

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 15, 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, June 16, 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 Preparation	County Staff
5.	Public Comment	All
6.	Future Agenda Items	All
7.	Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 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

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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.

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

Draft Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, June 16th, 2026

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

<u>Members Attending:</u> Gary Kobara (Chair) Charlie Lackie Dianna Lackie Stanley Ikeda Greg Cobb	<u>Staff and Guests Attending:</u> Melissa Pasa, County Public Works AJ Maul, County Public Works Nick Teague, County Public Works Joey Steil, County Public Works Rachael Lee, County Public Works Jenny Williamson, County Public Works
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1. Welcome and Introductions

Committee Members and staff introduced themselves.

2. Announcements

County staff announced that the Engineer vacancy for the Zone 1/1A Unit has been filled.

County staff noted the current Committee vacancy, and that membership information and applications are available on the Zone 1/1A website.

3. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, March 17, 2026

County staff asked for questions or comments on the March 17 meeting minutes.

Stanley Ikeda noted a correction to his name on page 1 of the minutes.

MOTION: Approve the March 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes as amended MOTION BY: Greg Cobb SECOND BY: Stanley Ikeda				
MOTION CARRIES	AYES: 5	NOES: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0

4. Ongoing Updates

County staff provided verbal updates on the following programs and projects, with written updates included in the meeting agenda packet:

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/public-works/committees-programs/flood-control-zones/zone-1-1a-arroyo-grande-creek-channel/meeting-calendar/2026/zone-1-1a-advisory-committee-1e26a5dc0f0742fc32e603e35151baf3#docaccess-334f7ed3fece8a228001962fae132857>

a) Waterway Management Program (WMP)

County staff provided a verbal update on current WMP efforts, including the 2026 Annual Work Plan, maintenance priorities, adaptive management activities, environmental work windows, and ongoing and upcoming vegetation, invasive species, and hazardous tree removal activities.

Greg Cobb asked about hazardous tree removal and how a tree is determined to be "hazardous." County staff described the criteria used to classify a tree as hazardous, including broken or hanging trees that could fall and impede flow in the channel.

b) Arroyo Grande Creek Levees Project (Flood Study)

County staff provided a verbal update on the Arroyo Grande Creek Levees Flood Study, including the project scope, consultant contract, flood mitigation alternatives analysis, and coordination with long-term funding efforts.

Charlie Lackie asked whether a 10-foot buffer, rather than 15 feet, could be considered through the permitting process and evaluated as part of the Flood Study. County staff responded that this can be investigated and discussed in future permitting negotiations.

Greg Cobb asked if the Flood Study will consider how the flap gates at Meadow Creek Lagoon interact with the system. County staff confirmed that this will be part of the hydraulic analysis.

Gary Kobara asked about the purpose of the log structures, noting that they may hinder flow in the channel, and whether sediment can be removed from those areas. County staff noted that this will be reviewed as part of the study.

c) Zone 1/1A and Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed Programs Funding Project

County staff provided a verbal update on the Funding Project, including long-term program costs, updated funding assessments, consultant selection, and evaluation of future funding options and financial sustainability.

d) Meadow Creek Lagoon

County staff provided a verbal update on the Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Restoration Project, including habitat monitoring and success criteria, adaptive management, coordination with the Science Panel, and next steps for environmental permitting and project design.

Greg Cobb asked whether dredging is included in the planned work. County staff confirmed that it is.

e) Community Outreach

County staff provided a verbal update on community outreach opportunities and asked for suggestions on ways to share volunteer opportunities and flood preparedness information.

Committee members suggested keeping the website updated and reaching out to community groups, including the Oceano Community Beach Association, Boys & Girls Club, and Arroyo Grande High School.

f) Storm Response Planning

County staff provided a verbal update on storm response efforts, including FEMA reimbursement for 2023 storm repairs, updates to the Emergency Response Plan, maintenance of rain and stream gages, and emergency response contractor coordination.

County staff addressed Gary Kobara's inquiry from the March 17 meeting regarding creek scouring from the previous rain season, noting that hydraulic updates should be available by the September Committee meeting.

Greg Cobb commented on the importance of removing downed trees to prevent them from redirecting water flow that can contribute to overtopping.

5. Zone 1/1A Budget Status Update

County staff presented on the FY 2026/27 Zone 1/1A budget, including current revenues and expenditures, reliance on Zone General Fund loans and outside reimbursements, grant reimbursements, increasing maintenance and program costs, and the need to revisit assessments through the Proposition 218 process to support future operations.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Future Agenda Items

- Hydraulic model w/topography updates
- Consultant project/study updates
- Bylaws review

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:54 PM

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TO: Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee

FROM: County Staff

DATE: September 15, 2026

SUBJECT: Item 4: Ongoing Updates

A) Waterway Management Program (WMP)

Annual Workplan

District staff is continuing to implement the 2026 Annual Work Plan. Staff are currently working on processing the updated topographic survey data to update the hydraulic model to inform the 2027 Annual Work Plan priorities, as well as the 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 require 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 is beginning Fall maintenance activities as we enter in the month of September. Qualified biologists are part of our maintenance team to accommodate work windows and construction methods based on varying conditions and locations of work.

In accordance with the 2026 Annual Work Plan, District staff is completing weed abatement and vegetation management services utilizing hand labor crews and grazing animals. Additionally, in preparation for the upcoming storm season, broken and dead hazardous trees which were identified as flood risks were evaluated and removed. Upcoming work includes woody debris management along with continued in-channel inspections in September and October.

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 evaluate feasible flood mitigation solutions through an alternatives analysis to support the District's flood protection efforts for properties surrounding AG Creek 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 in 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. Currently, the

consultants are developing the existing conditions hydraulic model of AG Creek, extending from the Pacific Ocean to Lopez Reservoir, and are refining hydrology inputs with historic stream stage data. The consultants will share an update on the development and introduce the alternatives analysis methodology for nature-based solutions promoting flood risk reduction and ecological habitat enhancement during this 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 evaluate watershed-scale and other options to fund and implement 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.

The board awarded a \$146k Professional Services Contract to SCI Consulting on June 8, 2026, to kickstart the funding assessment. District staff are in the process of compiling the existing and historical costs associated with levee operations, maintenance, and necessary improvements for review. The consultant is currently working on identifying special benefits and apportioning the costs. The deliverables from the Flood Alternatives Study and Funding Study will provide a comprehensive review of Zone 1/1A and AG Creek Watershed's 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. The restoration project aims 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

Staff are continuously working on revamping the Zone 1/1A website to ensure that all the necessary background knowledge associated with Flood Zone 1/1A is more readily accessible to the public. Additionally, staff are planning and coordinating the logistics for a flood preparedness workshop during the month of October to help prepare local communities for upcoming storm events.

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 gage preventative maintenance plan have been completed, which are integral to storm response notifications and emergency response triggers. Additionally, emergency response contractor contracts were extended to cover this upcoming storm season.