

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, April 10, 2019** at the City of San Luis Obispo, Community Development Department in Conference Room #1 located at 919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

**AGENDA**

1. Introductions and roll call
2. Approval of meeting minutes
3. County At-Large Alternate Appointments
4. Officer Elections
5. Reports
  - a. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) updates
  - b. Mid-Higuera Bypass Project updates
  - c. Creek maintenance updates
  - d. Arundo removal updates
6. Update on FEMA flood mapping efforts
7. East Branch of San Luis Obispo Creek Site Visit and Update
8. Fiscal Year 2019/20 Budget Update
  - a. Vegetation Management Program in County areas
  - b. Limited Study East Branch of San Luis Obispo Creek
9. New Zone 9 website and mailing list [www.slocounty.ca.gov/pw/zone9](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/pw/zone9)

*“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*

10. 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.*

11. Future agenda items

**Next Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 1:30 PM

City of San Luis Obispo, Community Development Department

919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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

Meeting Minutes (DRAFT) – Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Members Present

Wayne Peterson, Chairperson, Member, County At-Large

Andy Pease, Member, City Council

Matt Horn, Vice Chairperson, Member, City Staff

Dave Romero, Alternate, City At-Large

Jon Hall, Alternate, County At-Large

1. Introductions and roll call

Wayne Peterson calls the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. Quorum established.  
Introductions of attendees present.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes - October 10, 2018

Motion by: **Andy Pease**

Second by: **Wayne Peterson**

The Committee approves the October 10, 2018 meeting minutes (4-0-1), as amended.

3. Committee membership, re-affirmations, and upcoming appointments

Mladen Bandov described the expiration dates and mid-term replacements of six Committee membership terms and upcoming appointments. Flood Control District Staff will take the appointments to the next Board of Supervisor's meeting for approval. Janet Andrews expressed her desire to apply for the County At-Large Alternate position. There are 2 vacancies for the County At-Large alternate members.

4. 2019 Meeting Schedule

Staff presented the meeting schedule for the 2019 calendar year.

5. Reports

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

Dick Tzou, County of San Luis Obispo, updates the Committee on the San Luis Obispo Valley Groundwater Basin (SLOVGB) as it relates to SGMA. Two basin boundary modifications were submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the middle of 2018. The draft basin boundary modifications were released in November 2018. DWR awarded a grant to the County that included the development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the SLOVGB. The funds will be combined with contributions from

the County and the City. The County recently completed the interview and selection process for the consultant that will develop the GSP. The next step is for the selected consultant to be approved by the Board in early 2019. The development of the GSP will begin once the Board approves the selected consultant. The deadline for the GSP is 2022 and the consultant will be able to use information from a previous study that has already been completed for SLOVGB. There is a meeting today, December 12, 2018 with the Groundwater Sustainability Commission that was formed for purpose of overseeing the and includes stakeholders from the County, City, and others within SLOVGB. Dick also provided an update on SGMA for other groundwater basins, outside of the purview of this Committee. Courtney Howard, County of San Luis Obispo, addressed comments about the Harvard Management Company and stated the Harvard Management Company is subject to SGMA GSP activities pertaining to the basins that their properties overlie. An export ordinance is in place in county areas that prevents the removal of pumped groundwater outside of the basin of origin.

- Mid-Higuera Bypass Project Updates

Brian Nelson, City of San Luis Obispo, reports that the project consultant, Wallace Group, submitted the 30% design in October. The City has met with the consultant and provided comments about the 30% design. It is anticipated that the 60% design will be submitted by the end of January 2019. The 60% design will include finalizing bypass channel routes and revised benching locations to minimize tree removals to limit CEQA mitigation requirements. Brian and City Biologist Freddy Otte performed a site visit to verify bypass routes. The goal is to keep any trenching outside of the rootzone. The County will begin the permitting process once the 60% design is submitted and it will provide the County with the opportunity to comment on the design. The consultant is also working on the HEC-RAS model and the scour analysis.

- Creek Maintenance Updates

Freddy Otte, City Biologist, reports that some storms have moved smaller debris around in the creek. Surveys after the storm events indicate that there is not significant debris in accumulation areas. The City remains alert of large trees adjacent to the creek. The CCCs will finish their contract at the end of December and remove accumulated debris. An area of concern is at the end of Dana Street, upstream of the confluence of Brizzolari and San Luis Obispo creeks.

Freddy Otte reports that in September 2018, the City met with Drew Munster, San Luis Obispo County resident, to review a section of his property that experiences flooding. Andy Pease, City Council Member, requested an update on the site visit at the next meeting.

- Arundo Removal Updates

Jon Hall, Land Conservancy, reports that annual Arundo treatments began treatments in October 2018 and were completed in November 2018. In 2015, 56% of mapped Arundo clumps were dead, and in 2018 it was reported that 82% of the mapped clumps were

dead.

Freddy Otte reports that a large Arundo cluster just downstream of the Los Osos Valley Road bridge has been a challenge due to transient issues in this location. There is a meeting today, December 12, 2018 to discuss a game plan for this area with regards to Bob Jones Pathway extension easements, engaging with property owners, a new sewer line project, and removal of the Arundo. Dave Romero, City At-Large, suggests providing creek and Arundo updates to the City Council.

6. Update on FEMA flood mapping

Mladen Bandov, Secretary, provides an update on FEMA flood mapping efforts. County staff made a request to Stantec, FEMA Region IX contractor, to do an additional study for the frequency of flooding in the East Fork of the San Luis Obispo Creek south of Buckley Road and Vachell Lane. Any photos or videos of flooding provided by the public will be passed on to Stantec. A site walk of the properties adjacent to Buckley Road and Vachell Lane by County Staff, City Staff and property owners will be arranged.

7. Discussion on Stream Management and Maintenance Program in County areas

Mladen Bandov, Secretary, initiates the discussion on creating a scope and budget for a Stream Management and Maintenance program in County areas of Zone 9 starting the next fiscal year. The background of the discussion is that the County does not currently do any vegetation or sedimentation removal in the creek in County areas of Zone 9 except adjacent to the right of way of County facilities. A potential program would be funded by Zone 9 and would include creek assessments, identification of problem areas, and developing priorities. Areas of focus may include downstream of the city limits, specifically the Creek adjacent to the Bob Jones Pathway Extension.

Drew Munster, San Luis Obispo County resident, asked if water level and stream flow sensors on private road bridges could be beneficial for the County to understand conditions in those creeks and the County staff said yes.

County and City staff will discuss personnel options and a program description and budget at the next meeting.

8. Public Comment

Although outside of the purview of the Committee, a member of the public asked about discussing wells going dry on properties south of the area. There was no other public comment.

9. Future Agenda Items

- Buckley Road properties site visit
- Creek management program description and budget

**Wayne Peterson** adjourns the meeting at 2:50 PM

**TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee**  
**FROM: Sarah Crable, Water Resources Engineer**  
**DATE: April 10, 2019**  
**SUBJECT: Agenda Item #3: County At-Large Alternate Appointments**

**Recommendation**

Discuss county at-large alternate appointments.

**Discussion**

There are two vacancies for county at-large alternate members, see the table below.

<b>Representing</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Alternate</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
City Council	Carlyn Christianson	Aaron Gomez	12/31/2020
City Staff	Matt Horn	Brian Nelson	12/31/2022
City At-Large	Christine Mulholland	Dave Romero	12/31/2022
County At-Large #1	Kaila Dettman	Jonathan Hall	12/31/2020
County At-Large #2	Wayne Peterson	<i>vacant</i>	12/31/2022
County At-Large #3	Stephnie Wald	<i>vacant</i>	12/31/2020

An application was received by Janet Andrews, a resident within the county area of Zone 9 (attached). Staff recommends that the Committee consider approving Janet Andrews for the County At-Large #2 Alternate Member position. County Staff will bring appointments to the Board of Supervisors for their approval.



**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO A  
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE**

Date 03/23/2019

Applying for appointment to Zone 9  
(Name of Board, Commission or Committee)

**General Information**

Name Janet Andrews

Address [REDACTED] San Luis Obispo

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone [REDACTED]

Cell Phone [REDACTED] E-mail Address [REDACTED]

Supervisory District Debbie Arnolds Years resided in County over 50 years

**Employment & Education**

Employer Name (if retired/unemployed list previous employer) Retired  
CVS Pharmacy 717 Marsh Street San Luis Obispo CA 93401 Part time

High School Graduate or General Education (GED) Test passed? Yes  No   
If no, list the highest grade completed \_\_\_\_\_

List any/all College, Business School, and/or Military experience (most recent first)  
Cuesta College  
Santa Barbara Business College  
College of Sequoia

**Qualifications**

List work experience, training, volunteer activities, and skills relevant to this appointment  
Farm Bureau: I have a cow/calf operation so I am around creeks and Land.

Farm Bureau ( Board) Edna Farm Center (President)

List dates/names of positions you have held on any advisory body or elected office

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List Membership to Organizations

Farm Bureau. (Board member) SLO Cattlewomen,

Edna Farm Center (President) Native Sons (Secretary) Model A Club, (Secretary/Treasure)

Cuesta Crankers (District Rep.) San Luis Lions (Past President) L.O.O.F. (Vice Noble Grand)

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Please explain why you would like to serve in this capacity

I was previously on the board for a few years. Now have some time to come back.

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If appointed, are you willing to participate in the majority of meetings each year, and if necessary, in numerous related meetings or subcommittees?

Yes  No  Comments \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, are you willing to file a Statement of Disclosure as a Public Official Under the standards of the Fair Political Practice Commission?

Yes  No  Comments \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, do you want to have your address or telephone number(s) published?

Yes  No  Comments Only the (805) 543-7709 \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this application to:

Board of Supervisors  
1055 Monterey St., Rm. D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408



**TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Sarah Crable, Water Resources Engineer**

**DATE: April 10, 2019**

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item #6: FEMA Flood Mapping Update**

The following update relates to the ongoing flood mapping efforts by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX for areas within the Zone 9 boundary.

*East Branch of San Luis Obispo Creek Study Request*

FEMA was unable to accommodate the request to do an additional study of the East Branch of the San Luis Obispo Creek near Buckley Road and Vachell Lane.

*Flood Mapping Update*

On December 28, 2018, FEMA provided an update on flood hazard mapping activities and notification of the engineering modeling analyses that will be used, see attached letter below.

FEMA's contractor, Stantec, is developing flood hazard information for San Luis Obispo Creek using HEC-RAS 5.0.5. The San Luis Obispo Creek will be studied using one dimensional steady flow hydraulic analyses. The hydrologic analysis will be based on the San Luis Obispo County Hydrology Manual and the HEC-HMS model will be used. The hydrologic and hydraulic analyses will be based on recently acquired Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) topographic data and surveyed creek channels. The Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels that are being updated are shown in the map below.

*Data Request Update*

Stantec has requested bridge and culvert as-built information from the County and the City. Some of the information requested is on private property. The County provided any information that was applicable to areas in the County right of way. In addition, Stantec has requested known debris collection or blockage points upstream of culverts and bridges. County staff is currently compiling that information and will provide it to Stantec for structures in the County's right of way.

Committee members, interested stakeholders and members of the public are encouraged to provide information to FEMA Region IX via their consultant -- Craig Steward, [craig.steward@stantec.com](mailto:craig.steward@stantec.com), (510) 627.7029 -- on any information such as known debris collection or blockage points upstream of bridges and culverts, and photos and videos of instances of flooding.



**FEMA**

December 28, 2018

Mr. John Peschong  
Chair, San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors  
1055 Monterey Street, Suite D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Chair Peschong:

This letter provides an update on flood hazard mapping activities by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and notifies your community of the engineering models being used. Providing accurate and useful data on flood hazards is one of FEMA's goals and is essential to helping communities make informed decisions on building safely.

FEMA's contractor, STARR II, is developing flood hazard information for Huerhuero Creek, Meadow Creek, the Salinas River and San Luis Obispo Creek using HEC-RAS 5.0.5. Two-dimensional unsteady flow hydraulic analyses will be used for Huerhuero Creek. Meadow Creek will have one dimensional steady flow hydraulic and two-dimensional unsteady flow hydraulic analyses, while the Salinas River and San Luis Obispo Creek will be studied using one dimensional steady flow hydraulic analyses. The hydrologic analyses will be based on the San Luis Obispo County Hydrology Manual and the HEC-HMS model will be used. The hydrologic and hydraulic analyses will be based on recently acquired Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) topographic data and surveyed channel data.

The engineering models may form the basis for proposed Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) on preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels 06079C0136H, 0137H, 0138H, 0139H, 0377H, 0379H, 0381H, 0383H, 0387H, 0391H, 0389H, 0646H, 0647H, 0648H, 0649H, 0857H, 1327J, 1328J, 1329J, 1331H, 1336J, 1337J, 1344J, 1363J, 1582J and 1601J for San Luis Obispo County, including portions of Camp Roberts, City of Arroyo Grande, City of Grover Beach and City of Pismo Beach. An SFHA is the mapped area subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood. Since the likelihood of flooding in certain areas may have increased or decreased and our ability to map flood hazards has improved over time, SFHA changes are expected in San Luis Obispo County.

Your community has 30 days from the date of this letter to consult with the FEMA Region IX staff, identified in the last paragraph of this letter, regarding the appropriateness of the models selected for the mapping project. Your community and citizens will have additional opportunities to comment on and provide feedback about the models and other draft flood hazard information throughout the project. A formal appeals process and period will be available to help resolve any remaining questions before updated flood hazard information becomes effective for flood insurance purposes.

FEMA wants to ensure that the most up-to-date and accurate technical data are used to develop flood hazard products. FEMA relies on community feedback. Partnerships and local knowledge are critical to reduce flood risk during this important project to determine flood hazards in San Luis Obispo County. We look forward to working with local officials and other stakeholders in San Luis Obispo County to increase flood awareness and reduce risks to life and property. Whether a community elects to submit feedback in response to this letter does not affect its ability to provide feedback at a later stage of the

Chair Peschong  
December 28, 2018  
Page 2 of 2

flood study process, or to formally appeal preliminary flood hazard information during a future comment period.

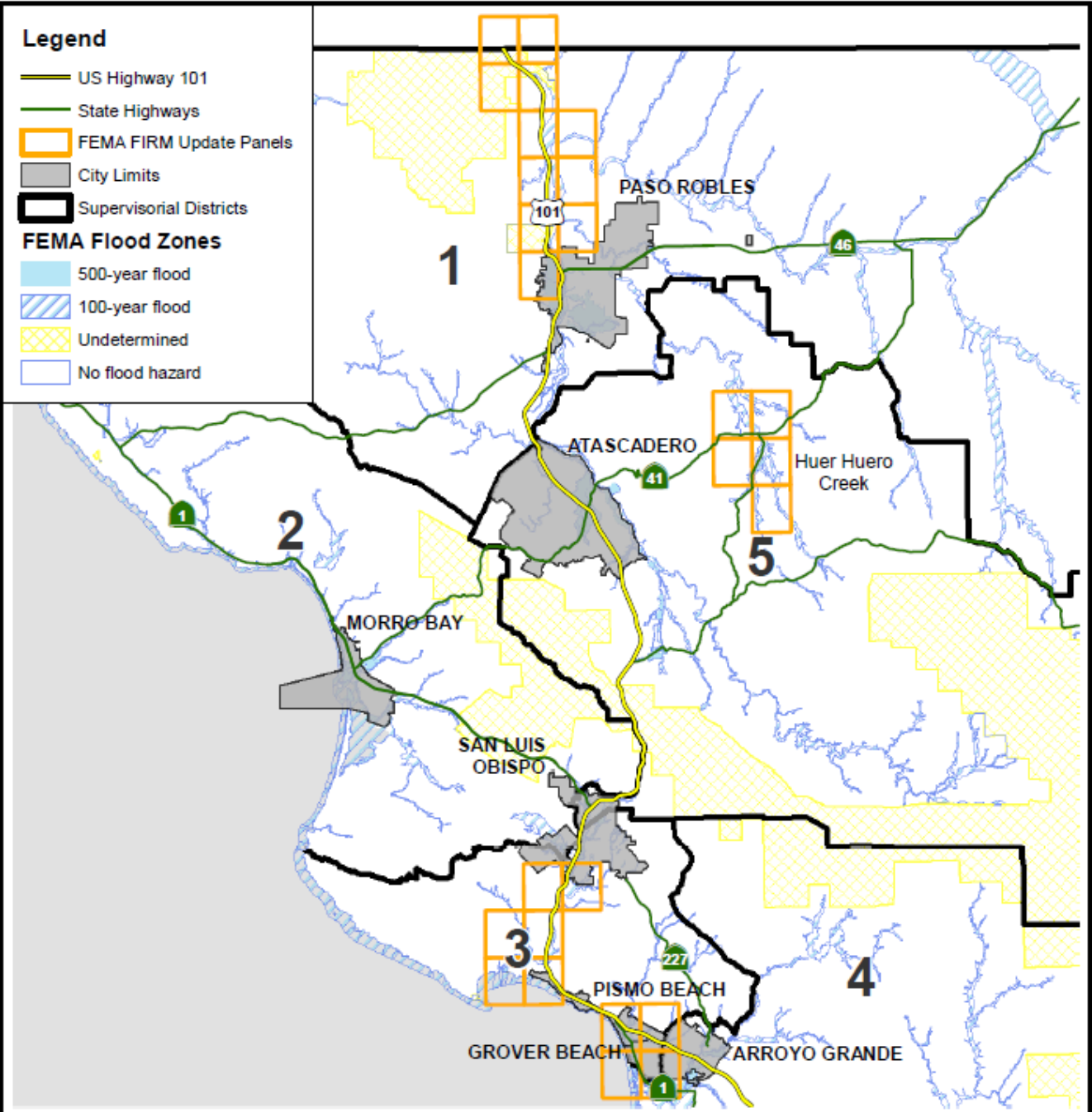
Please provide any questions or comments related to the models selected for the flood study project by January 29, 2019. To provide comments or ask a question about this project, please contact Eric Simmons, Regional Engineer, of our staff in Oakland, California, by telephone at (510) 627-7029 or by e-mail at [eric.simmons@fcma.dhs.gov](mailto:eric.simmons@fcma.dhs.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Kearns', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Alison Kearns, Chief  
Risk Analysis Branch

cc: Mladen Bandov, Floodplain Administrator, San Luis Obispo County  
Raul Barba, Acting State NFIP Coordinator, California Department of Water Resources



VICINITY MAP

**FEMA FIRM UPDATE PANELS**  
Countywide, CA


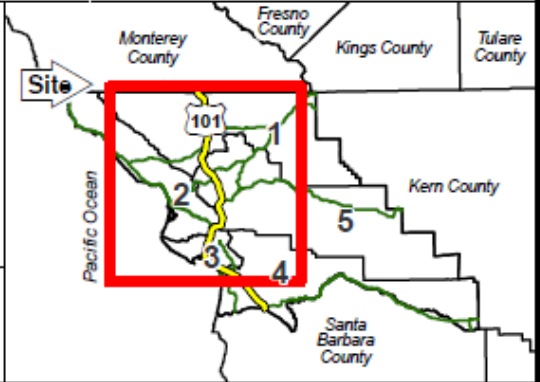
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

1:400,000

0 4 8 Miles

Map by: BJclose

Date: 1/17/2019

**TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Sarah Crable, Water Resources Engineer**

**DATE: April 10, 2019**

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item #7: East Branch of San Luis Obispo Creek Site Visit and Update**

**Recommendation**

Continue to engage with property owners to catalogue incidences of flooding on Buckley Road bridge at Vachell Lane.

**Discussion**

A site visit of the East Branch of the San Luis Obispo Creek near Buckley Road was conducted on January 3, 2019. Participants included County Staff, City Staff, and San Luis Obispo County residents of the properties south of Buckley Road at Vachell Lane. The following details notes taken by County Staff during the site visit at several bridge locations.

*Jespersen Road Bridge*

During storms in February 2018, the bridge could not be crossed because vegetation upstream of the bridge clogged the flow. This is a County owned bridge with a stream gage station. There is a 2 or 3 string barb wire cattle fence immediately downstream of the bridge.

*Thousand Hills Bridge*

The bridge on the Thousand Hills property is a former railroad crossing and is made of concrete. Photos of the creek channel and the vegetation upstream of the bridge are shown below.



Photos of the vegetation immediately downstream of the bridge are shown below.



### *Vachell Lane Bridges*

There are two private bridges on Vachell Lane. The main bridge floods every 4 to 5 years. The property manager will perform creek maintenance if the creek is not difficult to access. Photos upstream and downstream of the main bridge are shown below.



The vegetation growth and dead and down debris immediately upstream of the secondary are shown below.



The vegetation growth immediately downstream of the secondary is shown below.



### *Buckley Road Bridge*

The vegetation growth and dead and down debris immediately downstream of the bridge. The photos below are all directly downstream of the bridge.



County Staff will continue to engage with property owners near Buckley Road and Vachell Lane to catalogue creek conditions.



**TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee**  
**FROM: Sarah Crable, Water Resources Engineer**  
**DATE: April 10, 2019**  
**SUBJECT: Agenda Item #8: Budget Update Approval**

### **Recommendation**

Consider endorsement of two additional proposed activities for Zone 9 Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget.

### **Discussion**

Two additional programs are proposed to carry out the goals of the Waterway Management Plan. The first is a vegetation management program in the County areas of Zone 9. The second is a limited study of the East Branch of the San Luis Obispo Creek that will serve as a partial update to the Waterway Management Plan.

### **Vegetation Management Program**

Staff proposes to develop a vegetation management program within the County areas of Zone 9 in alignment with the San Luis Obispo Creek Waterway Management Plan (WMP).

#### *Purpose*

A vegetation management and streambed maintenance program has been successfully carried out in the San Luis Obispo Creek watershed within the City limits. Since the adoption of the WMP in 2003, there has not been an established vegetation management and streambed maintenance program in the County areas of Zone 9 except within the County's right-of-way. Starting a vegetation management program within the County areas of the watershed would provide needed removal of vegetation and related activities to maintain all of the identified waterways in Zone 9.

#### *Program Objective*

The program objective will be to maintain the existing flood carrying capacity of San Luis Obispo Creek and its tributaries within the county areas of Zone 9.

#### *Tasks*

The overarching tasks of this program include:

1. Conducting limited field reconnaissance activities in San Luis Obispo Creek and its tributaries within the county areas of Zone 9
2. Developing a baseline assessment to understand current conditions, which will include maps,

photographs, and other information.

3. Identifying priority locations and developing recommendations to address critical issues.
4. Performing limited vegetation management (e.g., focused on removal of dead and down debris) as identified in the SLO Creek WMP.
5. Developing and distributing outreach and education materials to property owners about creek maintenance.

The proposed increase to the Zone 9 FY 2019-20 budget for developing a vegetation management program is in the amount of \$90,000.

### **East Branch Limited Study**

Staff proposes to hire a consultant to develop a limited study to examine causes of flooding along the East Branch of the San Luis Obispo Creek and would identify the flood capacity of the bridge at Buckley Road and Vachell Lane. The study would also provide recommendations on solutions to identified issues.

#### *Purpose*

There have been reports from San Luis Obispo County residents about the high incidences of flooding on Buckley Road near Vachell Lane. Currently, an understanding of the causes of flooding in this area within Zone 9 is not represented in the Waterway Management Plan or the City of San Luis Obispo's Airport Areas Specific Plan.

#### *Study Objective*

The objective will be to develop a limited study that will serve as an update to the Waterway Management Plan for lower portions of East Branch of the San Luis Obispo Creek upstream and downstream of Buckley Road at Vachell Lane.

#### *Tasks*

The overarching tasks of to produce this limited study are:

1. Developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to obtain the professional services of a consultant.
2. Identifying any data gaps that exists for the lower portions of the East Branch.
3. Assessing the study area to develop an understanding of conditions that cause flooding.
4. Reviewing the City's existing hydraulic and hydrologic data to determine the flood capacity of the Bridge at Buckley Road and Vachell Lane.
5. Producing a report that clearly identifies issues and provides recommendations of improvements and solutions to the lower portion of the East Branch.

The proposed increase to the Zone 9 FY 2019-20 budget for conducting a limited study of the East Branch of San Luis Obispo Creek is in the amount of \$87,000.

**TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee**  
**FROM: Sarah Crable, Water Resources Engineer**  
**DATE: April 10, 2019**  
**SUBJECT: Agenda Item #9: New Zone 9 website and mailing list**

**Recommendation**

Encourage committee members and public to visit the new Zone 9 website and sign up for the mailing list to receive updates sent by email.

**Discussion**

The slocountywater.org website is being phased out and will no longer be used for Zone 9 effective immediately. The new website that houses Zone 9 information including past agendas and minutes is now located at [www.slocounty.ca.gov/pw/zone9](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/pw/zone9).

At the bottom of this new Zone 9 homepage is a signup form that can be filled out to receive updates about Zone 9 such as agenda's and minutes. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for the email list as well as look at the new website to provide any helpful feedback to County staff.