlands

and asks if water could be sent to that area to refill the wetlands during storm events. F. Otte and T. Barnhart respond.

K. Borland comments on low water levels observed in the SLO airport retention basin during the previous storms. T. Barnhart responds.

W. Peterson asks about negotiating with the airport to meter the retention basin to provide additional capacity for upstream water storage. T. Barnhart responds.

J. Hall asks about the modeling parameters for increasing channel capacity. B. Clark and T. Barnhart respond.

K. Stickler asks how often maintenance activities are performed in San Luis Creek and W. Peterson asks about future maintenance in the East Fork. F. Otte and B. Clark respond.

R. Jansen comments that staff are invited to perform clearing activities on the Buckley Stables property to help minimize impacts to neighboring properties, adding that they are in contact with the CCC and asks if staff is interested in helping to strategize clearing activities. F. Otte and B. Clark respond.

K. Borland asks if the East Fork is responsible for water backing up along Tank Farm, comments on the Avila Ranch pumping and drainage system, and asks where the runway 7 drainpipe at the corner of Buckley and Santa Fe goes. T. Barnhart, B. Clark, and B. Nelson respond.

The Committee discusses current and legacy issues regarding oil/tar contamination and the Tank Farm remediation project.

W. Peterson asks if there are any Committee recommendations or actions regarding the report. The Committee discusses potential recommendations to move forward.

C. Mulholland motions to receive the presentation on the Final East Fork Study, continue with scheduled vegetation and debris maintenance activities, and to make the report known and available to public. B. Nelson seconds the motion.

The Committee approves the motion as stated (5-0-0-0).

5. Ongoing Updates

Item start time ~ [01:06:24](#)

a. Mid-Higuera Bypass Project

S. Moore provides a verbal update on the Mid-Higuera Bypass Project.

C. Mulholland asks what *PS&E* stands for and for clarification on the specific bypass components of the project. S. Moore, B. Nelson, and F. Otte respond, with further discussion by the Committee.

C. Mulholland asks if the topsoil that is removed from the bypass channels can be purchased by interested members of the public. B. Nelson and S. Moore respond.

b. Creek Maintenance

F. Otte provides a verbal update on creek maintenance activities.

C. Mulholland and W. Peterson comment on problematic sediment areas between LOVR and Laguna Lake. F. Otte responds.

W. Peterson asks if it would be possible to establish a sediment basin in an area above the city. F. Otte responds.

c. Arundo Removal

J. Hall provides a verbal up on Arundo removal activities.

6. Public comment

R. Jansen asks if there is a follow up on the temporary stockpiling of soil along Buckley Road. F. Otte responds.

W. Peterson and C. Mulholland comment on the economic value of soil banking, adding how it is seen as a commodity to developers.

7. Future agenda items

W. Peterson comments that the Committee may request future items by contacting himself or Committee Secretary, B. Clark.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:03 PM

Agenda Item #3:

Discussion on the Purpose and History of Zone 9 and the Advisory Committee

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee
FROM: Brendan Clark, Secretary
DATE: August 9, 2023
SUBJECT: Discussion on the Purpose and History of Zone 9 and the Advisory Committee

Discussion:

Chair Peterson will lead a discussion on the purpose and history of Zone 9 and the Advisory Committee.

Excerpts of the Zone 9 Advisory Committee Bylaws, last updated March 1, 2011.

ARTICLE I: PURPOSES OF THE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Zone 9 Advisory Committees:

SECTION 1: To advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to Zone 9. The Committee shall determine the needs, desires, and financial capabilities of the property owners in Zone 9 and, upon deliberation, shall convey to the Board of Supervisors their recommendations with respect to the objectives of said zone.

SECTION 2: To recommend to the Board of Supervisors specific programs to alleviate and control flood damage within Zone 9 with recognition of the ecological and aesthetic values of the programs. Further, to recommend to the Board of Supervisors other programs within Zone 9 concerning the objects and purposes of the Flood Control District Act.

SECTION 3: To recommend methods of financing programs for Zone 9.

Agenda Item #4:

Discussion on a Waterway Management Plan Update

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Brendan Clark, Secretary

DATE: August 9, 2023

SUBJECT: Discussion on a Waterway Management Plan Update

This Spring and Summer, County and City staff have met a few times to discuss potential updates to the Waterway Management Plan.

The main ideas discussed so far are included below:

- **Leverage New Data by Others: Aggregate & Summarize completed projects, studies, etc.**
 - o City, County and others have completed many physical improvements / changes to the watershed
 - o Many public and private entities have completed studies and assessments that could inform Zone 9 or others as it relates to the watershed.

- **Modernize Datasets: Updated current creek condition assessment:**
 - o General condition of physical creek conditions:
 - Blockages, erosion, stabilization, debris
 - o General Biological background information
 - o Clarify model inputs (I.e. Runoff and Manning's coefficients, cross sections)

- **Incorporate and reflect climate change projections** and identify potential future hazard zones
 - o Updated flood forecasting could be seen as a separate project entirely, and may better fit under the umbrella of City/County emergency plans.

- **Engage consultant services to develop an updated flood model:**
 - o Identify and assess all of the new models completed by the City and County
 - o Identify Gaps
 - o Hydrologic Model Update (HEC-HMS)
 - o Hydraulic Model Update (HEC-RAS)
 - o Scope update

- **Develop Flood Forecasting Tools for Specific Areas as it Relates to Public Safety.**
 - o "real-time" conditions: direct connection between rain gauge and stream gauge locations
 - o "forecast" conditions: I.e. 24hr forecasted rainfall over current flows, moisture condition, etc.
 - o Locations include Marsh Street Bridge, Avila Beach Dr. @ US 101, Madonna Road
 - o Purpose is to inform First Responders and emergency coordinators.

- **Re-evaluate Flood Management Plan Projects in Volume I Section 6 (Following updated flood modeling)**
 - o Update Preferred Capital Project List and Alternatives List as needed
 - o Cost estimates and benefit cost analysis of preferred projects (Vol. I Section 7)
 - o Develop new project list in alignment with external funding opportunities, explore grants

- **Update Drainage Design Manual (Volume III)**
 - o Incorporate City redlines and other revisions and corrections
 - o Recognize other requirements (i.e. RWQCB, SWRCB, etc.)
 - o Update to include revisions to any relevant engineering best practices
 - o Intended to be an iterative update and not a complete re-write due to City and Consultant familiarity and overall success with the existing DDM document.

- **Expand Stream and Rain Gauge Network**
 - o Sites include Perfumo and Stenner Creeks.
 - o Additional sites expected to be recommended during other tasks.

- **Engage the community**
 - o Host *State of the Watershed* Event ahead of Winter 2023/24
 - o Public sector led community conversation in response to winter 2023 flooding
 - o What is the watershed, how does it behave?
 - o What have we done in the WMP era, accomplishments in City, County, NGOs
 - o Upcoming projects
 - o What's next for planning and flood preparedness

Agenda Item #5:

Discussion on a State of the Watershed Event

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee
FROM: Brendan Clark, Secretary
DATE: August 9, 2023
SUBJECT: Discussion on a State of the Watershed Event

City and County staff have been discussing a potential public outreach event to highlight the past, present and future of the San Luis Obispo Creek Watershed.

The current idea is hosting an evening meeting at the Octagon Barn in October. A rough outline of the event is below and is expected to include speakers from City, County, Zone 9, and other organizations.

What is the SLO Creek Watershed?

- background, history

WMP Era

- Creation of the WMP
- 2004 to today

What has been & is being done:

- City
- County
- NGOs (Creeklands, RCD, etc.)
- Others (i.e. FEMA, etc.)

What's next

- WMP Update
- Flood Preparedness

Agenda Item #6:
Ongoing Updates

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Shelsie Moore, Supervising Civil Engineer, City of San Luis Obispo
Kate Shea, Principal Environmental Specialist, County Public Works

DATE: August 9, 2023

SUBJECT: Mid-Higuera Bypass Project Updates

During September 2021, the County of San Luis Obispo Water Conservation and Flood Control District (District), in coordination with the City of San Luis Obispo (City), applied for several permits in compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act. Listed below are the current statuses with each agency:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Section 1600

A Draft Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (Agreement) was issued by CDFW on March 6, 2023. The Draft Agreement was reviewed by City and County staff, and revisions were requested. A revised Draft Agreement was issued by CDFW on July 17th, 2023 and was reviewed by City and County staff. Staff responded to the Draft Agreement and our waiting for a Final Agreement from CDFW.

- Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Section 404

ACOE is in consultation with the USFWS and with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Staff received a letter of clarification from the NMFS requesting additional information about the project design and impacts and mitigation efforts for steelhead. Staff has completed subsequent modeling and prepared a memo to address the questions posed in the letter of clarification.

- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Section 401

This permit was issued 9/22/22.

The City is making progress on securing permanent easements and temporary construction easements. So far, the City with consultant services from Hamner, Jewell & Associates has presented three (3) offer packages for permanent and temporary construction easements for the Todd Property (306 Higuera), Madonna Property (284 Higuera), and Hayes Property (304 Higuera). The Madonna Property (284 Higuera) has subsequently signed a Right of Way Agreement with the City. Ten (10) more offer packages have been drafted and reviewed by City Staff and are currently being revised by Hamner & Jewell. A standard Caltrans Encroachment Permit Application was submitted on May 17, 2023 by City Staff for the portion of work that overlaps with Caltrans' property and is under review. As of November of 2022, staff has received negotiating authority from City Council for all relevant properties adjacent to the project area needing easements.

Additionally, on March 14, 2023, the City entered into a funding agreement with the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) to provide an amount of \$6,078,707 to be used for construction of the project through the end of 2024.

Wallace Group's remaining final design work continues as follows:

- Topographic survey on Bianchi to capture development improvements (completed)
- Legal descriptions for property negotiations (in progress, additional legal descriptions are being drafted)
- Utility letters and coordination (in progress, letters have been sent by the City and staff are coordinating with utility companies)
- 95% PS&E revisions submitted (completed)
- Right of entry and construction easement exhibits (completed)
- Building Permits: Grading and Demolition plan for building removal (in progress, submitted for review)
- Final 100% contract documents (pending review of 95% PS&E and approval of building permit)

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Freddy Otte, Biologist, City of San Luis Obispo

DATE: August 9, 2023

SUBJECT: Creek Maintenance Updates

City staff have been out reviewing the creek system after the storms and recording areas where storm damage needs to be repaired. We have identified over 10 locations, several which have been identified in the Waterway Management Plan, so we will begin working on those locations this fall. Staff met with a grazing contractor and we are trying to figure out logistics of bringing in the goats and keeping them safe from our unhoused population in the creek but the weeds have exploded with all the trees that were washed away in the floods. We are looking at Prado to LOVR and the Prefumo Arm for grazing this year. Our Flood Control Techs were out removing legacy debris jams along the Foothill Bridge on Stenner Creek and the Prefumo Arm. 1,000 Hills Pet Resort was able to secure the Inmate Crews for some flood control work around their bridge on East Fork SLO Creek which again was to remove accumulated debris from the past winters storms. We will have a contractor on-board to help with hazardous tree removal in targeted locations and the CCC is scheduled to continue work out there in December, which was their first availability for 2023. We will work on scheduling them earlier in 2024.

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Jon Hall, Land Conservancy

DATE: August 9, 2023

SUBJECT: Arundo Removal Updates

We have received our Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement for Arundo removal at the Los Osos Valley Road SLO Creek intersection. That is one of the last remaining large stands of Arundo in SLO Creek and will be a major focus of our control efforts this fall. A California Conservation Corps crew is scheduled to begin biomass removal August 14th.

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: May Thiri Kyaw, Engineer, County of San Luis Obispo

DATE: August 9, 2023

SUBJECT: Avila Study

The Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) Staff is currently working with a consultant (GHD) on a drainage study to perform an alternatives analysis and identify a preferred solution to reduce the risk of flooding to homes, businesses, roads, and the public parking lot near First Street in Avila Beach. With the area being located at a low point, it experiences frequent flooding during storm events as well as nuisance water which tends to occur year-round. The in-depth study will identify a feasible solution to the problem and develop the scope and budget in order to seek funding and ideally move towards a project. The preferred solution will ideally aim to minimize O&M staff response and in turn, decrease operational costs for the County long term. The study is currently funded entirely by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and has received a total of \$200,000 in funds, to be obligated by December of 2024.