

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Meeting Location: Sheriff's South Patrol Station, 1681 Front Street Oceano, CA

Meeting Agenda

1.	Welcome & Introductions	All
2.	Announcements	All
3.	Review and Approval of Past Minutes: a) Tuesday, March 18, 2025	Advisory Committee
4.	Zone 1/1A Budget Status Update	County Staff
5.	Ongoing Updates: a) Storm Response Efforts b) Annual Workplan Efforts c) Emergency Response Plan d) Other Flood Protection Planning Efforts e) Meadow Creek Lagoon f) Emergency Watershed Protection Program - Property Buyout Option	County Staff
6.	Public Comment	All
7.	Future Agenda Items	All

Meeting agendas and attachments can be viewed at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone1-1a>

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AMERICAN DISABILITY ACT (ADA) ACCOMMODATIONS:

All possible accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, so they may participate in the meeting. Persons who require accommodations for any audio, visual or other disability are encouraged to request such accommodation 48 hours in advance of the meeting by contacting Joey Steil at (805) 781-4076.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide recommendations to the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control District regarding appropriate actions to provide flood protection for the properties within the boundaries of Flood Control Zones I and 1A.

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

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 18th, 2025

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

<u>Members Attending:</u> Gary Kobara (Chair) Linda Austin Stanley Ikeda Charlie Lackie Dianna Lackie Jeremy Ghent Greg Cobb	<u>Staff and Guests Attending:</u> 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

TO: Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee

FROM: County Staff

DATE: June 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Item 4: Zone 1/1A Budget Status Update

Recommendation

Receive a presentation from Public Works Department Staff on the Zone 1/1A Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/26 budget and discuss future needs.

Discussion

The approved FY 2025/26 budget for Zone 1/1A (Attachment 1) has been prepared in accordance with channel maintenance needs (the scope of work that served as the basis for assessments), permit requirements, emergency recovery and planning needs, and related administrative requirements. Previous and future years are also included for comparison. Unused funds are returned as fund balance for future allocation to support Zone 1/1A needs.

Future Needs

Over the past few years, Zone 1/1A was able to leverage loans from its parent fund, "District Zone General", to help cover the cost of completing the grant-funded Waterway Management Program project and emergency projects that are anticipated to be reimbursed in part by FEMA, the California Office of Emergency Services and a direct State budget allocation. Due to local cost match requirements, a portion of project costs will not be reimbursed, which will relate to how much of the loan must be repaid to District Zone General over time. The ability to continue to leverage District Zone General for additional loans to do projects is limited by how much Zone 1/1A can afford for local cost match and the future availability of District Zone General reserves.

In addition, in recent years, the cost for construction and services has increased at a significantly higher rate than the 3% increase of the Zone 1/1A assessment. As a result, the cost of operating and maintaining the levee and implementing the WMP program (approximately \$1.4 Million for FY 2025/26, not including capital and emergency project costs) exceeds the annual revenue from the assessments (approximately \$715,000). To balance this year's budget, adjustments to the level of service were required in addition to a \$500,000 loan from the Zone General Fund. In order to continue to maintain the same level of service, the assessments will need to be revisited through the Prop 218 process. This will include hiring a rate consultant to prepare an assessment report and then holding an election to approve the new assessment. Adjusting the assessments will allow the District to continue to operate and maintain the channel at the same level of service, and could include the ability to pursue future projects and build an emergency reserve to reduce dependence on outside funding. It is

recommended that the Prop 218 process to adjust the assessment begins this fiscal year for completion prior to budgeting for FY 2026/27.

Attachment:

1. Zone 1/1A Budget Information

TO: Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee

FROM: County Staff

DATE: June 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Item 5: Ongoing Updates

a) Storm Response Efforts

Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Emergency Levee Rehabilitation Phase 2 Project

The District is currently preparing to close out Phase 2B of the AG Creek Channel Emergency Levee Rehabilitation Project that was completed last November. Staff will continue to coordinate with FEMA regarding reimbursement for temporary and permanent repair work, including emergency repairs completed in January 2023, Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Staff also continues coordinating with environmental permitting agencies on the AG Creek Channel Additive TRM and Breach Site Stabilization Project. This project includes (1) installation of turf reinforcement mat (TRM) adjacent to existing TRM on the external slope of the south levee; and (2) installation of additional rock slope protection on the internal slope of the south levee. Permitting agency concurrence is necessary for the work to be completed within the creek. The District has included this work in the 2025 Annual Work Plan and anticipates hearing back in early September.

b) Annual Workplan and Maintenance Efforts

District staff submitted the 2025 Annual Work Plan to the permitting agencies in April detailing planned work for the next year, including vegetation management, sediment removal, and log structure maintenance. A secondary work plan will be submitted in August with estimated quantities based on Consultant surveying and hydraulic modeling results. The District anticipates hearing back from permitting agencies in early September.

District staff have received concerns regarding localized flooding near Maui Circle and Honolulu Avenue. Field investigations are being conducted to identify the reason for the filling of Meadow Creek Lagoon. Staff will ensure the flap gates remain clear of debris to allow the continuous flow from Meadow Creek Lagoon to the AG creek outlet.

Staff will continue to complete property maintenance activities, including clearing flap gates, homeless encampment removal and addressing any issues that may impact the integrity of the flood control system.

c) Emergency Response Plan

No new updates at this time.

d) Other Flood Protection Planning Efforts

In March 2024, federal funds were appropriated under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Congressionally Directed Spending grant program to support the District's AG Creek Channel flood protection efforts. This prompted District Staff to submit an application in coordination with the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) to fund a project scoping activity that will evaluate feasible flood mitigating solutions for increasing flood protection of properties surrounding the AG Creek Channel. It is anticipated that FEMA will complete their review and obligate funds in 2025.

Staff are continuing to coordinate with members of the Arroyo Grande Creek and Watershed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement on the Watershed Plan update project. The next meeting is scheduled for June 18th.

e) Meadow Creek Lagoon

The District has reached a significant milestone in the Meadow Creek Restoration Project. With input from the Project's Science Panel members, the District will be moving forward with one of the alternatives analyzed in the Alternatives Study, with a secondary alternative as adaptive support for achieving mitigation goals. The preferred alternative will increase connectivity between the Arroyo Grande and Meadow Creek Lagoons and create suitable habitat for smolt and rearing juvenile steelhead. Next steps are to move forward with the environmental review processes and 30% engineering design.

f) Emergency Watershed Protection Program - Property Buyout Option

Now that engineering plans have been finalized and the appropriate permits have been acquired, the District is ready to move forward with demolition activities for the Voluntary Property Purchase Project. Demolition of the residential buildings at 2325 Creek Road are scheduled for early September after nesting bird season.