

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

Meeting Minutes (Approved) – Wednesday, October 09, 2019

Members Present

Wayne Peterson, Chairperson, County At-Large  
Matt Horn, Vice Chairperson, Member, City Staff  
Brian Nelson, Alternate, City Staff (non-voting)  
Carlyn Christianson, Member, City Council  
Christine Mulholland, Member, City At-Large  
Janet Andrews, Alternate, County-At-Large (non-voting)  
Jon Hall, Alternate, County At-Large  
Steph Wald, Member, County-At-Large

1. Introductions and roll call

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes - June 12, 2019

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

The Committee approves the June 12, 2019 meeting minutes (5-0-0).

3. Reports

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

The written update provided by Dick Tzou, County Public Works, is included in the agenda packet.

- Mid-Higuera Bypass Project Updates

Brian Nelson, City of San Luis Obispo Engineer, reports that the consultant, Wallace Group, is working on the 90% design plans and specifications. The subconsultant is working on the 60% design plans for the Bianchi Lane bridge. In July, City staff met with Keith Miller, County staff, to discuss the County's 60% design review comments regarding jurisdictional limits and details for permitting requirements. The consultant is currently integrating these comments from the County. Once 90% design plans are finalized by the consultant and reviewed by the County, the consultant will begin permit discussions and submittals to the

California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Brian Nelson reports that the City is currently seeking grant opportunities and is reviewing the grant guidelines for Proposition 1: Coastal Watershed Flood Reduction Program that could contribute up to 50% of project costs. The City's grant writer is examining the grant and project's potential to rank high. The current total project cost is estimated to be \$7 million and a better estimate will be available with the finalization of the 90% design. If the Prop 1 grant is secured, the City will ask the Advisory Committee about the level of funding it is willing to contribute to construction costs.

- Creek Maintenance Updates

The agenda packet contains the vegetation maintenance update from Freddy Otte, City Biologist.

Brian Nelson, City of San Luis Obispo Engineer, updates on two silt removal projects. Two projects went out to bid in September 2019 and will be completed during the week of October 7, 2019. The first location is at Sacramento Drive at Orcutt Road where sediment was removed from a culvert under a road. The second location is at Tank Farm Road at Hollyhock Way where a contractor removed approximately 700 cu. yd. of sediment. An additional silt removal location on the Prefumo Creek arm, downstream of Laguna Lake and south of Madonna Road had to be postponed until next year due to a high water table creating wet conditions.

- Arundo Removal Updates and Presentation

Jon Hall, Land Conservancy, reports that 2019 Arundo removal activities have begun. John Hall provided a PowerPoint presentation to update the Committee on Arundo removal activities and progress:

- Removal activities for Arundo systematically begin at the top of the watershed and move downstream due to plant fragments having the ability to easily regrow
- Due to Arundo's perennial nature, fall is the most effective season to apply herbicides
- Herbicide is the only way to effectively control this plant due to difficulty of removing all plant pieces from the soil
- Once the plant is dead, a chipper is used to cut the plant into fine enough fragments that do not have the ability to re-sprout.
- Currently, efforts are focused on resurveying every known dead stand to ensure that nothing has re-sprouted, which can happen
- The Land Conservancy began Arundo removal activities in 2006 with 466

known Arundo stands in the watershed

- In 2014, approximately 43% of surveyed stands were dead
- As of 2018, 82% of surveyed stands were dead
- 36 Stands are still alive and are actively being treated
- 48 stands are being untreated because a majority are located on private property in yards and neighborhoods and are low priority because they are not in creeks

A pdf of the slides is provided immediately following the minutes.

4. Endorsement of City of San Luis Obispo's Annual Work Plan – Fiscal Year 2020-21

Matt Horn, Vice Chairperson, City of San Luis Obispo Engineer, updates the committee on the City's requested budget from Zone 9 for Fiscal Year 2020-21. Budgeted activities include general creek maintenance, silt removal work, and continuation of Mid-Higuera Bypass project.

Motion by: **Christine Mulholland**

Second by: **Carlyn Christianson**

The Committee Endorses the City of San Luis Obispo's Annual Work Plan (4-0-1).

Kathy Borland, Preserve the SLO Life, asked if the creek parallel to Buckley Road near Vachell Lane, within City jurisdiction and on Avila Ranch property, is on the City's list of maintenance activities. The City will follow up with the City Biologist and report back at the following Zone 9 meeting.

5. Discussion Cloud Seeding in Zone 3 – Keith Miller, Environmental Division, Public Works

Wayne Peterson, Chairperson, discusses that this agenda item was added to update the Committee on potential cloud seeding activities in Zone 3 (Lopez Lake) and whether they should be a concern for the San Luis Obispo Creek watershed (Zone 9) in a terms of inundating creeks and causing flooding. Wayne reports that his concerns were addressed by the information provided in the agenda packet that states that if the National Weather Service issues a severe storm flood warning or flash flood warning, all cloud seeding activities in the project area will be suspended.

Christine Mulholland, City At-Large, reports that she was initially concerned that local cloud seeding activities would offset water that would be delivered to other areas, such as the San Joaquin Valley, but reviewed all documentation provided in the agenda packet and could not find any evidence to disapprove of cloud seeding activities in Zone 3.

## 6. Discussion of Draft Scope of Services - East Fork of San Luis Obispo Creek

Sarah Crable, County Engineer, discusses the Draft Scope of Services for the hydraulic and hydrologic study of the East Fork of the San Luis Obispo Creek. The study intends to determine the storm interval and water surface elevations that cause localized flooding conditions in the area of Buckley Road and Vachell Lane. In addition, the study intends to identify possible solutions to alleviate flooding, if any. Comments from the Committee are due to Sarah Crable by 11/1/2019.

Kathy Borland, Preserve the SLO Life, explains that the tributary to the East Fork, parallel to Buckley Road, is inundated with tree limbs and vegetation. She reports that although she recorded 39 inches of rain at her home's rain gauge for the year, there was no flooding on Buckley Road at Vachell Lane this year and she believes the reason is that Chevron's remediation activities is keeping water in newly constructed basins on Chevron's property.

Drew Munster, Buckley Stables, asks if the East Fork study will identify the sources of water that flow into the East Fork. Brendan Clark, Secretary, says that can be added to the request to the consultant since the consultant will examine this information to develop the model.

Bob Newberg, Preserve the SLO Life, asks about the groundwater levels and the infiltration rates in the proposed detention basins on the Avila Ranch property.

Matt Horn, Vice Chairperson, City Engineer, states that he will locate and provide, the County of San Luis Obispo with the following items for the consultant of the East Fork study to reference:

- Avila Ranch Hydraulics and Hydrology Report for larger rain events
- Post construction runoff stormwater control plan for minor rain events
- Borings for the property in and around Avila Ranch area

## 7. Public Comment

No public comment.

## 8. Future Agenda Items

- Ongoing reports
- Follow up on Draft Scope of Services of East Branch hydrologic/hydraulic study

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:33 PM.