

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
ZONE 9 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zone 9 Advisory Committee will hold a Regular Meeting at **1:30 PM on Wednesday, April 9, 2025** at the City of San Luis Obispo, Community Development Department in Conference Room #1 located at 919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

AGENDA

1. Introductions and Roll Call
2. Approval of December 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes
3. Waterway Management Plan:
 - a. Receive an update from Staff on the Proposed Stream Gauge at San Luis Bay Drive and Consider Actions
 - b. Open Discussion on WMP Update
4. Receive Presentation from Staff on the Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study
5. Ongoing Updates
 - a. Mid-Higuera Bypass Project
 - b. Creek Maintenance
 - c. Arundo Removal
 - d. Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study
6. Public comment

At this time, the public may address the Committee on any item not appearing on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee.
7. Future agenda items

Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 1:30 PM
City of San Luis Obispo, Community Development Department
919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

“The purpose of the Zone 9 Advisory Committee: SECTION 1: To advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to Zone 9. The Committee shall determine the needs, desires, and financial capabilities of the property owners in Zone 9 and, upon deliberation, shall convey to the Board of Supervisors their recommendations with respect to the objectives of said zone. SECTION 2: To recommend to the Board of Supervisors specific programs to alleviate and control flood damage within Zone 9 with recognition of the ecological and aesthetic values of the programs. Further, to recommend to the Board of Supervisors other programs within Zone 9 concerning the objects and purposes of the Flood Control District Act. SECTION 3: To recommend methods of financing programs for Zone 9.” – Excerpts from the By-Laws adopted March 1, 2011

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ZONE 9 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Meeting materials and video recordings can be viewed at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone9>

Members Attending:

Wayne Peterson, County At-Large (Chair)
Brian Nelson, City Staff (Vice Chair)
Michelle Shoresman, City Council
Christine Mulholland, City At-Large
Jon Hall, County At-Large
Stephnie Wald, County At-Large

Non-Voting Members and Guests Attending:

Freddy Otte, City of San Luis Obispo
Troy Barnhart, County of San Luis Obispo
Joey Steil, County of San Luis Obispo
Josh Porter, County of San Luis Obispo

1. Introductions and roll call

Chair Peterson calls the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and a quorum is established.

2. Approval of September 11, 2024 meeting minutes

W. Peterson introduces the item and asks for comments from the Committee.

C. Mulholland moves to approve the September 11, 2024 meeting minutes.

B. Nelson seconds the motion.

Motion passes (6-0-0).

3. Waterway Management Plan Updates

a. Receive Presentation from County Staff Regarding Enhancing the Stream and Rain Gage Network in Zone 9

W. Peterson introduces the item and T. Barnhart presents on efforts to enhance the stream and rain gage network in Zone 9. Presentation topics include an overview of the existing network, coordination efforts, identified priorities, feasibility, costs, grant opportunities, and funding endorsement within the Annual Work Plan. Committee Members discuss and ask clarifying questions.

Staff will return to the Zone 9 Advisory Committee with a draft technical memorandum to further discuss in 2025.

b. Receive Verbal update on the status of the Reimbursement Agreement Amendment

W. Peterson introduces the item and F. Otte, B. Nelson, and T. Barnhart provide verbal updates on the status of the reimbursement agreement amendment. Amendment language is currently under City and County counsel review regarding cost reimbursement from Zone 9 to the City of SLO for certain tasks and services. Once agreed to by both agencies, the County will take the amendment to the County Board of Supervisors for approval, and then the City will take the amendment to City Council.

c. Open Discussion on WMP Update

Discussion deferred due to time constraints.

4. Consider Endorsing the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Workplan

W. Peterson introduces the item and B. Nelson provides an overview of the proposed FY 2025-26 Annual Workplan efforts and related budget. Committee Members discuss and ask clarifying questions.

C. Mulholland asks about the anticipated project start date of the Mid-Higuera Project in January 2025 and how it could be affected by the rainy season. F. Otte and B. Nelson respond.

C. Mulholland moves to endorse the Annual Workplan budget request for FY 2025-26 as presented by staff.

M. Shoresman seconds the motion.

Motion passes (5-1-0).

5. Ongoing Updates

Written updates are included in the meeting agenda packet

a. Mid-Higuera Bypass Project

B. Nelson provides a verbal update on the Mid-Higuera Bypass Project.

C. Mulholland asks about the status of property owner easements. B. Nelson responds.

M. Shoresman comments on the work efforts to navigate through the easement process.

C. Mulholland asks about Madonna moving their yard and business to a different location. B. Nelson responds.

W. Peterson asks about the historical significance and any mitigation efforts related to the bridge on the Madonna property. B. Nelson responds.

b. Creek Maintenance

F. Otte provides a verbal update on creek maintenance activities.

c. Arundo Removal Updates

J. Hall provides a verbal update on Arundo removal activities.

C. Mulholland asks about outreach efforts with a property owner off of See Canyon. J. Hall responds

d. Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study

J. Porter provides a verbal update on the Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study.

W. Peterson asks what about the likely outcome of the study and the type of project that will be proposed. J. Porter responds.

M. Shoresman asks where water would be pumped to if the outcome of the study is to install a pumping station to reduce flooding. J. Porter responds.

C. Mulholland asks if this problem was initially noticed during the rebuilding of Avila Beach. T. Barnhart and J. Porter respond.

S. Wald comments on recent water quality data that could be useful for figuring out where an outfall may be and asks if there is an interested party list. J. Porter responds.

B. Nelson comments on the history, desire, and cost benefit to implement the project. J. Porter and T. Barnhart respond.

6. Public comment

None

7. Future agenda items

S. Wald offers an opportunity to provide a report on the SLO Resiliency and Rewilding Project.

T. Barnhart comments on an upcoming WMP update item to be scheduled for next year.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:11 PM

Agenda Item #3a:

**Receive an update from Staff on the Proposed Stream Gauge at San Luis Bay Drive and
Consider Actions**

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Troy Barnhart, Water Resources Engineer
Brendan Clark, Secretary

DATE: April 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Item 3a, Receive an update from Staff on the Proposed Stream Gauge at San Luis Bay Drive and Consider Actions

Recommendation:

Staff recommends advising the District Board of Supervisors to approve the resolution authorizing acceptance of the CalSIP Grant from DWR and cooperation with USGS to establish and operate the gauge.

Discussion:

During our December 11, 2024 meeting, District Staff presented an opportunity to leverage grant funding to enhance our stream gauge network on San Luis Obispo Creek, targeting the San Luis Bay Drive bridge nearest Avila Beach. At that time, the request to the Zone 9 Advisory Committee was to endorse the inclusion of this potential project in our Fiscal Year 2025-26 Work Plan and Budget.

Since the December meeting, staff have been working with DWR, USGS, County Counsel, and other partners to make this opportunity a reality. The Board of Supervisors at their 4/29/25 meeting will consider a resolution authorizing staff to execute the formal agreements necessary to receive grant funding from DWR and cooperate with USGS to establish and operate the gauge. Staff expect the item to be on the consent agenda.

With additional details available beyond last December's discussion, Staff are requesting Advisory Committee endorsement of the project as described in the Draft Resolution and Board Letter. At this meeting, staff will present a brief review of the project and its financial considerations. Please review the attachments for more detailed information.

Attachments:

1. Draft Board Letter
2. Draft Resolution

TO: Board of Supervisors

**FROM: Public Works
Troy Barnhart, Water Resources Engineer**

**VIA: Brendan Clark, Supervising Water Resources Engineer
Courtney Howard, Water Resources Division Manager**

DATE: 4/29/2025

SUBJECT: 1) Submittal of a resolution authorizing the Director of Public Works or designee to enter into agreement with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to receive funding to implement the San Luis Obispo Creek at San Luis Bay Drive near Avila Beach stream gage project in cooperation with United States Geological Survey (USGS); enter into an agreement with USGS for the provision of services thereunder; and find that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act; and 2) Authorize a budget adjustment to receive and appropriate \$64,240 of DWR CalSIP funds, by 4/5 vote.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board, acting as the Board of Supervisors for the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District):

1. Approve a resolution authorizing the Director of Public Works or designee to enter into an agreement with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to receive funding to implement the San Luis Obispo Creek at San Luis Bay Drive near Avila Beach stream gage project in cooperation with United States Geological Survey (USGS); enter into an agreement with USGS for the provision of services thereunder; and find that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act; and
2. Authorize a budget adjustment to receive and appropriate \$64,240 of DWR CalSIP funds to Fund Center (FC) – 455 Flood Control Zone 9, by 4/5 vote.

DISCUSSION

Flood Control Zone 9 encompasses the San Luis Obispo Creek watershed and its tributaries, including the City of San Luis Obispo (City). Since the establishment of Zone 9 in 1974, the District has operated precipitation and stream gages at various locations in the San Luis Obispo Creek watershed to study and monitor flood hazards. The District

currently operates 3 precipitation gages and 6 stream gages within Zone 9.

Flood events in recent years have highlighted limitations of the existing network within Zone 9, particularly in areas within County jurisdiction. District staff is performing a comprehensive evaluation of data gaps and priorities, a component of next generation watershed planning activities as described in the District's adopted FY24-25 and FY25-26 workplans.

While the comprehensive evaluation is forthcoming, a stream gage in the reach between the downstream City limits and Avila Beach has been identified as a priority. Floods on San Luis Obispo Creek within this reach are known to present risks to life and impair critical transportation infrastructure such as Avila Beach Drive and Highway 101. The District operated a stream gage within this reach from 1970 to 1986 but discontinued operations due to accessibility challenges during flooding events.

On June 6, 2023, the Board of Supervisors authorized the District to seek State and Federal funding opportunities to mitigate flood hazards related to the 2023 winter storms. Flood hazards associated with San Luis Obispo Creek in this reach contributed to one casualty on January 9th, 2023, and caused temporary closures of Highway 101 and Avila Beach Drive. A new stream gage at this location will mitigate flood hazards by reporting real-time stream conditions for public safety operations during flood events as well as providing stream flow data foundational to flood mitigation planning throughout Zone 9. Data collected will include stream stage, flow (discharge), and temperature.

In August 2024, DWR opened a statewide competitive funding opportunity for stream gage establishment and enhancement. The California Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP) is intended to enhance water supply and flood preparedness, improve conservation of freshwater species, and align agencies to ensure better information is provided for water management decisions. The State Legislature appropriated \$7 million of program funds to improve stream gage infrastructure as part of the Budget Act of 2023 (Stats. 2023, Ch. 189, § 43) with no local cost share. On October 31st, 2024, District staff submitted a preliminary application to CalSIP for a USGS-operated gage at the San Luis Bay Drive bridge nearest Avila Beach. On February 19th, 2025, the District received a tentative award of \$64,240 from DWR for establishment of the gage by October 1, 2026, and data collection through March 30, 2027.

Staff recommends authorizing the Director of Public Works to file and execute a funding agreement with DWR and take related actions to obtain funding from CalSIP, via resolution as required by DWR. DWR requires an executed funding agreement by May 1, 2025, to meet timelines associated with the appropriated funds.

Partnering with USGS

The District is a party to a longstanding, annually renewed Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) with the USGS to collect hydrologic data and other water resources information. Local

USGS staff have expertise in collecting stream flow data at sites prone to severe flood flows, such as the Salinas River at the City of Paso Robles. USGS staff have confirmed their capability and willingness to establish and operate a gage at the San Luis Bay Drive bridge nearest Avila Beach.

Therefore, staff also recommends authorizing the Director of Public Works to enter into an agreement with USGS to establish and operate the gage, subject to review by County Counsel as to form and effect. This agreement will be separate from other District-USGS JFAs through at least the CalSIP funding period (March 30, 2027) to facilitate compliance with grant funding requirements. This recommendation includes authorization for the Director of Public Works to add work items related to this gage to subsequent annual District-USGS JFAs after the CalSIP funding period, subject to the condition that funding for this gage is approved by your Board in the District's annual budget.

Board Resolution 2007-370 authorizes the Director of Public Works to modify District-USGS JFAs. The existing authorization under Resolution 2007-370 is currently utilized to provide for USGS operation of 3 other stream gages via annual JFAs. A copy of the most recent USGS-District annual JFA is attached for reference. In 2010, work items reflecting an additional gage were added to the JFA by authorization of the Director of Public Works. The 2010 additive items were provided for by your Board in the FY10-11 District budget, as well as subsequent yearly budgets, but not presented to your Board as a standalone request. District staff view this as an efficient mechanism for collaborating with the USGS on this technical matter while still being subject to appropriate budgetary control. To ensure these actions are within the intent of your Board, clarifying language is included in the resolution affirming authorization to add budgeted work to USGS-District annual JFAs.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The California Department of Water Resources will provide discretionary funding via CalSIP for stream gage establishment and operation through March 30, 2027.

District to enter into separate agreement with the United States Geological Survey to establish and operate the gage through March 30, 2027. Subsequent USGS involvement with this gage to be conditional on District yearly budget allocation.

The Flood Control Zone 9 Advisory Committee discussed this opportunity at its meetings on December 11th, 2024, and April 9th, 2025. The Advisory Committee recommended the Board approve this resolution and authorize the Public Works Director or designee to enter into agreements with both DWR and USGS.

Purchasing has approved a sole source authorization for provision of USGS services to fulfill grant requirements.

County Counsel has reviewed the Resolution and CalSIP funding agreement to form and effect.

The Environmental Division Manager has reviewed the project and determined that it is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. The project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA guidelines Sections 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) and 15306 (Information Collection) as the Project constitutes construction / location of a limited number of new, small facilities or structures and basic data collection that would not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource, respectively, as more specifically described in the Notice of Exemption.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The DWR CalSIP award is in the amount of \$64,240 and is reimbursement based. A budget adjustment, in the amount of \$64,240 is necessary to budget the State Revenue and appropriations necessary to accomplish the project.

All funding will be managed by the San Luis Obispo County Special District Zone 9 budget, Fund 1302000000.

This project and associated staff time are included in the upcoming FY 2025-26 Special Districts Budget.

RESULTS

The recommended actions will further flood mitigation and public safety efforts in the San Luis Obispo Creek watershed in accordance with Flood Control Zone 9 priorities.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Vicinity Map
2. Resolution
3. Draft CalSIP Funding Agreement between DWR and District
4. Water Year 2024-2025 District-USGS Joint Funding Agreement
5. CEQA Exemption

File: CF 340.205.01

Reference: 25.061

<https://o365gcoslo.sharepoint.com/sites/PW-SupportServices/Document%20Request/25.061%20Zone%209%20-%20SLO%20Creek%20Gage%20DWR%20CalSIP%20Grant%20Approval/Resolution.docx?d=w4a108230463a42d9af8cda1ddfd4058f&csf=1&web=1&e=K9RI0G>

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

of the

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

_____ day _____, 20____

PRESENT: Supervisors

ABSENT:

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS OR DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES TO RECEIVE FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT THE SAN LUIS OBISPO CREEK AT SAN LUIS BAY DRIVE NEAR AVILA BEACH STREAM GAGE PROJECT IN COOPERATION WITH UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS); ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH USGS FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES THEREUNDER; AND FIND THAT THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

The following Resolution is now offered and read:

WHEREAS, the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) Zone 9 includes the San Luis Obispo Creek watershed and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, technical plans and studies, including the District's Waterway Management Plan for San Luis Obispo Creek and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Study for San Luis Obispo County, identify lower San Luis Obispo Creek as a source of flood hazard to life and property consistent with the impacts of the winter 2023 storms; and

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2023, the District Board of Supervisors (Board) authorized the Director of Public Works, or designee, to identify and apply for State funding to mitigate flood hazards related to the winter 2023 storms; and

WHEREAS, additional real-time hydrologic data collection on lower San Luis Obispo Creek would further the mitigation of flood hazards through planning and operations activities; and

WHEREAS, the District historically and currently cooperates with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for collection of hydrologic data and other water resources information; and the Board has authorized the Director of Public Works to sign an annual Cooperative Agreement with USGS (Annual USGS Agreement) and extensions / modifications thereof under the condition that all District funding contributions are approved by the Board in the annual District budget; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, Public Works staff filed an application, including a questionnaire related thereto, for funding from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) under the Budget Act of 2023, as amended (Stats. 2023, ch. 189, § 43) to implement the San Luis Obispo Creek at San Luis Bay Drive near

Avila Beach Stream Gage Project (Project) in cooperation with USGS; and

WHEREAS, more specifically, the Project involves the installation and operation of equipment to collect and transmit real-time hydrologic data, such as stream levels, flow (discharge), and temperature; and USGS would perform the following services for the District in connection with the Project (USGS Services) in accordance with the District's Contracting for Services Policy; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the Project will support and improve the State stream gage network and is intended to: (1) provide publicly available data on natural surface waters; and (2) provide sound data that informs water management decisions; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2024 and April 9, 2025, the Zone 9 Advisory Committee recommended that the Board proceed with the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, as follows:

SECTION 1: The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2: Pursuant to and subject to all of the terms and provisions of the Budget Act of 2023, as amended (Stats. 2023, ch. 189, § 43), the Director of Public Works, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute a funding agreement and amendments thereto with DWR to receive funding for the Project provided said agreement and amendments are approved by County Counsel as to form and effect and to take such other actions as necessary or appropriate to receive Act funding from DWR for the Project, including but not limited to the submission of questionnaires, invoices, reports and other required documents to DWR and to utilize electronic signatures in connection with all such documents.

SECTION 3: Without limiting the authority previously granted to the Director of Public Works related to the Annual USGS Agreement, the Board expressly authorizes the Director of Public Works to enter into an extension or modification of the Annual USGS Agreement or otherwise enter into an agreement with USGS pursuant to which USGS will perform the USGS Services for the District in accordance with the State Funding Agreement in accordance with the District's Contracting for Services Policy.

SECTION 4: The District finds that the Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines sections 15304 and 15306 as the Project constitutes construction / location of a limited number of new, small facilities or structures and basic data collection that would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource, respectively, as more specifically described in the Notice of Exemption.

Upon motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____, and on the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINING:

the foregoing resolution is hereby adopted on the ____ day of _____, 20__.

Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

MATTHEW PONTES
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

[SEAL]

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

JON ANSOLABEHERE
County Counsel

By: _____
Deputy County Counsel

Dated: _____

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Agenda Item #4:

Receive Presentation from Staff on the Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Josh Porter, Water Resources Engineer
Brendan Clark, Secretary

DATE: April 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Receive Presentation from Staff on the Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study

Recommendation:

Receive Presentation from Staff on Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study

Discussion:

County staff, with funding from ARPA, have been studying the recurring drainage and flooding issues in Avila Beach, particularly along First Street.

This effort has three components:

1. Peer Review of a 2015 Conceptual Design Report
2. Analyzing various pump station alternatives
3. Development of a Project Execution Plan and 30% design of selected alternative.

Components 1 and 2 are complete. Staff will be presenting the results, challenges and next steps of the project so far.

Additional background information can be found here:

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/public-works/current-public-works-projects/avila-beach-drainage-project>

Attachments:

1. 2015 Cannon Study
2. 2023 Peer Review of 2015 Conceptual Design Report
3. 2024 Pump Station Alternatives Feasibility Study

Please note: These attachments are too large to attach to this packet. Please visit the project website to review and/or download these documents.

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/public-works/current-public-works-projects/avila-beach-drainage-project>

Agenda Item #5:

Ongoing Updates

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Brian Nelson, City Engineer, City of San Luis Obispo
Kate Shea, Principal Environmental Specialist, County Public Works

DATE: April 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Mid-Higuera Bypass Project Updates

Wallace Group completed final design work in August 2024, and the project was publicly advertised from September 12th to October 10th. The City held a public bid opening on October 10th, 2024, and Souza Engineering Contracting Inc. was the low bidder with a bid of \$8,546,961.73. The City awarded a contract with Souza Engineering Contracting Inc. on November 2nd, 2024.

Construction commenced on January 6th, 2025, with Souza conducting tree removal throughout the project site. Prior to the start of vegetation removal, SWCA conducted all appropriate pre-activity surveys for wildlife within the disturbance area. Any vegetation removal within the creek banks was done without heavy equipment to avoid disturbance. Tree removal was completed by Thursday, January 16th, after which jobsite activities ceased until March 17th. Starting on Monday the 17th, Souza begin demolition work above top of bank and began excavation and formwork construction for the temporary bridge abutments.

Construction will continue through April with bypass channel grading outside of jurisdictional limits set up by SWCA, utility relocation work, and the erection of the temporary construction bridge. As grading in each project area is completed, soils will be hydroseeded and erosion control blanket will be installed to stabilize slopes as soon after disturbance as possible.

The majority of the project will be completed during the dry period from June through October. Souza is working to procure all materials in advance of the summer months so that construction will proceed without delay.

PG&E, Spectrum, and SoCal Gas have completed the required utility relocation work that conflicted with the project's footprint. AT&T and Astound plan to relocate their facilities in April to remove all remaining conflicts with the new Bianchi Bridge Construction which is set to begin June 2nd.

The final dewatering plan proposed by Souza is under review by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Dewatering activities will not begin until after June 1st. The final revegetation is under review with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife after the final count and size of tree removed in January was reported. Revegetation must be completed within one year of the completion of vegetation removal.

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Freddy Otte, Biologist, City of San Luis Obispo

DATE: April 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Creek Maintenance Updates

No major items to report in terms of creek maintenance around the watershed. Monitoring is the biggest effort as storms come through, but only minor debris removal needed to occur to ensure the channel is free of obstructions. A comprehensive list of inspection locations has been completed and is now over 50 locations (City owned and private properties that have dedicated a drainage easement to the City). These locations will be inspected annually and priority actions will address the greatest threats.

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Brendan Clark, County of San Luis Obispo

DATE: April 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study

Item 4 covers this project in detail.

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee

FROM: Jon Hall, Land Conservancy

DATE: April 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Arundo Removal Updates

The largest remaining population of *Arundo donax* in the SLO Creek watershed is at the intersection of Los Osos Valley Road and San Luis Creek. Control of this population began in August 2023 with removal of ¼ of the 0.77 acre infestation. This population was the focus for efforts in 2024. With another \$25,000 partners grant through US Fish and Wildlife Service and funding from the Zone 9 Flood Control District The Land Conservancy worked with the CCC's and the City of San Luis Obispo to coordinate a large effort to mechanically remove and treat with herbicides the remaining portion of this population. Additionally we have completed a comprehensive survey of San Luis Obispo Creek from Los Osos Valley Road downstream to Avila. All detected populations were controlled. A large patch in a tributary near the corner of Clarion Ct and Santa Fe Road was also treated as well as a large population in See Canyon visited in previous years. Annual NPDES permitting reporting is now complete. No additional work is anticipated until August 2025.