

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

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

Meeting Agenda

1.	Welcome & Introductions	All
2.	Announcements	All
3.	Review and Approval of Past Minutes <i>Tuesday, December 12, 2023</i>	Advisory Committee
4.	Ongoing Updates: a) Storm Response Efforts b) Annual Workplan Efforts c) Emergency Response Plan d) Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Restoration Project e) Other Flood Protection Planning Efforts	County Staff
5.	Zone 1/1A Budget Status Update and Presentation	County Staff
6.	Public Comment	All
7.	Open Forum (Questions/Suggestions for Future Agenda Items)	Advisory Committee
8.	Adjourn	All

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

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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, 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

TO: Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee

FROM: County Staff

DATE: March 19, 2024

SUBJECT: Item 4: Ongoing Updates

Recommendation

Receive updates on various ongoing efforts.

Discussion

a) Storm Response Efforts

Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Emergency Levee Rehabilitation Phase 2 Project

The District completed construction of its Phase 2A project in December 2023. The project consisted of 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.

The BOS awarded a contract to Odin Environmental Services for construction of the Phase 2B construction project on January 9, 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 coordinating with the contractor to prepare the slag-cement-cement-bentonite mix design and anticipates construction in summer of 2024.

b) Annual Workplan Efforts

District staff and its consultant team are preparing the Annual Work Plan for submittal to the regulatory agencies. The District will be completing its typical channel maintenance activities throughout the year, which include channel cross sections, hydraulic modeling, and vegetation maintenance.

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 2 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. The community meeting presentation slides and additional hazard preparation resources are available at: <https://www.prepareslo.org/en/dam-failure.aspx>. This season's storms were also used as an opportunity to refine the hydrologic computer model and other predictive tools for flood

monitoring. A more comprehensive update of the Plan will be prepared as needed after construction is complete.

d) Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Restoration 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 reviewed the report and had a meeting with Stillwater to discuss outstanding comments and questions. Stillwater provided a revised report on March 11 and it's currently under staff review. The earliest staff expects to have results to present to the Advisory Committee is the April – May timeframe.

e) Other Flood Protection Planning Efforts

District Staff has been coordinating with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) on pursuing funding for a project scoping activity that will evaluate feasible flood mitigating solutions for increasing flood protection of properties surrounding the AG Creek Channel. Two subapplications have been submitted to FEMA, one under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and one under the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. Both programs are designed to support states and local communities who are looking to undertake hazard mitigation projects. It is anticipated that FEMA will complete their review and select projects to advance by mid-2024.

District staff is coordinating with Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) staff to understand eligibility requirements for a potential project to purchase and remove vulnerable structures from the flood plain on a voluntary basis under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. 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. District staff is also looking into similar programs through FEMA and/or Cal OES.

Staff is coordinating with members of the Arroyo Grande Creek and Watershed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 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. The MOU members are also looking at updating the MOU and coordinating with Creek Lands on their Watershed Plan update project.

TO: Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee

FROM: County Staff

DATE: March 19, 2024

SUBJECT: Item 5: Zone 1/1A Budget Status Update

Recommendation

Receive a presentation from Public Works Department Staff on the proposed approach to the Zone 1/1A Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/25 budget request and discuss future needs.

Discussion

The proposed FY 2024/25 budget for Zone 1/1A (Attachment 1) has been prepared in accordance with channel maintenance needs (the scope of work that served as the basis for assessments), permit requirements, emergency recovery and planning needs, and related administrative requirements. Previous and future years are also included for comparison. Unused funds are returned as fund balance for future allocation to support Zone 1/1A needs. Please note that the proposed budget may be subject to modification to address any unanticipated needs prior to Board budget hearings that are scheduled for June 3-5, 2024.

Future Needs

Zone 1/1A was able to leverage loans from its parent fund, "District Zone General", to help cover the cost of completing the grant-funded Waterway Management Program project and emergency projects that are anticipated to be reimbursed in part by FEMA, the California Office of Emergency Services and a direct State budget allocation. Due to local cost match requirements, a portion of project costs will not be reimbursed, which will relate to how much of the loan must be repaid to District Zone General over time. The ability to continue to leverage District Zone General for additional loans to do projects is limited by how much Zone 1/1A can afford for local cost match and the future availability of District Zone General reserves.

If there is interest in pursuing future projects and building an emergency reserve to reduce dependence on outside funding, it is recommended that analysis and discussions begin over the next year related to financing options (e.g., assessment formula changes, grants, etc.).

Attachment:

1. Zone 1/1A Budget Information

