

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, December 11, 2024** 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 September 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes
3. Waterway Management Plan Updates:
  - a. Receive Presentation from County Staff Regarding Enhancing the Stream and Rain Gage Network in Zone 9
  - b. Receive Verbal update on the status of the Reimbursement Agreement Amendment
  - c. Open Discussion on WMP Update
4. Consider Endorsing the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Workplan
5. Ongoing Updates
  - a. Mid-Higuera Bypass Project
  - b. Creek Maintenance
  - c. Arundo Removal
  - d. Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study
6. 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.*
7. Future agenda items

**Next Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 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

**Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, September 11, 2024**

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

Non-Voting Members and Guests Attending:

Brendan Clark, County of San Luis Obispo (Secretary)  
Troy Barnhart, County of San Luis Obispo  
Joey Steil, County of San Luis Obispo  
Freddy Otte, City of San Luis Obispo  
Lucia Pohlman, City of San Luis Obispo

**1. Introductions and roll call**

Chair Peterson calls the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and a quorum is established.

**2. Approval of April 10, 2024 meeting minutes**

W. Peterson introduces the item and asks for edits or additions from the Committee.

M. Shoresman moves to approve the April 10, 2024 meeting minutes.

C. Mulholland seconds the motion.

Motion passes (4-0-0).

**3. Review and Discuss the Committee Bylaws**

W. Peterson introduces the item and B. Clark provides an overview of proposed updates to the Committee Bylaws, as discussed during the April Committee meeting.

Committee Members review the Bylaws page by page with staff and discuss areas where additional edits may be needed. A number of topics were discussed regarding terminology and definitions, appointments, replacements, residency requirements, meeting frequency, attendance, and others.

A redlined or updated version of the Bylaws will be compiled by the Committee Secretary and will be brought before the Committee for review and approval at a future meeting.

**4. Waterway Management Plan Updates:**

a. Review and Discuss Proposed Amendments to the Zone 9 Reimbursement Agreement between the District and the City

W. Peterson introduces the item and B. Clark provides an overview of proposed amendments to the Zone 9 Reimbursement Agreement between the District and the City.

Committee Members concur that the amendments appear reasonable and straightforward. If substantial changes are made by counsel during the review process, the Committee requests that staff bring those changes back for review.

C. Mulholland moves to recommend the proposed amendments to the Zone 9 Reimbursement Agreement to the District Board of Supervisors, subject to review by County and City attorneys.

M. Shoresman seconds the motion.

Motion passes (4-0-0).

b. Open Discussion on WMP Update

B. Clark provides an update on a DWR grant opportunity to enhance and integrate our local rain and stream gage network. The City and County have compiled a list of desired rain and stream gage locations and efforts are moving forward to pursue the grant opportunity for new stream gages.

W. Peterson asks if all of the data will go into a software program to enhance predictive flood modeling efforts. And also, does the program have capacity to include private data; if so, will data quality be an issue? B. Clark responds.

F. Otte asks about the funding and timeframe of the grant. T. Barnhart responds.

**5. Ongoing Updates**

a. Mid-Higuera Bypass Project

B. Nelson provides a verbal update on the Mid-Higuera Bypass Project.

b. Creek Maintenance

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

(M. Shoresman exits the meeting at 3:03 PM)

C. Mulholland asks if there are opportunities in the watershed to incorporate beaver dam analogs. L. Pohlman and F. Otte respond.

c. Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study

B. Clark provides a verbal update on the Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study.

**6. Public comment**

C. Mulholland comments that today is the 169<sup>th</sup> birthday of William Mulholland.

**7. Future agenda items**

None discussed.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:13 PM**

**Agenda Item #4:**

**Consider Endorsing the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Workplan**

**TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee**  
**FROM: Brendan Clark, Secretary**  
**DATE: December 11, 2024**  
**SUBJECT: Consider Endorsing the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Workplan**

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends endorsing the City of San Luis Obispo Fiscal Year 2025-26 Annual Workplan and the District workplan to initiate stream gauge project along San Luis Bay Drive.

**Discussion:**

Per the Agreement between the SLO County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) and the City of San Luis Obispo (City), the City is to provide a Work Plan that “shall include a description and budget for the work activities proposed by the City for the upcoming fiscal year” (Paragraph B).

To that end, the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Work Plan is attached.

Additionally, in the spirit of the agreement, County staff is presenting the following to be endorsed by the Committee for the FY 2025-26 fiscal year as well:

*Stream Gauge Enhancements - \$100,000*

These funds are identified to cover both one-time and the first year of operation of a stream gauge located on a bridge along San Luis Bay Drive near the intersection with Avila Beach Drive. County Staff is exploring opportunities to have this project funded by the State where these expenditures would be reimbursable.

Funding approved by the Board and unspent in FY 2024-25 for Waterway Management Plan Updates, Stream Gauge Enhancements at Marsh Street, and County Maintenance will carry forward.

**Attachments:**

1. City 2025-26 Workplan
2. District / City Agreement (2021)



## Public Works

919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3218  
805.781.7200  
[slocity.org](http://slocity.org)

**Date:** December 2, 2024  
**To:** Brenden Clark, Water Resources Engineer – County of San Luis Obispo  
**From:** Brian Nelson, City Engineer - City of San Luis Obispo  
**Subject:** 2025-2026 Zone 9 Budget Request

Based on the current status and future needs to continue making progress on several projects, the City is requesting the following funding from Zone 9 for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

Project Name	Requested FY 2024/25
General Creek Maintenance	\$183,000
General Creek Maintenance in County Areas	\$60,000
Silt Removal	\$150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$393,000</b>

### General Creek Maintenance

\$183,000 to fund ongoing general creek maintenance which includes channel clearing, including removal of trees, vegetation, and arundo from creeks. Funding is planned to be used as follows:

1. Contract Labor - Channel Clearing: \$100,000
2. Channel Tree Removals: \$50,000
3. Vegetation Disposal: \$ 5,000
4. Arundo Removal: \$28,000

### General Creek Maintenance in County Areas

\$60,000 to fund ongoing assessment and maintenance of creeks and waterways that come into or leave the City and cross County jurisdictional area. This continues an expansion of the existing work program the City currently undertakes in City-limits. Prioritization will be completed where flooding or backwatering has occurred in the past to ensure proper drainage exists. Funding is planned to be used as follows:

1. Creek Assessment and Mapping: \$3,000
2. Contract Labor/Tree Contractor - Channel Clearing: \$52,000
3. Vegetation Disposal: \$ 5,000

### Silt Removal

Existing funding to support Silt Removal is approximately \$111,000. Each year City staff assess several creek locations for silt accumulation and focus future projects in the areas that have the highest benefit to the creek system. The existing funds, in addition to the requested appropriation of \$150,000, will support design surveys, permitting work, mitigation and silt removal construction work

at locations selected for a project in Fall 2025. It is anticipated that City will include the following locations for silt removal construction in 2025:

- Prefumo Creek downstream of Madonna Road
- San Luis Obispo Creek Bypass Channel at Prefumo Creek
- San Luis Obispo Creek at Los Osos Valley Road Bridge at East Barrel
- Tank Farm at Hollyhock Way
- Larkspur Street at Goldenrod Lane Culvert

#### Mid Higuera Bypass

Mid-Higuera Bypass project design was completed in August of 2024. County Staff have submitted for environmental regulatory permits and have received all permits from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Army Corp of Engineers.

A construction contract was executed with Souza Engineering Contracting Inc on November 6, 2024. Construction is anticipated to begin in January of 2025 pending start-up submittals to be received from the contractor, and construction is expected to conclude by Spring of 2026. Previous budget cycles have appropriated a total of \$1.625 million for construction and design support.

**No additional funding is required to complete the project as this time.**

Existing Zone 9 funding for the project supports maintenance related work included in the Mid-Higuera Bypass project scope, including:

- Removal of invasive plant species
- Tree pruning and tree removals
- Removal of trash and other debris in creek channel
- Silt Removal at Marsh Street Bridge
- Plantings and plant establishment
- Construction phase design support and environmental services



**REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND  
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO FOR WATERSHED  
MAINTENANCE AND EDUCATION PROGRAM**

This Reimbursement Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into on September 28, 2021 by and between the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ("District"), acting on behalf of District Flood Control Zone 9 ("Zone 9"), and the City of San Luis Obispo ("City") (each a "Party" and collectively, "Parties").

**WHEREAS**, Zone 9 includes the San Luis Obispo Creek ("Creek") watershed ("Watershed") and its tributaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is located wholly within the Watershed and the Zone 9 boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, by coordinating in Watershed maintenance and education activities, the City and District can more economically address issues within the Watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, such a cooperative program has been successfully completed in the past pursuant to prior reimbursement agreements between the District and City, including but not limited to the reimbursement agreements dated September 6, 2013 and August 21, 2018 (collectively, "Prior Agreements") and in accordance with the Waterway Management Plan and associated Environmental Impact Report certified by the District on February 10, 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties desire to continue in and expand their coordination with respect to Watershed maintenance and education activities, both within and outside of City limits, as described in this Agreement.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants, conditions, promises and agreements herein set forth, the District and City mutually covenant and agree as follows:

**A. REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES**

The City shall be eligible for reimbursement for expenses incurred by the City pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement subject to the following:

**1. Type of Activities Eligible for Reimbursement.**

Only those activities within Zone 9 identified below are eligible for reimbursement:

Removal of debris, sediment and vegetation which adversely affect the capacity of waterways or which might be more difficult or costly to remove if moved by flood flows to different locations where they could cause damage to the Creek or flooding to adjacent improved property.

Removal and proper disposal of detrimental exotic plants from throughout the Watershed and any re-vegetation project to minimize damage from flood flows or for restoration after removal of exotic plants.

Stabilization of Creek banks to prevent erosion causing sedimentation or property damage.

Development and construction of projects identified in the Waterway Management Plan adopted by the City on October 21, 2003 and District by Resolution 2004-51 on February 10, 2004.

Annual notice to property owners along the Creek, and wet weather flood prevention information distributed to the general public, including flyers, public service announcements and web sites.

**2. Inclusion in Work Plan.**

Only those work activities properly identified in the annual Work Plan (described below) prepared by the City and included in the District's current fiscal year budget as adopted by the District's Board of Supervisors ("Board") are eligible for reimbursement.

**3. Compliance with Agreement.**

Only activities performed in compliance with the provisions of this Agreement are eligible for reimbursement.

**B. OBLIGATIONS OF CITY**

The City shall submit a work plan to the District for each upcoming fiscal year, prior to December 1 of each year ("Work Plan"). The Work Plan shall include a description and budget for the work activities proposed by the City for the upcoming fiscal year.

The City shall act as the lead agency in complying with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") for all work done within the City limits with the following limited exception: the City shall act as the responsible agency in complying with CEQA for the Mid-Higuera Bypass Project.

The City shall acquire all permits for work within its jurisdiction with the following limited exception: the City shall not be responsible for providing staffing or other resources to acquire regulatory environmental permits for the Mid-Higuera Bypass Project.

The City shall be responsible for acquiring any landowner permission needed to accomplish any work within its jurisdiction.

Should any work within the City involve the abatement of nuisances, the removal of trees, or other obstructions, such shall be performed in accordance with due process of law under the City's abatement ordinances or State law. The abatement of said nuisances shall be the sole responsibility of the City.

Any streambed clearing work identified in the Work Plan shall be carried out prior to the rainy season with follow-up work done during the rainy season as appropriate.

The City shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations in performing any activities related to this Agreement.

The City shall provide quarterly statements to the District documenting the expenses for which the City is seeking reimbursement. Said statements shall specify the activities related to the expenses for which the City seeks reimbursement.

The City shall recognize and acknowledge the District's financial contribution to the activities identified in Section A of this Agreement through prominent mention during any oral presentation or in writing on any signs, promotional materials, press releases, publications, advertisements, or exhibits prepared in connection with or referring to the reimbursable activities.

### **C. OBLIGATIONS OF DISTRICT**

District staff shall review the Work Plan submitted by the City and shall coordinate with the City to refine the Work Plan, as appropriate, so that it is consistent with the intent of this Agreement and the District's budgetary plans. District staff thereafter shall prepare a draft Zone 9 budget request for the upcoming fiscal year to include those activities that District staff considers consistent with the intent of this Agreement and the District's budgetary plans. The District shall include on an agenda the draft budget request for review by the Zone 9 Advisory Committee ("Committee") to allow the Committee to make a recommendation to the Board regarding said budget request.

The District shall provide reimbursement to the City for eligible City expenses incurred pursuant to this Agreement on a periodic basis as funds are available, within the budgetary limits approved by the Board or its designee provided that the City submits satisfactory documentation of City's expenses and work performed.

The District shall act as the lead agency in complying CEQA for: (1) all work done by the City outside of City limits; and (2) the Mid-Higuera Bypass Project.

The District shall be responsible for acquiring any landowner permission needed to accomplish any work done by the City outside of City limits.

The District shall provide staffing and other resources to obtain all necessary permits for: (1) work done by the City outside of City limits; and (2) the Mid-Higuera Bypass Project on behalf of the City who shall be the permittee.

The City is under no obligation, and this Agreement does not contemplate, commencement of formal nuisance abatement actions by the City outside of the City's jurisdiction.

The District shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations in performing any activities related to this Agreement.

### **D. GENERAL TERMS**

#### **1. Term.**

This Agreement shall become effective on the date fully executed by the Parties and shall have an initial term of five (5) years. This Agreement shall renew automatically for four (4) successive five (5) year terms. Notwithstanding the foregoing, either Party may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving ninety (90) days written notice of termination to the other Party.

**2. Indemnification for Conduct Within City Limits.**

Each Party hereto shall defend, indemnify and save harmless the other Party and other Party's officers, agents and employees from and against all loss, claims, demands, liabilities, costs, expenses, damages, including reasonable legal counsels' fees and costs of litigation, causes of action, including but not limited to inverse condemnation and judgments arising out of the indemnifying party's performance or attempt to perform its obligations pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement, including both acts and omissions to act. However, neither Party shall be indemnified hereunder for any loss, claims, demands, liabilities, costs, expenses, damages, or causes of action resulting from the sole negligence or willful misconduct of the other Party occurring within City limits.

**3. Indemnification for Conduct Outside of City Limits.**

**4. To the fullest extent permitted by law (including, but not limited to California Civil Code Sections 2782 and 2782.8), the District shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City, and its elected officials, officers, employees, volunteers, and agents ("City Indemnitees"), from and against any and all causes of action, claims, liabilities, obligations, judgments, or damages, including reasonable legal counsels' fees and costs of litigation, arising from all conduct by either Party outside of City limits in furtherance of the Parties' obligations under this Agreement. In the event the City Indemnitees are made a party to any action, lawsuit, or other adversarial proceeding arising from the either Party's conduct outside of City limits in furtherance of its obligations under this Agreement, the District shall provide a defense to the City Indemnitees or at the City's option, reimburse the City Indemnitees their costs of defense, including reasonable legal fees, incurred in defense of such claims. However, the City shall be responsible for any loss, claims, demands, liabilities, costs, expenses, damages, or causes of action resulting from the sole negligence or willful misconduct of the City occurring outside of City limits. Cooperation.**

The District agrees to cooperate with the City in the defense of any such claims or litigation, and the City agrees to cooperate with the District.

**5. Full Agreement.**

This Agreement encompasses the entire agreement of the Parties, and supersedes all previous understandings and agreements between the Parties, whether oral or written, including but not limited to the Prior Agreements.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement on the dates set forth below:

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: LYNN COMPTON  
Chairperson of the Board  
San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and  
Water Conservation District  
State of California

Date: September 28, 2021

ATTEST:

By: WADE HORTON  
~~County Clerk and~~ Ex-Officio Clerk of the  
Board of Supervisors, County of San Luis Obispo,  
State of California

Date: September 28, 2021

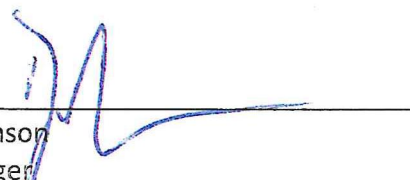
By:   
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:  
RITA L. NEAL  
County Counsel

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy County Counsel

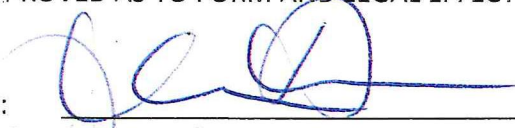
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

By:   
Derek Johnson  
City Manager

Date: 9/9/21

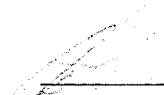
APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

By:   
J. Christine Dietrick  
City Attorney

Date: 9/9/2021

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

RITA L. NEAL  
County Counsel

By:   
Deputy County Counsel

Date: 0-30-21

CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Derek Johnson  
City Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

J. Christine Dietrick  
City Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Agenda Item #5:**

**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: December 11, 2024**

**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 final Streambed Alteration Agreement was issued 8/3/2023.
- Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Section 404  
A final Nationwide Permit was issued on 12/20/23.
- 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 thirteen (13) offer packages to property owners for required easements. Of those 13 presented, twelve (12) of the easement agreements have been signed by the property owners. One (1) easement offer package remains to be signed by the property owners. The remaining temporary easement would enable the contractor to complete additional vegetation removal and easily install the creek dewatering system. If the easement is not able to be procured, the major project elements will remain unimpeded. See the table below for a complete list of easements being pursued and their respective status.

Acquisition Type	APN	Address	Offer Packages Prepared	Offers Sent	Offer Signed
Permanent and Temporary Easements	002-482-007	304 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Permanent and Temporary Easements	002-482-013	280 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Permanent and Temporary Easements	002-482-017	284 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Permanent and Temporary Easements	002-482-023	292 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Permanent and Temporary Easements	002-482-027	306 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Temporary Easement	002-482-015	300 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Temporary Easement	002-482-021	390 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	No
Temporary Easement	003-711-024	264 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Temporary Easement	004-741-001	23 South Street	Final	Yes	Yes



Temporary Easement	004-741-007	178 Brook Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Temporary Easement	004-741-008	180 Brook Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Temporary Easement	004-741-010	160 Brook Street	Final	Yes	Yes
Public Utility Easement	002-482-017	284 Higuera Street	Final	Yes	Yes

A standard Caltrans Encroachment Permit was procured by City Staff for the portion of work that overlaps with Caltrans' property. The project will have minimal impacts to Caltrans Right-of-Way.

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. On October 7, 2024, staff executed a grant agreement amendment with DWR staff to extend the funding agreement through March of 2026 to accommodate delays in the construction timeline.

Wallace Group completed final design work in August 2024, and the project was publicly advertised from September 12<sup>th</sup> to October 10<sup>th</sup>. The City held a public bid opening on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and Souza Engineering Contracting Inc. was the low bidder with a bid of \$8,546,961.73. The City awarded a contract with Souza Engineering Contracting Inc. on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. Staff anticipate construction commencing in January 2025.

**TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee**

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

**DATE: December 11, 2024**

**SUBJECT: Creek Maintenance Updates**

The City is continuing the conversations with state and federal agencies on the emergency projects and maintenance needs for those projects once permitted.

In relation to creek inspections, and with the addition of drainage easements to the list, where there used to be 18 primary locations, City staff now have 47 locations to inspect annually which is a significant increase. A new inspection process is going to be implemented with an iPad and microfiche form developed for efficiency, beginning this fall/winter. Approximately 85% of the sites have been surveyed and no major obstructions have been found, tree branches and smaller debris is all that has been encountered and will be addressed accordingly.

The City of San Luis Obispo submitted a grant to the State Coastal Conservancy in August for a Vegetation Management Plan and we received word that they are interested in funding the request and if all goes through, we would be looking at the February 2025 Board agenda for consideration. This would identify vegetation and habitat types in City open space and along the creek system and if the proposal is accepted as proposed, the Coastal Conservancy would complete the CEQA Document and submit for 5-year routine maintenance agreements through CDFW and the Water Board with the biological consultant they have on retainer. This could go into effect for the 2026/27 winter season.

**TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Brendan Clark, County of San Luis Obispo**

**DATE: December 11, 2024**

**SUBJECT: Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study**

*Update:*

GHD provided County staff a draft alternatives report earlier this fall. County staff has provided comments and awaiting the final alternatives report. Once received, staff will select an alternative and authorize GHD to prepare 30% design. A formal presentation to the Committee is expected at a 2025 meeting.

*Background:*

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 for design.

**TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Jon Hall, Land Conservancy**

**DATE: December 11, 2024**

**SUBJECT: Arundo Removal Updates**

The largest remaining population of *Arundo donax* in the SLO Creek watershed is at the intersection of Los Osos Valley Road and San Luis Creek. Control of this population began in August 2023 with removal of ¼ of the 0.77 acre infestation. This population was the focus for efforts in 2024. With another \$25,000 partners grant through US Fish and Wildlife Service and funding from the Zone 9 Flood Control District The Land Conservancy worked with the CCC's and the City of San Luis Obispo to coordinate a large effort to mechanically remove and treat with herbicides the reaming portion of this population. Additionally we have completed a comprehensive survey of San Luis Obispo Creek from Los Osos Valley Road downstream to Avila. All detected populations were controlled. A large patch in a tributary near the corner of Clarion Ct and Santa Fe Road was also treated as well as a large population in See Canyon visited in previous years. All field work is complete for the season but permitting and reporting work is still underway.