

TO: Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee

FROM: County Staff

DATE: September 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Item 5: Ongoing Updates

a) Storm Response Efforts

The 2023 winter storms caused significant damage to the Arroyo Grande Creek Levees, including breaches that led to extensive flooding, evacuations, and stranded residents. In response, the District implemented a phased approach to repair storm-related levee damage and restore flood protection capacity within the channel. District staff also continue to coordinate with FEMA regarding reimbursement for temporary and permanent repair work resulting from the 2023 storm damage.

- *Emergency Repair Efforts:* Repairs included the breach site just downstream of the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge, stabilization of several areas that experienced severe bank erosion, and restoration of a manual breach site that was used to drain the overflowing channel.
- *AG Creek Channel Emergency Capacity Restoration (Phase I):* Excavation of approximately 11,100 cubic yards of storm-deposited sediment that had reduced channel capacity. Phase I was completed in November 2023.
- *AG Creek Channel Emergency Levee Rehabilitation Project (Phase II):* Repairs included the installation of approximately 3,000 square feet of turf reinforcement mat (TRM) and construction of four hydraulic barrier walls to mitigate future seepage damage. Phase II was completed in December 2024.
- *Upcoming – AG Creek Channel Additive TRM and Breach Site Stabilization Project:* Planned improvements include:
 1. Installation of TRM adjacent to existing TRM on the external slope of the south levee.
 2. Placement of additional rock slope protection on the internal slope of the south levee.
 3. Sediment removal near and beneath the UPRR bridge, pending approvals in September.

The upcoming project is anticipated to begin Fall 2025 and conclude by October 31, 2025.

b) Annual Workplan and Maintenance Efforts

District staff submitted the 2025 Annual Work Plan to permitting agencies in April, outlining planned activities for the coming year, including vegetation management, sediment removal, and log structure maintenance. A follow-up work plan was submitted on August 1, and agency feedback has since been received. The District will proceed with implementation of the proposed projects, which include the AG Creek Channel Additive TRM and Breach Site Stabilization Project as well as ongoing annual maintenance activities.

Maintenance efforts include goat grazing for invasive species management, levee mowing to maintain access to the creek for maintenance activities, and woody vegetation management in

preparation for the winter season. In addition, the District is developing a mitigation planting strategy aimed at replacing invasive species with native plants. Consultants are preparing the planting plan, and the District's landscape contractor is coordinating with a nursery to propagate and grow native species for future installation.

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

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.

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, in coordination with the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), to submit an application for a project scoping activity that will evaluate feasible flood mitigation solutions to increase flood protection for properties surrounding the AG Creek Channel. The application has since passed the Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) review process, and FEMA will continue their review; however, no estimated timeline for award has been provided.

Staff are also 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 MOU meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2025.

e) Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat 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. The consultant team is advancing the design to the 30% level, which is anticipated to be completed by late December 2025.

f) Emergency Watershed Protection Program - Property Buyout Option

Demolition activities have begun at 2325 Creek Road, as part of the Voluntary Property Purchase Project. Work is currently underway and is anticipated to be completed by October 31, 2025.

g) Staffing Updates

The Supervising Engineer position (previously held by Kyle Anderson) is now vacant and the recruitment to find a replacement is underway. The District will also be entering into an agreement with the CivicSpark Program which provides a person to support government agencies for one year at an economical rate.

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

Meeting Notes – Tuesday, June 17th, 2025

*****Receive and File Only/No Quorum*****

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

<u>Members Attending:</u> Gary Kobara (Chair) Dianna Lackie Greg Cobb	<u>Staff and Guests Attending:</u> Karen White, Community Member Peter Brown, OCSD 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 Kory Burt, County Public Works
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1. Welcome and Introductions

Committee Members, staff, and guests introduce themselves. Quorum not established.

2. Announcements

None

3. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, March 18, 2025

No action taken. Approval of this item will be rescheduled for September 16, 2025.

4. Zone 1/1A Budget Status Update

[Click here](#) to view the staff report for this item

County staff present on the Zone 1/1A Budget Status.

Following the update, staff briefly respond to questions and comments from the Committee regarding:

- Current funding sources and future options
- Taxes and assessments
- Emergency planning
- Project implementation

5. Ongoing Updates

[Click here](#) to view the staff report for this item

- a) Storm Response Efforts

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

b) Annual Workplan Efforts

County staff provide a verbal update on Annual Workplan efforts.

Following the update, staff briefly respond to questions and comments from the Committee regarding:

- Current water levels and ongoing maintenance activities
- Annual water level fluctuations in the Meadow Creek lagoon
- Impacts between the upper and lower sections of AG Creek

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.

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

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

6. Public Comment

D. Lackie, G. Cobb, and County staff discuss vegetation management and overgrowth in the creek channel, including specific areas for maintenance, how work will be handled during bird nesting season, the project timeline, and the scope of the area to be covered.

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

K. White and G. Cobb request future updates on the status and planning for the Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Restoration Project be provided to the Committee.

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:08 PM