

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 13, 2022** 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=SVJvZWg0VUdOYUJF0eHI3KzNwMUdBUz09>

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

**AGENDA**

1. Introductions and Roll Call
2. Moment of Silence  
In remembrance of Dave Romero who passed away on March 17, 2022.
3. Approval of December 8, 2021, Meeting Minutes
4. Officer Elections
5. Ongoing Reports
  - a. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
  - b. Mid-Higuera Bypass Project
  - c. San Luis Obispo Creek Maintenance
  - d. Invasive Plant Removal, Arundo
  - e. East Fork Limited 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, June 8, 2022, at 1:30 PM  
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*

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**Meeting Minutes (DRAFT) – Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

**Members Present**

Wayne Peterson, Chairperson, County At-Large  
Christine Mulholland, Member, City At-Large  
Carlyn Christianson, Member, City Council  
Jon Hall, Member, Alternate, County-At-Large  
Brian Nelson, Member, City Staff

**Others Present**

[Cathy Kathy](#) Borland, Member of the Public  
Freddy Otte, City of San Luis Obispo  
Brendan Clark, County of San Luis Obispo, Public Works (Committee Secretary)  
Brandon Zuniga, County of San Luis Obispo, Public Works  
Sarah Crable, County of San Luis Obispo, Public Works  
Troy Barnhart, County of San Luis Obispo, Public Works  
Dan Schaaf, Schaaf & Wheeler, Consultant for San Luis Obispo County (East Fork Limited Study)

1. Introductions and roll call

Wayne Peterson calls the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. Quorum established.

Introductions of attendees.

2. Adoption of AB 361 – Virtual Meeting Resolution

**Motion by: Carlyn Christianson**  
**Second by: Christine Mulholland**

The Committee adopts AB 361 to hold meeting virtually (5-0-0).

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2021

The minutes are hereby amended to reflect that Janet Andrews (alternate) was in attendance at the October 13, 2021, meeting.

**Motion by: Carlyn Christianson**  
**Second by: Christine Mulholland**

The Committee approves the October 13, 2021, meeting minutes as amended, adding Janet Andrews, County-at-Large, Alternate as attending (5-0-0).

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4. Committee Membership and Re-affirmations

This is an update done annually at the last meeting of the year in preparation of the officer elections and membership confirmation during 2022. This is a receive and file item.

**~~Motion by: Carlyn Christianson~~**

**~~Second by: Christine Mulholland~~**

5. Approval of 2022 Meeting Schedule

There was a discussion of changing the venue for the meeting during 2022, including holding the meeting outdoors. Due to County requirements to meet virtually, the meeting cannot be held inside.

**Motion by: Carlyn Christianson**

**Second by: Christine Mulholland**

Meeting calendar approved (5-0-0).

6. East Fork Limited Study Presentation

County staff, Sarah Crable introduced Dan Schaaf, P.E. from Schaaf and Wheeler, who presented a PowerPoint presentation the hydrology and hydraulics in the area, providing results of the East Fork Limited Study. The presentation covered the long-standing existing conditions that have contributed to flooding in the Buckley Road area. There were questions regarding maintenance of the stream bed. Mr. Schaaf discussed the backwater pooling on private and public property due to the flat topography in the area and dominant flows from the East Fork. This presentation and a recording are posted on the Zone 9 website for review.

7. Reports

a. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Both the City and County GSAs adopted the Groundwater Sustainability Plan at their meeting on December 7, 2022. The consultant is preparing the Annual Report for Water Year 2021 as required by SGMA. The DRAFT Annual Report will be presented at the February 9, 2022, meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Commission and all will be submitted by the January 2022 deadline to the portal online.

b. Mid-Higuera Bypass Project

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Property appraisals are complete for three (3) properties. The next steps are to seek approval from City Council to begin for negotiations and to secure easements for the bypass channel and removal of structures within the next few months. Permit applications were submitted to the regulatory agencies during the fall and approval is still pending. Once permits are complete, the consultant will begin 95% plans. The earliest the project could be constructed is fall 2023 (tree removal), and work within the creek would occur in the 2024 jurisdictional permit window June - September.

c. San Luis Obispo Creek Maintenance

Based on surveys completed, there are not too many downed trees. The new tree contractor is out next week. Keeping an eye on the storm window as precipitation is forecast next week. The City is looking at partnering with Cal Poly to do more research on the success of native vegetation establishment with goat management.

d. San Luis Obispo Creek Arundo Removal

Jon Hall of the Land Conservancy discussed securing access agreements and gave an update on this year's removal – approximately 80% dead. The low priority areas are estimated at 20 plants; however, they are in yards, not necessary impacting waterways. Next year, the effort is targeting Los Osos Valley Road and the San Luis Obispo Creek (fall 2022)

e. East Fork Limited Study

There are no other reports at this time.

f. Budget Policy

The District is meeting with the City in December 2021 to discuss the review the District has done internally and will report back to the committee in February as development of a draft policy occurs. The District is following up on the matter with the City, hopefully in January.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Future Agenda Items

- Officer Elections – make sure to attend if you are a chair or vice chair.

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- DRAFT East Fork Study
- Budget Policy

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:49 PM

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**TO:** Zone 9 Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** Public Works Staff, County of San Luis Obispo  
**DATE:** March 23, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item #4, Officer Elections

**Discussion:**

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

SECTION 1: Officers of the Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

SECTION 2: The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee shall be selected from the members of the Committee by a vote of the members requiring a majority vote for election. The Secretary may be a non-member but shall be appointed by the Committee by a vote of the members requiring a majority vote for appointment.

~~SECTION 3: No elected officer of the Committee shall serve more than two (2) consecutive one-year terms in the same office.~~

SECTION 4: Vacated elected offices except Chairman shall be filled by election of the Committee. The Vice-Chairman shall assume the Chairmanship in the event of absence or resignation of the Chairman.

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**TO:** Zone 9 Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Brandon Zuniga, Water Resources Engineer, Public Works, County of San Luis Obispo

**DATE:** March 30, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item #5, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Update

The San Luis Obispo Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is complete and has been submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for approval. The Water Year 2021 Annual Report for the San Luis Obispo Valley Groundwater Basin was also submitted to DWR after approval by the GSC at the March 17, 2022 Meeting.

**For additional information, please contact:** Brandon Zuniga, Water Resources Engineer, San Luis Obispo County, Public Works, [bzuniga@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:bzuniga@co.slo.ca.us) or (805) 788-2110.

**Visit the San Luis Obispo Valley Groundwater Basin SGMA website for mailing list and updates:**  
[www.slocounty.ca.gov/slobasin](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/slobasin)

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**TO:** Zone 9 Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Brian Nelson, P.E. Acting City Engineer, City of San Luis Obispo  
Blaize Uva, Environmental Specialist, Public Works, County of San Luis Obispo

**DATE:** March 28, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item #5 - Mid-Higuera Flood Control Project Update

**Grant Funding Award**

DWR Coastal Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Grant (\$6,078,707) – Grant Awarded. City staff have met with DWR and will be processing a draft grant funding agreement over the next several months, pending hiring/onboarding of additional engineering and project management resources

**Project Design**

Wallace Group’s remaining final design scope of work includes:

- Topographic survey on Bianchi to capture development improvements (completed)
- Legal descriptions for property negotiations (in progress, nearing completion)
- Utility letters and coordination (in progress)
- 95% PS&E revisions (pending Jurisdictional permit review and comments)
- Right of entry and construction easement exhibits (completed)
- Building Permits: Grading and Demolition plan for building removal (pending approval and agreement of Todd property easement acquisition)
- Final 100% contract documents

The City and Wallace group are developing permanent and temporary construction easement exhibits for the project where the project impacts adjacent properties. Hamner-Jewell, the Right of Way consultant, is continuing the appraisal process and will be utilizing easement exhibits for costing the acquisitions. Draft appraisal has been completed for the Madonna Property.

**Permits**

Each regulatory agency listed below manages a slice of the San Luis Obispo Creek, working within any of the agency jurisdictions will trigger the need for permits. The County of San Luis Obispo (County), in coordination with the City of San Luis Obispo (City), applied for three permits (listed below) on 9/22/21.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) 1600 Permit: The County received a seven-page request for information from CDFW in October 2021. This was quite an effort to compile, analyze, and prepare the requested information as the request triggered additional surveys and report



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preparation. The County completed a response, including supplementary supporting reports, and returned the requested information on 2/18/22. On 3/21/22 an additional request for information was sent to County/City staff. A meeting with CDFW is scheduled for 3/29/22 to discuss the additional request. County staff is currently preparing a response to the 3/21/22 request. The fees were ~\$5500 and have been paid.

Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) 404 Permit: On December 2, 2021, the County received a request for information from ACOE. The County has compiled, and returned the requested information to the ACOE on 2/18/22. No additional response has been received from the ACOE. There is a \$10 fee for this permit to be paid upon request of the ACOE.

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) 401 Permit: The RWQCB sent the County a request for information on December 28, 2021. The requested information was prepared returned to the agency on 2/18/22. On 3/7/22 an meeting with the RWQCB was held at the project site and the RWQCB requested additional information, which was then provided to the agency on 3/15/22. No additional response has been received from the RWQCB. This was a very expensive permit (~\$70k) however all fees have been paid. The fee amount is directly correlated to the project's impact within the Board's jurisdiction.

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**TO:** Zone 9 Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Freddy Otte, Biologist, Natural Resources, Office of Sustainability, City of San Luis Obispo

**DATE:** March 25, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Agenda #5, San Luis Obispo Creek Maintenance Update

The City of San Luis Obispo (City) has acquired property access along San Luis Obispo Creek between the Santa Rosa and Toro Street Bridges along Pacific Street. We have received calls from these locations in the past and now we will begin to see what can be done to improve capacity. We are also looking at property access in Stenner Creek upstream of Chorro St to the Santa Rosa Street Bridge along Lincoln Street. Again, we receive calls from the neighbors there frequently.

The City and County of San Luis Obispo staff had a kick-off meeting to review the East Fork of San Luis Obispo Creek and will be developing an assessment with mapped locations of debris jams and opportunities for maintenance for discussion before implementation.

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**TO:** Zone 9 Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** Jon Hall, Land Conservancy  
**DATE:** March 31, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item #5, Invasive Plant Removal, Arundo Update

Arundo treatments are complete for the season.

For the month of February, staff are preparing the annual report for the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan. In addition, Staff are applying for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Streambed Alteration Agreement to remove the Arundo populations at the Los Osos Valley Road bridge, scheduled for Fall 2022.

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**TO:** Zone 9 Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Public Works, County of San Luis Obispo

**DATE:** March 23, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item #5, East Fork Limited Study Update

**East Fork Limited Study**

Schaaf & Wheeler Consulting Civil Engineers developed a hydrologic and hydraulic study of the East Fork of San Luis Obispo Creek in the vicinity of Buckley Road and Vachell Lane. The results of the study were presented at the Zone 9 Advisory Meeting on December 8, 2021. A revised DRAFT report and model are being updated after initial staff review. The County will circulate a revised DRAFT report for comment, once available.

County staff continue to collaborate with parallel California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) and FEMA efforts in the area. Our study and model information will be informative for these State and Federal projects.