

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

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**Meeting Location:** Oceano Community Services District’s Board Room, 1655 Front St, Oceano, CA

**Meeting Agenda**

1.	Welcome & Introductions	All
2.	Announcements	All
3.	Review and Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: a) Tuesday, December 9, 2025	Advisory Committee
4.	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 g) Public Engagement Project	County Staff
5.	Public Comment	All
6.	Future Agenda Items	All
7.	Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 3:00 PM	

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

Contact: County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department

Email: [publicworks@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:publicworks@co.slo.ca.us)

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 1 and 1A.*

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

**Draft Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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

<b>Members Attending:</b> Gary Kobara (Chair) Charlie Lackie Dianna Lackie Greg Cobb Linda Austin	<b>Staff and Guests Attending:</b> Karen White, Community Member Tim Crawford, Community Member Jane Crawford, Community Member Alejandra Celio, County Public Works AJ Maul, County Public Works Joey Steil, County Public Works Jenny Williamson, County Public Works
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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Committee Members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

**2. Announcements**

Committee Member Vacancies: (1) Large Property Owner

- Interested parties can submit a completed [application for appointment](#) to [jsteil@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:jsteil@co.slo.ca.us)

2026 Meeting Dates

- March 17, June 16, September 15, and December 8

Website Updates

- Updated [project descriptions](#), [plans and reports](#) section, [mailing list signup](#), [flood safety information](#), and AG Creek specific levees/flooding reporting at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/public-works/contact-us>

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

MOTION TO APPROVE: Greg Cobb				
SECOND BY: Linda Austin				
MOTION CARRIES	AYES: 4	NOES: 0	ABSTAIN: 1	ABSENT: 0

**4. Ongoing Updates**

a) Storm Response Efforts

County staff provided verbal and written updates.

b) Annual Workplan Efforts

County staff provided verbal and written updates.

Greg Cobb commented that flooding in the community near Meadow Creek Lagoon beginning in July was unprecedented and raised concerns that the flap gates may be impeding flow and are partially clogged, suggesting that the best method for releasing water is to fully open the gates and clear the overgrown brush in the culvert area that is concerning many residents.

County staff noted recent maintenance efforts and the specific requirements/restraints associated with the work permits.

Greg Cobb commented that the County's website makes it difficult to contact staff directly as there is no direct contact information listed.

County staff will pass this feedback along and will distribute a staff contact list to Committee Members.

Greg Cobb commented on the deteriorating conditions in the Meadow Creek area and requested an update on the status and scope of the restoration project. Will the project get an extension?

County staff noted that a presentation on the alternatives analysis had previously been provided to the Committee and that a future update would be requested. Staff also noted that an alternative has been selected, the consultant is working on a 30% design, and that regulatory agencies are aware of the timeline and are allowing the project to proceed on the current schedule.

Linda Austin commented on flooding/backflow issues in a culvert located at Lakeside and Juanita, the current conditions of the Meadow Creek Lagoon area, and asked if the recent breaching of the sandbar made an impact in decreasing water levels near Meadow Creek.

County Staff replied that the November storms created enough flow to help breach through the sand and help with drainage in both creeks.

Linda Austin asked if the tules can be removed from the creek?

County staff noted that they are working with environmental staff on options for the removal or management of tule growth.

c) Emergency Response Plan

County staff provided verbal and written updates.

d) Other Flood Protection Planning Efforts

County staff provided verbal and written updates.

e) Meadow Creek Lagoon

County staff provided verbal and written updates.

Dianna Lackie commented that there appears to be a lack of action related to the project, especially when it comes to removing sediment from the creek.

Karen White asked how far north the restoration project will go?

County Staff noted that the area of focus may be predominantly behind the flap gates and provided a brief summary of the previously proposed alternatives. A further update will be provided at a future meeting.

Greg Cobb responded that the criteria for the project was only going up 8 acres behind the flap gates.

Karen White asked if the finalized project report will be shared online.

The report is available to review here:

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/public-works/forms-documents/committees-programs/flood-control-zones/zone-1-1a-arroyo-grande-creek-channel/plans-reports/2026-meadow-creek-restoration-alternatives-analysis-and-conceptual-design-report>

Linda Austin asked if the connectivity with the saltwater coming into the lagoon will help control the weeds and reeds.

County Staff replied that the work is meant to create connectivity between the lagoons for fish passage as required by the RPA from the WMP.

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

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

Linda Austin asked if property that was purchased will remain as is, or will it be developed.

County staff replied that there are currently no plans to develop the property; however, the flood protection study funded through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant will consider the property for potential opportunities identified through the study.

## **5. Public Comment**

County staff noted that an open recruitment process has started to replace the previous Supervising Engineer for Zone 1/1A.

Charlie Lackie asked if there is a map of where the levee overtopped, and did it correspond with where the modeling predicted it would overtop? Can you provide this map? And do you have an idea of where it could overtop next time?

County staff replied yes, we can provide a map that corresponds to where the levee overtopped.

Charlie Lackie informed County staff of a flap gate installed on the recently purchased property and advised staff to look into it to be sure it is closed.

County staff confirmed that the flap gate remains located on the property and that a maintenance plan is currently in place for the property, the flap gate, and the culvert.

Charlie Lackie asked how the County came up with the projects to address repairs at the levee and would have liked an opportunity to provide input on repair options.

County staff described the projects, including the TRM and breach site stabilization projects, and noted that a consulting team assisted in preparing the project design.

Greg Cobb asked if maintenance crews were regularly clearing out the retention basin installed at 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

County staff will have to look into this further.

Karen White asked about the process of finding members who may be interested in filling Committee vacancies. Do they have to own at least 5 acres to be considered?

County staff noted that the Zone 1/1A website has been updated to include the [application for appointment](#) which can be filled out and submitted to [jsteil@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:jsteil@co.slo.ca.us). The Committee requires a majority of members to be large property owners who own 5 or more acres. The current vacancy is for one large property owner/resident.

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

County Staff will request an update on the status of the Meadow Creek Lagoon Restoration Project at a future meeting.

Karen White asked if a report on the winter rain season can be provided. County staff will include a rain and reservoir report in the next agenda packet.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:57 PM

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**TO: Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee**

**FROM: County Staff**

**DATE: March 17, 2026**

**SUBJECT: Item 4: Ongoing Updates**

**a) Storm Response Efforts**

All 2023 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.

District staff continue to perform regular levee inspections before, during and after storm events to monitor conditions and identify any potential issues.

- *Emergency Tree and Debris Removal:* During this storm season, the area experienced several moderate rain events and periods of high winds that resulted in downed trees and debris jams within the main channel of AG Creek. When a debris jam is identified and determined to have the potential to cause adverse effects to the levee system, district staff work to remove the threat between rain events.
- *Sand Canyon Flap Gates and Culvert Grates Monitoring*  
District staff perform routine inspections and ensure proper operation of the Sand Canyon flap gates and culvert grates. Following the natural sandbar breach in November 2025, Meadow Creek the level in AG lagoon has remained low for the remainder of the rainy season.
- *Encampment Management*  
District staff have worked with Homeless Services, the Sheriff's Office, and the Community Action Team (CAT) to help keep encampments and associated trash out of the levee area.

**b) Annual Workplan and Maintenance Efforts**

District staff is currently working on developing the 2026 Annual Work Plan in preparation for submittal to the permitting agencies in April. Staff conducted the Annual Site Meeting to re-evaluate all sediment management zones, 2025 sediment and woody vegetation removal sites, and invasives to natives planting sites. The District plans to implement similar scale sediment, log structure and vegetation management activities from 2025 including maintenance area prioritization ranking for both flood capacity and habitat restoration improvement opportunities. Adaptive management of the vegetation mitigation sites, log structures and alcoves in response to plant survivorship and creek geomorphic changes in the thalweg, primary and secondary channels will be discussed in consultation with the permitting agencies, as 2026 is a 3-year Interval Project-wide Habitat Assessment. The District will provide an update to this Committee at the June meeting.

**c) Emergency Response Plan**

No new updates at this time.

District Staff continue preparation efforts including 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 the first request for reimbursement has been approved and received. The next quarterly report is due in April and the District will continue to issue quarterly requests for reimbursement.

The District is currently procuring a consulting team to conduct an alternatives analysis that evaluates feasible flood mitigation, nature-based solutions to improve flood protection for properties surrounding the AG Creek Channel via a Request for Proposals (RFP). Evaluations are anticipated to be completed by April, followed by interviews with the top respondents, contract negotiations and District staff recommending contract award to the Board before the end of this fiscal year 25/26.

Concurrently, staff are also procuring a consulting team via a separate RFP to conduct an updated assessment of the operations and maintenance budget, historical and projected costs for the District to continue the same level of service to maintain the levees since the Waterway Management Program has been implemented for over 5 years. The assessment will include the ability to continue to provide emergency preparedness, pursue future maintenance and improvement projects, and build an emergency reserve to reduce dependence on outside funding that may or may not be available when needed. Technical proposal evaluations are anticipated to be completed this month, followed by the same procedures outlined above for the flood alternatives study RFP, also scheduled to be taken to the Board for award before the end of this fiscal year 25/26.

The deliverables from these two projects will provide a comprehensive review of Zone 1/1A and AG Creek Watershed long-term health, self-sustaining financial reliability, and broader adaptive management strategies. Recommendations to approve the updated assessment in alignment with the Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed Action Plan and recommended alternatives is anticipated to follow the Prop 218 process by holding an election.

The District will continue to use the Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee meetings to provide project updates and gather community feedback throughout the process. Staff are also continuing to coordinate with members of the Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement. The next AG Creek MOU Meeting is scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**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 Waterway 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 completed 30% design and met with the Science Panel this month 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 have submitted the final reimbursement request to NRCS. This property will continue to be evaluated as an opportunistic site for emergency response planning and the various AG Creek Watershed studies to improve the area's ability to manage floodwater and sustain native habitat for a future flood mitigation projects.

**g) Public Engagement Project**

Staff are currently developing the logistics for a volunteer opportunity out on the levee. This opportunity will incorporate an educational workshop designed to provide those who participate with more information on the AG Creek Flood Control project, the County's efforts to maintain the levee, and the environmental restrictions associated with the zone.

**h) Outreach Overview**

Staff is currently compiling information and revamping the Zone 1/1A website to ensure that all the necessary background and knowledge associated with Flood Zone 1/1A is more readily accessible to the public.

**i) Staffing Updates**

The Supervising Engineer position (previously held by Kyle Anderson) has been filled. We are grateful to welcome Melissa Pasa to the team. The Zone 1/1A Engineer Position (previously held by Alejandra Celio) is now vacant and the recruitment to find a replacement is underway.

San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
 Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee  
**2026 Regular Meeting Schedule**

January	February	March
No Meeting	No Meeting	<b>Tuesday, March 17, 2026</b> <b>3:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b> Sheriff's South Patrol Station, 1681 Front Street Oceano, CA
April	May	June
No Meeting	No Meeting	<b>Tuesday, June 16, 2026</b> <b>3:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b> Sheriff's South Patrol Station, 1681 Front Street Oceano, CA
July	August	September
No Meeting	No Meeting	<b>Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026</b> <b>3:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b> Sheriff's South Patrol Station, 1681 Front Street Oceano, CA
October	November	December
No Meeting	No Meeting	<b>Tuesday, December 8, 2026</b> <b>3:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b> Sheriff's South Patrol Station, 1681 Front Street Oceano, CA

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/zone1-1a>