

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ZONE 1/1A ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, September 17th, 2024

Meeting materials can be viewed at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone1-1A>

Members Attending:

Gary Kobara (Chair)
Linda Austin
Charlie Lackie
Dianna Lackie
Greg Cobb
Jeremy Ghent

Staff and Guests Attending:

Tim Crawford, Community Member
Jane Crawford, Community Member
Karen White, Community Member
Charles Varni, Community Member/OCSD
Kyle Anderson, County Public Works
Alejandra Celio, County Public Works
AJ Maul, County Public Works
Courtney Howard, County Public Works
Joey Steil, County Public Works
Jenny Williamson, County Public Works
William Fox, County Public Works

1. Welcome and Introductions

Committee Members, staff, and guests introduce themselves.

2. Announcements

None

3. Review and Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, March 19, 2024

County staff ask for questions or comments from the Committee; there are none.

Motion to approve: Linda Austin

Seconded by: Gary Kobara

Approval: Motion passes by unanimous vote

4. Ongoing Updates

a) Storm Response Efforts

County staff provide verbal updates on recent storm response efforts.

Charlie Lackie: How will repairs be made to the areas where rocks are falling out and into the creek?

County staff: We anticipate installing additional rock slope protection on the internal slope of the south levee. The rock will be keyed into the base.

Charlie Lackie: Have the environmental agencies voiced concern over the design changes to the levee?

County staff: We are coordinating with the permitting agencies and working on a path forward. They are aware of the work that needs to be done.

Charlie Lackie: Have you done modeling since you've changed the course of the levee? If not, when will this be done.

County staff: We have cross sections for some areas. The model will be updated once the projects have been completed.

Charlie Lackie notes that there will be a potential water source for aquadam deployment on his property and would like to coordinate with staff.

Tim Crawford: Is there any repair work planned for the erosion of the inner wall near Rancho del Arroyo and the East Gate?

County Staff: That work is not in the scope of the current contract, but we can take a look at it.

Charlie Lackie: Is there a contract out for the railroad repair.

County staff: A contract was awarded, but the work is contingent upon approval from Union Pacific.

Charles Varni: It appears that the bridge support monuments that were reinforced by Union Pacific are deflecting flow into the wall of the levee; has this been analyzed at any point?

County staff: We can check with our consultant to see if that has been incorporated into the model.

b) Annual Workplan Efforts

County staff provide verbal updates on Annual Workplan efforts.

Greg Cobb: Are the Sand Canyon flap gates supposed to be cleared annually?

County staff: The goal is to perform clearance annually, but Sand Canyon presents an issue due to environmental constraints and regulations. We'll need to wait for the area to dry out before we can clear vegetation.

Dianna Lackie: Is KD Janni the contractor for the vegetation clearance in the channel? We haven't seen them in our section yet.

County staff: They are making their way back from the delta triangle towards your section.

Tim Crawford: Will they be removing downed trees/branches in the secondary channel.

County staff: Yes, we are currently working to identify what can be removed.

c) Emergency Response Plan

County staff provide verbal updates on emergency response planning efforts.

No comments.

d) Other Flood Protection Planning Efforts

County staff provide verbal updates on other flood protection planning efforts.

No comments.

5. Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Property Buyout Option

County staff provide verbal updates on the Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

Karen White: Will the property structures be removed?

County staff: Yes, the property structures will be removed or demolished.

6. Meadow Creek Lagoon Update and Presentation

County staff provide a status update and presentation on the Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Restoration Project.

Jeremy Ghent comments on the design of the flap gates and clarifies the conditions in which they operate.

Greg Cobb: How could Alternative 3 be an option over Alternative 4? Isn't restoration of Meadow Creek Lagoon a requirement? Have you gone back and looked at what it used to look like? Who approves the final recommendations?

County staff: It is less about focusing on a specific area (MCL or AG Creek), and more about satisfying the intent of the RPA and to improve and increase steelhead habitat. National Marine Fisheries Service is one of the agencies that will be approving the project.

Charles Varney: How does this project impact flood protection for the Sanitation District? And do any alternatives reduce the risk of flooding?

County staff: None of the alternatives will increase the potential for flooding. It is not the intention of the project to reduce flood risk.

Linda Austin: With Alternative 3 and the Sand Canyon Flap gate, will there be sediment removal and dredging?

County staff: Alternative 3 will explore excavation or dredging of the lagoon area to deepen the water for steelhead.

Greg Cobb: Will the public have opportunities to provide input on the recommendations?

County staff: Yes, the findings of the preferred alternative will be presented to the Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee, a report will be produced and released to the public for comments during the CEQA review period, and responses to the comments will be published.

Charles Varni: What is the approximate pool depth required for steelhead?

County staff: 4 feet of depth.

Dianna Lackie: Is this project going to impact the levee?

County staff: We are actively avoiding any alternatives that may alter the levee or exacerbate conditions.

Committee members and staff discuss the history of the levee system, past maintenance activities, modern environmental restrictions, and other impacts to the levee.

7. Public Comment

Charlie Lackie: Can you provide an updated Zone 1/1A staff contact list?

County Staff: Yes, we will provide a contact list for Committee Members.

Greg Cobb: It's been nearly two years; any efforts to expedite repairs to the levee would be greatly appreciated.

Jeremy Ghent: Levee patrols are welcome to park their vehicle at the Sanitation District lot during storm events.

8. Future Agenda Items

1. Post projects levee performance update (Planned for 2025)
2. Budget Planning (Spring 2025)