

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

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, December 12th, 2023

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

Members Attending:

Gary Kobara (Chair)
Linda Austin
Stanley Ikeda
Charlie Lackie
Dianna Lackie

Staff and Guests Attending:

Joey Steil, Public Works
Brandon Zuniga, Public Works
Alejandra Celio, Public Works
Angela Ford, Public Works
Courtney Howard, Public Works
Michael Ostrovsky, Community Member
Tim Crawford, Community Member
Jane Crawford, Community Member

1. Welcome and Introductions

Committee Members, staff and guests introduce themselves.

2. Announcements

None

3. Review and Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, September 19, 2023

County staff ask for questions or comments from the Committee; there are none.

Motion to approve: Linda Austin
Seconded by: Gary Kobara
Approval: Motion passes by unanimous vote

4. Approval of the 2024 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

County staff review the proposed 2024 Quarterly Meeting Schedule and ask for questions or comments from the Committee; there are none.

Motion to approve: Linda Austin
Seconded by: Charlie Lackie
Approval: Motion passes by unanimous vote

5. Ongoing Updates

a) Storm Response Efforts

County staff provide a verbal update on recent storm response efforts.

Linda Austin: Channel cleanup is currently being done by the Cardoza property; will there be any work done further south?

County Staff: These work efforts have mainly started at Sediment Management Zone 1, as far south as Guiton's Crossing. Annual creek channel maintenance was conducted further south of Guiton's Crossing to remove downed trees in the low-flow areas.

b) Annual Workplan Efforts

County staff provide a verbal update on Annual Workplan efforts.

c) Emergency Response Plan

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

Linda Austin: Is the emergency response trailer by AG creek set up for overnight stays?

County Staff: Yes, we have two shifts available as needed to cover the emergency response efforts 24 hours a day.

d) Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Restoration Project

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

Linda Austin: The staff report states "...to run modeling simulations of two project alternatives..." – what do you mean when you say, "modeling simulations"?

County Staff: We use hydraulic modeling to analyze if changes to the Arroyo Grande Creek Lagoon or Meadow Creek Lagoon would improve habitat and help achieve the goals of restoration.

e) Other Flood Protection Planning Efforts

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

Gary Kobara: The Santa Maria River is currently under a massive cleanup effort. How are they able to do that level of work? Are staff aware of what their process was?

County Staff: We are currently looking into this and how they received authorization to perform work on this scale.

Gary Kobara: The work that is being done in the creek is costing quite a bit, is it possible to have an accounting review to breakdown where costs currently sit and any other funding related updates in an upcoming meeting? Do we know what we must repay for these projects as a Zone?

County Staff: Yes, we can provide a budget update at a future meeting. We are estimating that FEMA funding will cover 75% of the project costs and the remaining 25% will be offset as much as possible through State funding to negate the costs going to the residents.

Dianna Lackie: It seems like all this money is being used to repair the levee, but the environmental concerns have compromised the ability of the channel to function properly. How is this being addressed?

County Staff: In 2020, many of the permits were set up to perform the current emergency work efforts. We are pursuing grants to explore long-term solutions to address meeting the needs of flood protection and adhering to environmental requirements as determined by the regulatory agencies.

Charlie Lackie: Downstream from our property there is a third row of willow trees past the two fifteen-foot buffers. Why can't these trees be removed?

County Staff: It is likely that when the sediment management zones were created, efforts were made to keep some of the larger native trees based on the permit conditions. We will need to follow up to confirm.

Charlie Lackie: Are the large trees maintained at all? What would it take to remove them?

County Staff: The trees can be limbed depending on where their limbs fall. Additional environmental mitigation measures would be required to completely remove them.

Charlie Lackie: Was the modeling accurate for the last year and did it pan out for this year?

County Staff: We are still evaluating the modeling. More information is being gathered and additional work will be completed to determine if an update to the model is necessary.

Charlie Lackie: Have the downstream changes to the levee profile been modeled? What effect did this have on the area?

County Staff: The models were run after the January and May aerial surveys were completed. No significant difference in overtopping scenarios were observed in the model.

Linda Austin: What is the yellow screen material being used in the area where work is being performed?

County Staff: That could be the Turf Reinforcing Mat (TRM) which is designed to help prevent erosion from occurring on the levee. You may also be describing the temporary silt fencing which were installed to prevent sediment and other materials from entering the creek during construction.

Charlie Lackie: Does any of the TRM need to be replaced upstream from 22nd Street?

County Staff: The focus is on the south levee side where the deep pockets formed.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Open Forum

None

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:35 PM