

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

Approved Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 17th, 2026

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

Members Attending: Gary Kobara (Chair) Charlie Lackie Dianna Lackie Stanley Ikeda	Staff and Guests Attending: Paul Danielson, Oceano Resident Charles Varni, Oceano Resident Melissa Pasa, County Public Works AJ Maul, County Public Works Courtney Howard, County Public Works Joey Steil, County Public Works Rachel Lee, 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

Charles Varni provided information regarding the California Coastal Commission’s requirement that the South County Sanitation District begin planning for the potential relocation of its treatment facility due to flood and sea level rise risks, among other considerations, noting that a 10-year planning report would be required and that the effort, including considerations related to tertiary-treated water, will be a significant undertaking in terms of scope and schedule.

3. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, December 9, 2025

MOTION TO APPROVE: Charlie Lackie SECOND BY: Stanley Ikeda				
MOTION CARRIES	AYES: 4	NOES: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0

4. Ongoing Updates

Written updates were included as part of the meeting agenda packet:

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/public-works/forms-documents/committees-programs/flood-control-zones/zone-1-1a-arroyo-grande-creek-channel/agendas-minutes/2026/2026-03-17-agenda-packet>

a) Storm Response Efforts

County staff provided verbal updates on storm response efforts, including emergency tree and debris removal, flap gate and culvert monitoring, and encampment management.

b) Annual Workplan Efforts

County staff provided verbal updates on development of the 2026 Annual Work Plan and upcoming sediment, vegetation, habitat management, and permitting coordination activities.

c) Emergency Response Plan

County staff provided verbal updates on emergency preparedness and response planning activities, including training, equipment readiness, notification procedures, and contractor coordination.

d) Other Flood Protection Planning Efforts

County staff provided verbal updates on implementation of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant, including consultant procurement for flood mitigation alternatives and a financial assessment to support future funding and potential Proposition 218 considerations, as well as ongoing stakeholder coordination and long-term watershed management planning

e) Meadow Creek Lagoon

County staff provided verbal updates on the Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Restoration Project, including advancement of the preferred restoration alternative, development of success criteria, and ongoing design and permitting activities.

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

County staff provide a verbal update on the status of the grant funded property purchase, including acquisition and structure removal, final grant reimbursement activities, and future evaluation of the site for flood management and habitat enhancement opportunities.

g) Public Engagement Project

County staff provided updates on public engagement activities, website improvements, and staffing changes.

Committee questions and discussion:

- Gary Kobara asked whether historical records exist showing creek elevations and flows from periods when the creek flowed directly to the ocean, and commented on the benefits associated with maintaining an open creek mouth and managing sand buildup. County staff responded that the issue could be evaluated as part of the flood alternatives study.
- Charlie Lackie commented on sediment buildup at the railroad trestle and concerns that it acts as a choke point during flood events, and asked whether any studies have been completed since modifications were made to the trestle footings. Gary Kobara noted that potential improvements and alternatives had been discussed with the railroad in the past but were considered too costly to implement. County staff responded that updated alternatives and flood management strategies would be evaluated as part of the flood alternatives study using current data and conditions.
- Committee members discussed the planned Proposition 218 assessment, including approval challenges, community support requirements, changes in work performed and the creek conditions since the last vote, and the significant

financial contribution made by agricultural landowners over the years. County staff noted that future updates and discussions will be brought before the Committee.

- Charlie Lackie commented that he had not been given an opportunity to provide input on previous levee repair and design efforts. County staff welcomed input from Committee Members and will schedule time for a more in-depth discussion.

5. Public Comment

County staff will provide Members with an updated staff contact list.

Gary Kobara asked about creek scouring from the recent rainy season. County staff responded that the data is currently being reviewed and that an update could be provided at the June meeting.

6. Future Agenda Items

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:50 PM