

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

**(Approved) Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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

<b><u>Members Attending:</u></b> Gary Kobara (Chair) Linda Austin Stanley Ikeda Charlie Lackie Dianna Lackie Jeremy Ghent Greg Cobb	<b><u>Staff and Guests Attending:</u></b> Karen White, Community Member Charles Varni, Community Member Kyle Anderson, County Public Works Alejandra Celio, County Public Works AJ Maul, County Public Works Joey Steil, County Public Works Jenny Williamson, County Public Works Troy Barnhart, County Public Works
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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Committee Members, staff, and guests introduce themselves.

**2. Announcements**

None

**3. Continued Item: Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, September 17, 2024**

County staff ask for questions or comments from the Committee.

Charlie Lackie: Notes the misspelling of his name.

County Staff: The minutes will be amended with the correct spelling.

Motion to approve, with corrections: Linda Austin

Seconded by: Charlie Lackie

Approval: Motion passes by unanimous vote

**4. Receive and File Past Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

No action taken.

**5. Ongoing Updates**

a) Storm Response Efforts

County staff provide a verbal update on recent storm response efforts.

Charlie Lackie: Will the grading of the ditch in the Union Pacific Railroad right of way be addressed? What is the current schedule for the TRM work? That area of the creek

appears to be more vulnerable to overtopping due to the abrupt turn.

County staff: We will review the plans to see if this has been included. The timing of the work is dependent on when we receive approval from Union Pacific.

Committee Members and staff discuss the creek flow data within the hydraulic model and the pending riprap work to be scheduled.

b) Annual Workplan Efforts

County staff provide a verbal update on Annual Workplan efforts.

c) Emergency Response Plan

County staff provide a verbal update on emergency response planning efforts.

d) Other Flood Protection Planning Efforts

County staff provide a verbal update on other flood protection planning efforts.

e) Meadow Creek Lagoon

County staff provide a verbal update on the Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Restoration Project.

Gary Kobara: Comments on the relationship between AG Creek's flow and Meadow Creek Lagoon's water levels. Specifically noting that lagoon levels drop when the creek breaches the sandbar and flows out.

County staff: The 2023 data shows that Meadow Creek Lagoon fell as low as 6.6 ft. after a breach.

Greg Cobb: Notes concern about high water levels, general deterioration, and drainage issues in the Meadow Creek Lagoon area; are staff aware of these conditions?

Committee Members Cobb, Kobara, Ghent, and staff discuss the observed drainage issues, how they can best be addressed, proposed design changes and maintenance of the flap gates, sediment accumulation, how creek flow and groundwater levels affect the rising levels in the lagoon, and the relationship between environmental mitigation efforts and flood protection.

Dianna Lackie: What criteria must be met or considered for cloud seeding to occur? Were these criteria considered before the winter storms of 2022/2023?

Jeremey Ghent: I questioned this and was told that the County was performing cloud seeding through December 2022, and that it likely didn't contribute to meaningful level increases. What was the level of Lopez Reservoir at that time? The effectiveness of the program should continue to be studied.

County staff: The Zone 3 Advisory Committee should be able to provide additional information on the cloudseeding program.

f) Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) – Property Buyout Option

County staff provide a verbal update on the status of the EWPP and next steps.

Jeremy Ghent: What will ultimately happen to the Cardoza property? How many acres is it?

County staff: The property will be deed restricted and will become a natural habitat. It is about 12 acres.

Gary Kobara: Comments on policy and staffing shifts at the federal level, including FEMA – has this trickled down and affected any of the current County grants?

County staff: FEMA has notified agencies that it may be reevaluating some grants or projects that have already been appropriated; to date, this has not been the case with our projects.

**6. Waterway Management Program Hydraulic Performance Update**

County staff provide a presentation on hydraulic performance of the Waterway Management Program ([click here](#) to view the presentation) and next steps. Members/attendees ask clarifying questions.

Gary Cobb: Regarding the accumulation and roughness of the 6 ft. canopy, what actions can be taken for better management?

County staff: Discussions forthcoming with environmental staff about what additional actions can be taken.

Jeremy Ghent: Agrees with the accuracy of staff's analysis shown throughout the presentation.

Charles Varni: Asks about the geographical scope of the analysis.

County Staff: The project hydraulic model extends from approximately 0.5 miles above Highway 1 to the creek mouth at the ocean.

Gary Kobara: Notes past efforts to trim more of the trees, but bird nesting has created limitations.

Greg Cobb: Are they allowed to trim trees under a certain diameter inside the channel?

County staff: Yes, under four inches, so long as the trees are not within the sixteen foot buffer on either side of the channel. Bigger trees can provide habitat higher up; we are exploring ways to meet the environmental requirements and also perform beneficial

trimming.

Greg Cobb: It appears that the model shows that we can expect more flood events in shorter periods, is that correct?

County staff: There has been a net improvement in flood protection with the WMP improvements, but the project does not appear to be meeting its design performance goal.

Jeremy Ghent: Asks about the 10-20 year differential between the north and the south levees. When you are looking at the 20-year overtopping of the north, are you assuming that the levee is overtopping on the south side, but is still intact?

County staff: Yes.

Committee Members and staff discuss the impacts of the Union Pacific bridge construction, the change of direction within the channel, sediment accumulation along the concrete, and modeling analysis of the area.

Charlie Lackie: When the levee was originally constructed, do you know if they built it on top of the natural soil? Or was soil removed, and the natural grade compacted before construction?

County staff: Unclear at this time and would need to be researched.

Gary Kobara: Charlie, when the water was backing up onto your property, was the water higher than the bottom of the trestle?

Charlie Lackie: Yes, it was higher than the bottom of the trestle.

County staff: The presentation slides will be distributed and posted online.

Committee Members and staff discuss the permit requirements for removing tree trimmings from the channel.

Jeremy Ghent: Comments on the current status of the Meadow Creek Lagoon Restoration Project. What is the Flood Control District's plan for communicating updates to the Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee on these work efforts?

County staff: Environmental staff presented on the status, process, and project alternatives at the September 17 Committee meeting. Updates will be ongoing.

Greg Cobb: For the MCL project, are there any hydrology studies in the creek and levee area being taken?

Committee Members and staff discuss the process in which hydraulic modeling was used to analyze the project alternatives and new flap gate performance.

Gary Kobara: Comments on the history and prior effectiveness of sandbar management.

**7. Public Comment**

None

**7. Open Forum (Questions/Suggestions for Future Agenda Items)**

The next Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee meeting will be held on June 17, 2025 @ 3pm.

**8. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:48 PM