

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 9, 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Committee Member Vacanciesb) 2026 Meeting Calendarc) Website Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Mailing Listo Flood Safety Information	All
3.	Review and Approval of Past Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Tuesday, March 18, 2025	Advisory Committee
4.	Ongoing Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Storm Response Effortsb) Annual Workplan Effortsc) Emergency Response Pland) Other Flood Protection Planning Effortse) Meadow Creek Lagoonf) Emergency Watershed Protection Program - Property Buyout Option	County Staff
5.	Public Comment	All
6.	Future Agenda Items	All

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

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Phone: (805) 781-5252

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 IA.

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: December 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Item 4: 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.
- *AG Creek Channel Additive TRM and Breach Site Stabilization Project:* Improvements included the installation of TRM on previously unprotected portions of the external slope of the south levee, additional rock slope protection on the internal slope at the prior breach location, and removal of sediment near and beneath the UPRR bridge to improve flow capacity. The project was completed in October 2025.

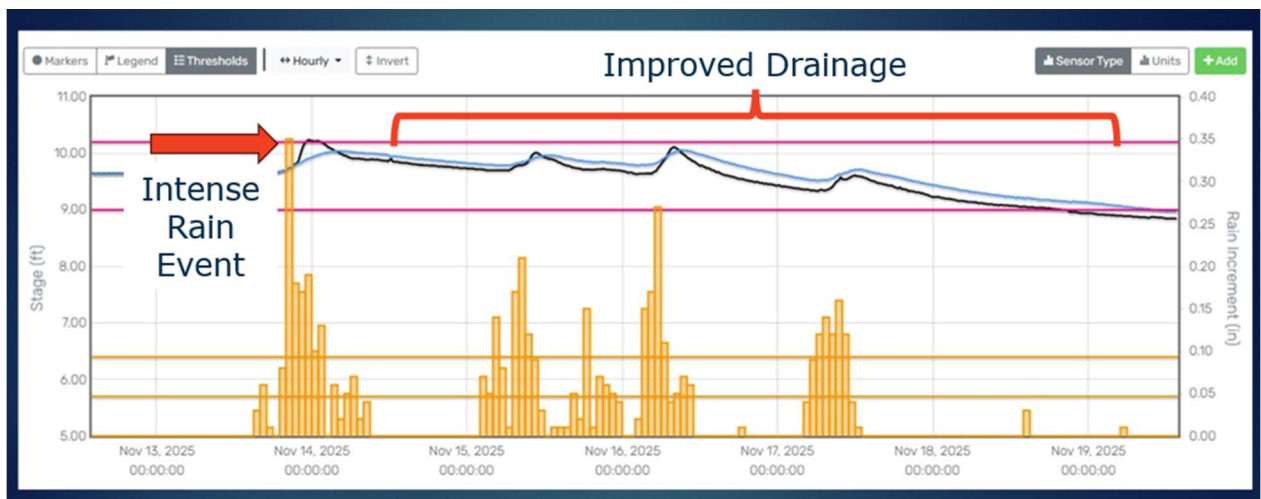
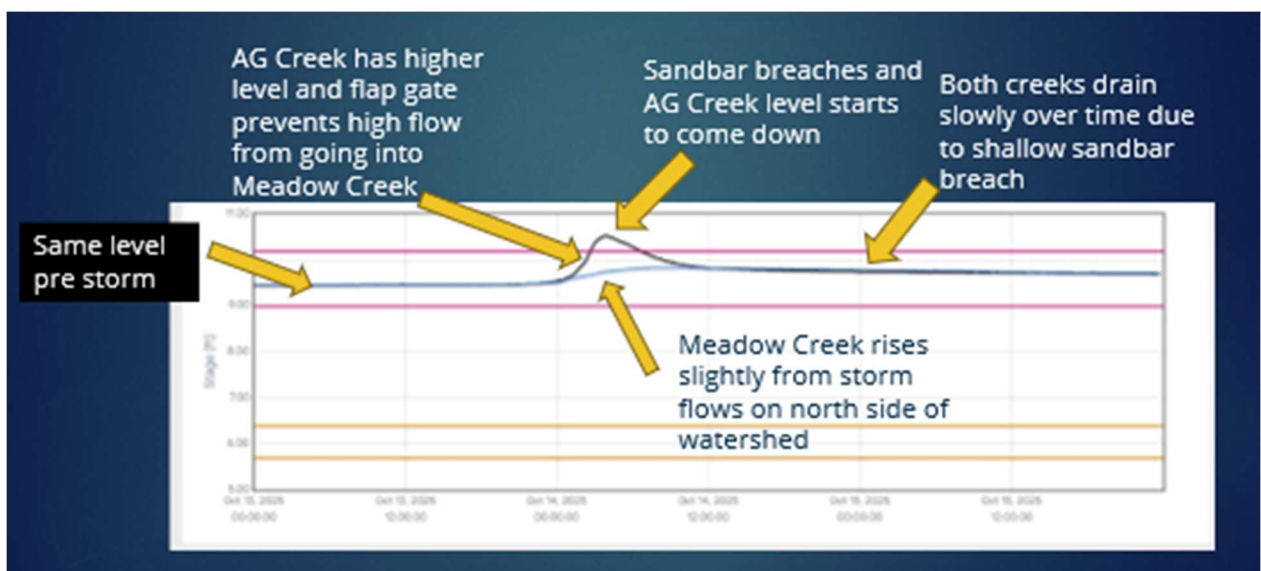
All storm-related repair projects have now been completed, and staff continue to work with FEMA's Public Assistance program to maximize cost recovery for eligible work.

b) Annual Workplan and Maintenance Efforts

District staff submitted the 2025 Annual Work Plan to permitting agencies in April, outlining planned activities for the year, including vegetation management, sediment removal, and log structure maintenance. Following the final submission, agencies concurred with the proposed projects, and the District began with implementation. The District has completed some planned improvements and sediment removal activities. Staff will re-evaluate channel conditions after the winter season to prioritize any remaining maintenance needs. Currently, District consultants are preparing the annual status reports for permitting agencies to ensure compliance with permit requirements.

Annual maintenance efforts were completed by October 15, also in accordance with permit conditions. Activities included goat grazing for invasives management, levee mowing to maintain access for maintenance, and woody vegetation management to reduce the risk of debris jams during storms.

Staff will continue routine inspections and clearance of flap gates and culverts throughout the winter season to ensure they remain clear. The lagoon flap gates are working properly and flow is not blocked or impeded by sand or vegetation in the current wetted condition. Conditions at the beach limited lagoon drainage leading to early season localized flooding at Maui Circle. A recent high flow event modified the sandbar and has allowed the lagoon systems to drain. Conditions will also continue to be monitored during the winter season.



c) Emergency Response Plan

Preparation efforts include training response personnel on various emergency scenarios, purchasing and staging response materials, identifying appropriate emergency notification triggers, calibrating field gages, and establishing contracts with emergency response contractors where feasible.

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. The District has since been awarded the grant and has begun completing the required post-obligation documents, which will allow the District to request reimbursement for eligible work. The first step will be to procure a consulting team to conduct an alternatives analysis that evaluates feasible flood mitigation solutions to improve flood protection for properties surrounding the AG Creek Channel. The District will use the Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee meetings to provide project updates and gather community feedback throughout the process. The project is anticipated to be completed by September 2027.

Staff are also continuing to coordinate with members of the Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement.

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 defined success criteria and adaptive management to achieve long-term success of this restoration project required as mitigation for the implementation of the Watershed Management Plan. 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 mid-December 2025. The District plans to meet with the Science Panel in early 2026 to discuss the proposed success criteria before initiating environmental permitting and advancing design of the project.

f) Emergency Watershed Protection Program - Property Buyout Option

Staff executed a grant funding agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to voluntarily purchase and remove a residential building vulnerable to repeated flooding during storms that exceed the capacity of the AG Creek Channel. The project was completed in October 2025, and staff are now working with NRCS to request final reimbursements. This effort restores the floodplain to more natural conditions, improves the area's ability to manage floodwater, and creates opportunities for a future flood mitigation project.

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 has also entered into an agreement with the CivicSpark Program which provides a person to support government agencies for one year at an economical rate.