

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

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 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 Meeting Minutes: a) Tuesday, March 17, 2026	Advisory Committee
4.	Ongoing Updates: a) Waterway Management Program (WMP) b) Arroyo Grande Creek Levees Project (Flood Study) c) Zone 1/1A and AG Creek Watershed Programs Funding Project d) Meadow Creek Lagoon e) Community Outreach f) Storm Response Planning	County Staff
5.	Zone 1/1A Budget Status Update	County Staff
6.	Public Comment	All
7.	Future Agenda Items	All
8.	Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, September 15, 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.*

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

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

**Draft Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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

<b>Members Attending:</b> Gary Kobara (Chair) Charlie Lackie Dianna Lackie Stanely Ikeda	<b>Staff and Guests Attending:</b> 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
--	---

**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: Stanely 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

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

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

**FROM: County Staff**

**DATE: June 16, 2026**

**SUBJECT: Item 4: Ongoing Updates**

**A) Waterway Management Program (WMP)**

Annual Workplan

District staff submitted and obtained approval of the 2026 Annual Work Plan. Maintenance area prioritization ranking for both flood capacity and habitat restoration improvement opportunities identified this years' focus on areas downstream of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. Additionally, adaptive management is being evaluated for the primary and secondary channels, log structures, and alcoves with an updated topographic survey, hydraulic model updates, and 2026 3-year Interval Project-wide Habitat Assessment pursuant to the requirements set forth by local permitting agencies to continue to prioritize flood maintenance activities within the levee.

Maintenance Activities

Maintenance activities include taking additional precautions during the following periods:

- Bird Nesting Season: February 1 – August 31 (least likely to be present from September 1 – January 31)
- Steelhead and California Red-Legged Frog: November 1 – May 31 (least likely to be present from June 1 – October 31)

The District targets most maintenance activities in late Summer or Fall during the lowest flow conditions for work that would occur in areas that may have these species present. Qualified biologist are part of our maintenance team to accommodate work windows and construction methods based on varying conditions and locations of work.

Current and upcoming work includes monthly hand crews and machine equipment performing vegetation maintenance and invasive removals, encampment and trash removals, July goat grazing for invasive removals, and July-October hazardous tree removals in the lower reaches of the levee.

**B) Arroyo Grande Creek Levees Project (Flood Study)**

This is a scoping study, federally-funded under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), to support the District's AG Creek channel flood protection efforts through an alternatives analysis to evaluate feasible flood mitigation solutions to improve flood protection for properties surrounding the channel.

The Board awarded a \$918k A/E Contract to Verdantas, Inc. on May 19, 2026, to begin this flood alternatives study. This study is anticipated to run parallel with the funding project, summarized herein, to capture long-term maintenance and improvement plans for both Zone 1/1A and other watershed-scale projects for potential funding opportunities. An update with our consulting team will be provided during the Fall Advisory meeting.

### **C) Zone 1/1A and Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed Programs Funding Project (Funding Study)**

This is an effort to evaluate the historical and projected costs for the District to continue to maintain the levees and associated regulatory permitting requirements since the Waterway Management Program has been implemented for over 5 years. This study will update the Prop 218 Assessments from 2006 for the Zone 1/1A Program and to evaluate watershed-scale and other options to fund and implement other programs in the watershed that may impact the success of efforts in the Zone 1/1A area. 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.

A consultant Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in January 2026, proposals were received and reviewed by the selection committee. Technical proposal evaluations have been completed, and the County executed a \$146,115 services contract with SCI Consulting Group, Inc to begin work in July.

The deliverables from the Flood Alternatives Study and Funding Study 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. The Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee will be engaged for evaluation and recommendation for a preferred funding alternative for Zone 1/1A to pursue for FY 27/28. It is anticipated that recommendations to approve an updated assessment would follow the Prop 218 process by holding an election.

### **D) Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Restoration Project**

The District has prepared and presented to the Science Panel a draft habitat monitoring plan including 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 to increase connectivity between the Arroyo Grande and Meadow Creek Lagoons and create suitable habitat for smolt and rearing juvenile steelhead. The District will continue to meet with the Science Panel to ensure alignment before initiating environmental permitting and advancing design of the project.

### **E) Community Outreach**

District staff successfully coordinated and implemented a volunteer project, spreading a full trailer of mulch around the County mitigation plantings on the slope of the levee to continue to bring awareness and community investment in our watershed goals to remove invasives. Staff is

looking for community feedback on brainstorming improvements to these volunteer events, such as frequency of events, appropriate notifications, and different formats of outreach to engage all community members in, and adjacent to, Zone 1/1A and the AG Creek Watershed. Additionally, staff is continuously working on 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.

## **F) Storm Response Planning**

The District is seeking FEMA reimbursement through the Public Assistance program for the completed 2023 storm-related repair projects. Our categorized small projects received over \$850k of federal-share reimbursement funds and staff continue to work with Cal-OES and FEMA for the remaining large project reviews.

District Staff are currently updating the Levee Operations Emergency Response plan. Rain and stream gages are undergoing preventative maintenance plans this Summer, which are integral with our storm response notifications and emergency response triggers. Additionally, emergency response contractor contracts were extended to cover this upcoming storm season.

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

**FROM: County Staff**

**DATE: June 16, 2026**

**SUBJECT: Item 5: Zone 1/1A Budget Status Update**

### **Recommendation**

Receive a presentation from Public Works Department Staff on the Zone 1/1A Fiscal Year (FY) 2026/27 budget and discuss future needs.

### **Discussion**

The approved FY 2026/27 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. Outside funding reimbursements will be captured in these summaries once received by the District.

#### *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 \$1.2 Million for FY 2026/27, not including capital and emergency project costs) exceeds the annual revenue from the assessments (approximately \$735,000). To balance this year's budget, a \$500,000 loan from the Zone General Fund is required as public assistance funds are still under FEMA review.

As the infrastructure continues to age reaching its useful life and regulations for flood risk and environmental mitigation continues to become more stringent, the assessments will need to be revisited to maintain the levee level of service 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

channels, evaluate the ability to pursue future levee system improvements projects for increased service levels, investigate watershed-wide benefit efforts, and build an emergency reserve to reduce dependence on outside funding.

Last year, it was recommended that the Prop 218 process to adjust the assessment began this fiscal year, FY 2025/26, for completion prior to budgeting for FY 2026/27. Due to staff turnover, this assessment and process is rescheduled to begin July 2026 for completion prior to budgeting for FY 2027/28.

Attachment:

1. Zone 1/1A Budget Information

