

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

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, August 08, 2018

Members Present

Wayne Peterson, Chairperson, Member, County At-Large
Andy Pease, Member, City Council
Matt Horn, Vice Chairperson, Member, City Staff
Christine Mulholland, Member, City At-Large
Dave Romero, Alternate, City 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 - April 11, 2018

Motion by: **Christine Mullholland**

Second by: **Andy Pease**

The Committee approves the April 11, 2018 meeting minutes (5-0-0).

3. Ongoing Reports and Updates

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

Andy Pease adds the Committee a Joint Sustainability Plan between the City and County that is under development and will need to be approved by both the City and County. Christine Mullholland asks who else would be part of the plan. Andy Pease responds that there are four named entities, such as Golden State Water Company, who will be a part of the Joint Sustainability Plan while all other overlying land owners will be represented by the County.

- Mid-Higuera Bypass Project Updates

Mladen Bandov, County Public Works, reports that the Board of Supervisors will hold a hearing on August 21, 2018 that recommends: (1) certification of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Mid-Higuera Bypass Project; and (2) revising and approving the reimbursement agreement with the City of San Luis Obispo. The revised agreement includes updating the roles and responsibilities of the City and County related to the Mid-Higuera Bypass Project, which includes directing County staff to perform activities related to regulatory permitting for the project. The revised agreement also includes automatic term extension renewals after the initial 5-year term for four (4) additional consecutive 5-year term extensions.

Brian Nelson, City Engineer, reports that Wallace Group is working on the preliminary design and just submitted a Technical Memorandum Update with details of the DRAFT HEC-RAS model. Wallace Group's next steps in the preliminary design are to finalize the HEC-RAS model and to work with their subconsultant on the preliminary Bianchi Lane bridge alternatives analysis and associated geotechnical foundation report. The final engineering design plans submittal scheduled by June 2019. The preliminary cost estimate for the project is \$4.1 million including a 15% contingency.

- Creek Maintenance Updates

Freddy Otte, City Biologist, reports that an inventory is being developed using previous hot spot locations and complaints from public. California Conservation Corps will be contacted if available to assist with maintenance. Landscape contractors may be used if necessary. Minimal debris jams have been encountered during creek walks this year and preventative maintenance is being undertaken.

4. Waterway Management Plan (WMP) Implementation

Wayne Peterson comments that flooding on Buckley Road resulting from flows coming from the East Branch of San Luis Obispo Creek originating from Broad Street area. The problem appears to be the capacity of the East Branch of San Luis Obispo Creek downstream of the bridge on Buckley Road.

Mladen Bandov summarizes that staff report provided in the agenda packet:

- The WMP for Zone 9 is the comprehensive approach to address flooding issues throughout the entire watershed.
- Preferred Projects in the WMP include both capital improvement projects and nonstructural activities used to address flooding
- Mid-Higuera Bypass has been the first individual project pursued since the WMP was developed.
- Projects for the East Branch were part of prior drafts of the Airport Area Specific Plan. However, once the Airport Area Specific Plan was finalized, the plan addressed flooding using on-site mitigation in accordance with the Regional Water Board's requirements. As a result, there are no planned projects identified that correct existing flooding for the East Branch.
- The entire East Branch is considered in the WMP, including the specific issues on Buckley Road near the bridge and Vachell Lane intersection, and the Committee can address the issue of flooding in this area.
- Staff is seeking direction from the Committee

Members from Preserve the SLO Life, a citizens group, expressed concerns about the following:

- The flow capacity of the bridge on Buckley Road and the need to raise the road
- On-site mitigation capacity of Avila Ranch development project due to presence of groundwater and soil type

- Additional flood waters entering the Tank Farm Creek Watershed resulting from 50-year storm event causing San Luis Obispo Creek to overtop south of Prado Road (Avila Ranch Environmental Impact Report – Local Flood Hazards Section 3.7-12)
- Emergency vehicle access during flood events
- Creek cleaning and maintenance in the County areas

Hal Hannula, City Supervising Civil Engineer, responds that he will investigate the design of onsite mitigation and double check that the basins are not relying on infiltration.

Mladen Bandov, County Public Works, responds that currently there is not a program for creek maintenance in the areas outside of the City limits. A program could be considered which would address creek maintenance for the East Branch and other areas outside the City limits. Historically, the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD) was previously contracted to work with private property owners to assess the creek conditions in the downstream areas of the East Branch. The RCD could provide an assessment and follow up with assistance to property owners to obtain permitting to clean the creek in the areas in question.

Andy Pease inquires about the level of effort to update the WMP. Christine Mulholland comments that the City Council should consider the how large projects address flooding issues and how the Committee could bring more awareness to the decision-making bodies. Andy Pease suggests that a presentation on the WMP's drainage design manual (DDM), regulatory requirements such as post-construction requirements (PCRs) and other measures that projects need to provide.

Wayne Peterson suggests that staff come up with a program to look at reducing the frequency of flooding in East Branch area, including understanding if creek cleaning would work.

Mladen Bandov reviews the possible actions including

- General update of the WMP, which may be either
 - a limited update to the Preferred Project (i.e., the individual capital projects) in Volume I, or
 - an update to the entire WMP including the Preferred Project Volume I, the Stream Management and Maintenance Program (SMMP) in Volume II and/or the Drainage Design Manual (DDM) in Volume III
- Studying the specific flooding on Buckley Road including the backwater condition and vegetation removal with the objective to reduce flooding frequency from a high frequency interval (observations from the public include flooding that occurs annually) to a lower frequency interval
- Include objectives in either the WMP update or Buckley Road study that provide stormwater capture and recharge opportunities into the groundwater basin

Bob Hill suggests presenting on the regulatory and contemporary setting of stormwater post-construction requirements, the City's stormwater resource plan for improving water quality and recharging the basin and increasing efforts for flood control.

5. Public Comment

Bob Hill had commented that the Foothill Bridge replacement project (ST-I-2 of the Preferred Project) had been completed.

6. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were suggested.

Wayne Peterson adjourns the meeting at 2:58 PM