

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

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Members Present

Wayne Peterson, Chairperson, Member, County At-Large
Carlyn Christianson, Member, City Council
Matt Horn, Vice Chairperson, Member, City Staff
Christine Mulholland, Member, City At-Large
Dave Romero, Alternate, City At-Large Alternate
Jon Hall, Alternate, County At-Large

1. Introductions and roll call

Wayne Peterson calls the meeting to order at 1:36 PM. Quorum established.
Introductions of attendees present.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes - December 12, 2018

Motion by: **Christine Mulholland**
Second by: **Matt Horn**

The Committee approves the December 12, 2018 meeting minutes (5-0-0), as amended.

3. County at-large alternate appointments

Mladen Bandov, Secretary, received one application from Janet Andrews to fill the vacancy of the County At-Large alternate position.

Motion by: Christine Mulholland
Second by: Jon Hall

The Committee approves the appointment of Janet Andrews as the County At-Large #2, Alternate (5-0-0).

County Staff will take the appointment to an upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting for approval.

4. Officer elections

Mladen, Secretary, explains that although not included in the by-laws, the committee previously requested to re-affirm officers or elect new at the first meeting of the year.

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

The Committee moves to maintain Wayne Peterson as Chairperson and Matt Horn as Vice Chairperson (5-0-0).

Mladen Bandov announces his intent to transition out of the role as the Committee Secretary role after the June 12, 2019 meeting due to his transition out of the Region Unit Supervisor role. He introduces Brendan Clark who is the new Supervising Engineer of the Regional Unit who would now be more appropriate to serve as Secretary should the Committee choose to appoint him at the June 12, 2019 meeting. The Chairperson requested a letter documenting the change in Secretary including Brendan Clark's contact information.

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. The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development kickoff meeting is on April 10, 2019 at 3:30 pm and there will be additional public meetings and workshops in the future. Department of Water Resources (DWR) awarded a grant to the County that included the development of a GSP for the SLOVGB. The grant also applies to the GSP development for the areas of the Santa Maria Basin within San Luis Obispo County jurisdiction. The total grant for the development of GSPs for both basins is \$1.3 million and approximately \$850,000 is allocated for the SLOVGB. The prioritization of the SLOVGB is currently designated as a "high priority" basin.

- Mid-Higuera Bypass Project Updates

Brian Nelson, City of San Luis Obispo Engineer, reports that he and Freddy Otte, and the Design Engineer performed a site walk in late January 2019 to identify trees to be moved, confirm locations of bypass channels, and analyzed bench locations. A 70% Design submittal was received during the week of April 1, 2019 and integrated findings from the January 2019 site walk. The 70% Design also provided the design of rock slope protection locations and the Bianchi Bridge crossing. The County and City will review the 70% Design and will likely provide one joint set of comments to the consultant by the end of April 2019. Regarding the Madonna Family property, there is no written agreement, but parties involved are continuously being engaged with the City and adjustments to bypass channel alignment bench location was moved to the south to consider building locations.

- Creek Maintenance Updates

Freddy Otte, City of San Luis Obispo Biologist, reports about the two minor flooding events during a January 17, 2019 storm cell that had an intensity of 5 inches/hour with a duration of 20 minutes. One flooding event occurred when Prefumo Creek backed up at the Windemere Condo complex at Los Osos Valley Road and Oceanaire. The other flooding event was at apartments on Foothill adjacent to Old Garden Creek. The rest of the creek system performed well during the winter storms that occurred since the December 2018 meeting.

- Arundo Removal Updates

Jon Hall, Land Conservancy, reports that there are no additional updates since the December 2018 meeting. Arundo removal efforts will resume in August starting with property owner outreach efforts.

Freddy Otte, City Biologist, reports that the City is continuing to work with the property owner of 12500 Los Osos Valley Road to resolve the issues of a large wall of Arundo growth and significant transient populations in the creek. The Calle Joaquin sewer line replacement project will address removal of the majority of the Arundo in Fall 2020 by a contractor. Freddy will coordinate with the Land Conservancy for the removal of smaller clumps where possible.

6. Update on FEMA flood mapping efforts

Mladen Bandov, Secretary, reports on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) update. Craig Steward from FEMA's modeling team STARR II is leading the FIRM map update. Staff has provided Craig with requested information and has also submitted photographs and videos from received from the public from the areas surrounding the East Fork of the San Luis Obispo Creek. Staff reports that FEMA could not accommodate a request to provide an additional study of the East Fork of the San Luis Obispo Creek.

Wayne Peterson, Chairperson, notes that the City and the County design standards do not correct existing flooding problems with new developments, instead, they prevent flooding from getting worse.

7. East Branch of San Luis Obispo Creek Site Visit and Update

Mladen Bandov, Secretary, reports that on January 3, 2019, a site visit was conducted near the East Branch of the San Luis Obispo Creek to address flooding frequency that has been reported by the public. Photographs and descriptions are included in the agenda packet. Matt Horn, Vice Chairperson, reports that there were creek areas, downed trees, probably low frequency bridge and low-water crossings and although there is a practical use of the land, the area does not convey the necessary flood occurrence interval. Wayne Peterson, Chairperson, reports that on February 2, 2019, he photographed the properties in the area following a February 1, 2019 storm and there was a substantial amount of water on fields, the creek on the north side of Buckley Road was full and up to the road. Wayne also reports that on Drew Munster's property the water in the creek was up to the bridge on his access road and there was standing water on Drew's fields. As of April 10, 2019, there is standing water on the Avila Ranch property at the corner of Vachell Lane and Buckley Road.

Kathy Borland, Save the SLO Life, reports that something upstream on the Chevron has changed because Buckley Road has not flooded this season. Kathy reports that from October 1, 2018 to date, the San Luis Obispo Tribune shows 16.74 inches while the rain gauge on personal rain gauge shows 29 inches of rain for the same timeframe.

8. Fiscal year 2019/20 budget update

- The \$60,000 that was borrowed from Zone 1/1A was returned to Zone 9.
- Vegetation management program in County areas

Mladen Bandov, Secretary, summarizes the staff report in the agenda packet that details the Vegetation Management program in the County areas with a proposed amount of \$90,000 that is addition to the City's request for the 2019/20 budget. Freddy Otte, City Biologist, reports that discussions with County and City staff are currently underway to research modification of the existing reimbursement agreement that the City has with

County. The details of this type of program are still being worked on. San Luis Bay Drive would likely be the downstream limit of the program. Christine Mulholland, City At-Large member, points out an area up Prefumo Canyon Road that has erosion washing into Prefumo Creek that may need to be addressed. Freddy Otte notes that most of the erosion does go to an area of Prefumo Creek where regular silt removal activities occur annually and additional silt removal activities in this area will be researched.

- Limited study East Branch of San Luis Obispo Creek
Mladen Bandov describes the goals of the limited study of the East Branch of the San Luis Obispo Creek that will serve as an update of the Waterway Management Plan. The budget for developing this study is \$87,000.

Motion by: **Christine Mulholland**

Second by: **Carlyn Christianson**

The Committee moves to endorse the two additional proposed activities- Vegetation Management Program and East Branch limited study- for a total of \$177,000 (5-0-0).

9. New Zone 9 website and mailing list

A new website has been set up for the Zone 9 Advisory Committee at www.slocounty.ca.gov/pw/zone9 and all information has been transferred over from the previous website. A mailing list is also available on the website.

10. Public Comment

Kathy Borland, Preserve the SLO Life, asks if the Advisory Committee should review new development in the City for flooding. Matt Horn, City Engineer, responds that the Zone 9 Committee is a County Committee and that any development within the City goes through various City Committees and design standards for review/approval with an environmental document prepared including analysis of flooding and would not go to the Zone 9 Advisory Committee.

11. Future Agenda Items

Wayne Peterson adjourns the meeting at 2:50 PM