

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, August 13, 2025** at the SLO Vets Hall Lounge, located at 801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

Staff reports and agenda documents, if applicable, are posted at [www.slocounty.ca.gov/zone9](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/zone9)

**AGENDA**

1. Introductions and Roll Call
2. Approval of April 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes
3. Receive and file District Staff Memorandum "Updates to East Fork SLO Creek Working Hydraulic Model"
4. Waterway Management Plan:
  - a. Receive Presentation from Staff on the WMP Model Update and Provide Feedback
  - b. Stream Gauges (Avila, Marsh)
  - c. Open Discussion on WMP Update
5. Ongoing Updates
  - a. Mid-Higuera Bypass Project
  - b. Creek Maintenance
  - c. Arundo Removal
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, October 8, 2025 at 1:30 PM  
SLO Vets Hall Lounge  
801 Grand Avenue, 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, April 9, 2025**

*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

Non-Voting Members and Guests Attending:

Wyatt Banker-Hix, City of San Luis Obispo  
Freddy Otte, City of San Luis Obispo  
Brendan Clark, County of San Luis Obispo  
Troy Barnhart, 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 December 11, 2025 meeting minutes**

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

C. Mulholland asks about the spelling of Stephnie Wald's name and the voting record for the Annual Workplan budget request, which was recorded as "(5-1-0)".

B. Clark notes that staff will verify the spelling of Member Wald's first name and will correct the voting record for the Annual Workplan budget request to reflect J. Hall's abstention, making it "(5-0-1)".

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

M. Shoresman seconds the motion.

Motion passes (4-0-0).

**3. Waterway Management Plan**

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

W. Peterson introduces the item and T. Barnhart presents on the progress of the San Luis Obispo Creek stream gauge project near Avila Beach, a grant-funded initiative first

presented on December 11, 2024. The District Board of Supervisors will consider a resolution for agreement execution on April 29, 2025. Staff requests Advisory Committee endorsement of the project as detailed in the attached Draft Resolution and Board Letter.

M. Shoresman asks how operational costs will be funded after the stream gage is installed. T. Barnhart and B. Clark respond.

M. Shoresman moves to endorse the project for approval by the District Board of Supervisors. C. Mulholland seconds the motion.

Motion passes (4-0-0)

b. Open Discussion on WMP Update

W. Peterson introduces the item and B. Clark discusses the development of a technical memo related to additional stream gage locations and asks if the City has an updated Council date for the updated reimbursement agreement. B. Nelson responds.

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

W. Peterson introduces the item and J. Porter presents an update on the Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study. Components 1 (Peer Review) and 2 (Pump Station Alternatives Analysis) of the study are complete. Work efforts to develop a Project Execution Plan and select the preferred design alternative are ongoing. Pursuing the necessary approval and funding will drive future phases of the project.

C. Mulholland asks if elevation was considered when the parking lot was being constructed, and if they added any new structures to the drainage system. J. Porter responds.

C. Mulholland asks if beach erosion results from pumping water onto the beach during emergency flood events. J. Porter responds.

B. Nelson asks if seepage into manhole covers contributed to the Avila Beach wastewater facility almost spilling over.

C. Mulholland asks who will be responsible for paying for the preferred project and/or ongoing pumping costs. B. Clark responds.

W. Peterson comments on the importance of establishing a Zone 9 budget policy or guidance for funding projects.

Committee Members and staff discuss past creek maintenance and flood mitigation projects, the scope and role of Zone 9 participating in the project, and the involvement of partner agencies in finding/funding solutions.

**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.

W. Peterson asks if the June Zone 9 Advisory Committee meeting can be held at the project site. B. Nelson and B. Clark respond.

b. Creek Maintenance

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

c. Arundo Removal Updates

F. Otte provides a verbal update on Arundo removal activities.

d. Avila Beach First Street Drainage Study

No additional updates.

**6. Public comment**

W. Peterson proposes moving future Zone 9 Advisory Committee meetings to the SLO Vet's Hall.

**7. Future agenda items**

Zone 9 budget guidance and policy discussion.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:50 PM**

**Agenda Item #3:**

**Receive and file District Staff Memorandum "Updates to East Fork SLO Creek Working Hydraulic Model"**



**To:** Brendan Clark, Supervising Water Resources Engineer

**Cc:** JR Beard, Development Services Engineer  
Flood Control Zone 9 Advisory Committee

**From:** Troy Barnhart, EIT, Engineer II  
Luke Stewart, EIT, Engineer I

**Date:** August 7, 2025

**Subject:** Updates to East Fork SLO Creek Working Hydraulic Model

This document references the "East Fork Flood Analysis" previously prepared by Schaaf & Wheeler and dated March 2023. As discussed in the 2023 analysis, Schaaf & Wheeler prepared a 2-dimensional HEC-RAS model of East Fork San Luis Obispo Creek.

District staff have modified the Schaaf & Wheeler HEC-RAS model to increase accuracy and usability and to incorporate superior topographic data. This document describes the modifications to the HEC-RAS model and provides guidance for appropriate use in evaluating proposed projects in the East Fork floodplain. At this time, the District does not intend to separately update any discussion from the 2023 analysis.

#### General

1. HEC-HMS model converted from v4.8 to v4.12
2. HEC-RAS model converted from v6.2 to v.6.6

#### Hydrology

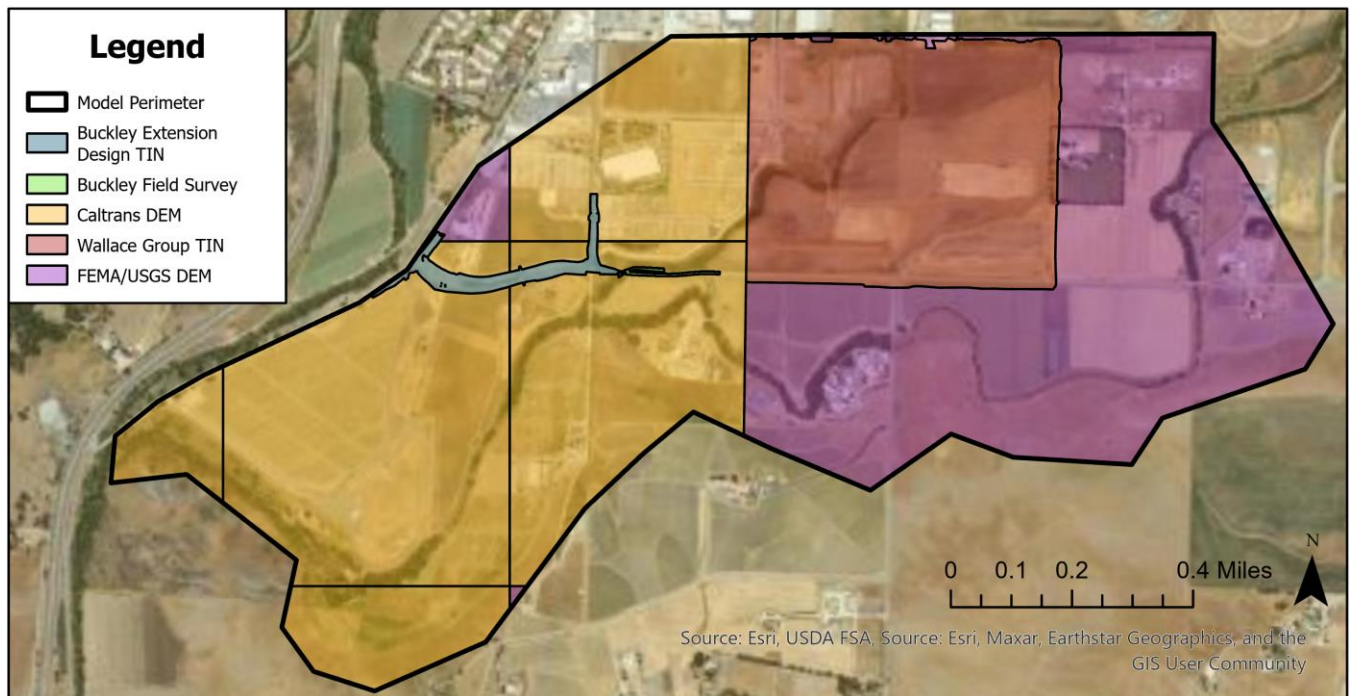
3. All model scenarios converted to AMCIII conditions as described by Schaaf & Wheeler.
  - District staff have concerns regarding limitations of regional USGS streamgage data, particularly for the Lopez Creek gage, which was utilized by S&W to calibrate the published flows for the 2023 analysis. Pending further evaluation in forthcoming updates to the Waterway Management Plan, the previously adopted WMP flows are a more appropriate standard.
  - AMCIII conditions as described by S&W produce flows close to adopted Waterway Management Plan. The table below identifies only modest (10-15%) differences between WMP and Schaaf & Wheeler peak flows for typical design storm scenarios (Q10-Q100) at the upstream and downstream bounds of the HEC-RAS model. The AMCIII S&W peak flows tend to increase less than the WMP peak flows moving down the watershed. This is assumed to be a result of the modern hydraulic modeling method more accurately accounting for the

detention effect of significant temporary overbank floodplain storage downstream of the Buckley Road bridge over East Fork SLO Creek.

Model & Location	Q100		Q25		Q10		Q2	
	cfs	delta	cfs	delta	cfs	delta	cfs	delta
WMP blw Acacia Crk [HMS]	5438	-8%	3955	0%	2931	+10%	1413	+39%
EF UpBuck [HMS] AMCI	5023		3941		3221		1967	
WMP at confluence [HMS]	7593	-16%	5580	-12%	4097	-6%	2013	+13%
EF D/S boundary [RAS] AMCI	6363		4905		3850		2274	

4. Upper Tank Farm Creek inflow hydrograph now varies by recurrence scenario as originally intended.
  - As described in the 2023 analysis, the S&W HMS model capped discharge from Chevron Tank Farm site at ~81 cfs for all scenarios. This cap was erroneously low as that magnitude corresponded to only the 10-year discharge described in the referenced 2014 Avocet study. Discharge from the Chevron Tank Farm site is now capped by the Avocet value for each recurrence scenario. This results in a ~doubling of the modeled peak flow on Tank Farm Creek for the 100-year scenario.

#### Topography/Terrain



5. The hydraulic model terrain was fully rebuilt, blending FEMA/USGS and Caltrans DEMs, field survey data from the 2023 analysis, as well as design grading plans for the Buckley Road extension and Avila Ranch development.
  - The base FEMA/USGS DEM as described in the 2023 analysis was resampled from source USGS files to avoid processing artifacts noted in S&W model terrain.

- The Buckley Road extension design grading plan, signed as approved by the County Public Works Development Services Manager on 7/8/2021, was incorporated within the roadway corridor (unchanged from 2023 analysis).
- Caltrans District 5 provided an additional DEM derived from high-resolution aerial lidar surveys collected in 2021 for planning of proposed Caltrans facilities to the west of the Buckley & Vachell intersection. Given the higher level of detail than the USGS lidar, the Caltrans data was used wherever available, generally for the model extent west of Alpha Lane (within the Avila Ranch development).
- As the Caltrans data was collected in the midst of mass grading for the southwest portion of the Avila Ranch development, the modeled terrain elevations appear to be somewhat lower than the finished elevations for this portion of the development. Potential flooding of the development indicated by the model results should be disregarded unless the as-built finish grades are fully surveyed and incorporated into the model terrain.
- The Caltrans terrain was modified by smoothing in limited areas of the East Fork and Tank Farm Creek channels to address apparent elevation discrepancies in some areas of in-channel, grassy vegetation. The Caltrans data otherwise generally corresponded well to both the FEMA/USGS and field survey data.
- Upstream of the Buckley Road crossing over Tank Farm Creek, field survey data was prioritized over the Caltrans data. The field survey data in this area better reflects in-situ conditions following District-City vegetation maintenance activities.
- Beyond the eastern extent of Caltrans data (just east of Alpha Lane within the Avila Ranch development), a design surface provided by Wallace Group reflecting development and channel improvement plans was incorporated. The design finish grade data was utilized as the best available information in this area as as-built survey data is not yet available. The design finish grade was previously accepted by FEMA as basis for Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) 21-09-0731P.
- In conversion of the Wallace Group data from design Triangulated Irregular Network (TIN) surface to DEM raster for incorporation into RAS, artifacts were introduced. These were deemed to be generally insignificant for purposes of this model, with the exception of some that obstructed the low flow channel of Tank Farm Creek. Limited channel smoothing was performed to ensure drainage along the creek flow line.
- Additional smoothing was performed at the seam/boundary between the Caltrans and Wallace Group data to ensure vertical discrepancies did not degrade model performance.

### Geometry

6. The 2D mesh was rebuilt with increased cell size in the overbank floodplain. The default cell size was increased to 40x40 feet.
7. Along-channel cell sizes were enforced along streamlines as 15x15 feet for East Fork SLO Creek and 12x12 feet for Tank Farm Creek.
8. Breaklines were added throughout the model to better discretize flow in the vicinity of levees, banks, and roadways and reduce computational errors as feasible.

9. Cells surrounding breakline intersections and bridge crossings were manually adjusted to ensure alignment with flow and cell faces consistent with bridge cross-sections.
10. Inflow boundary conditions were realigned to more uniformly distribute flow in line with best modeling practices.
11. The two bridge structures along the private drive directly south of the Buckley and Vachell intersection were implemented as a single hydraulic structure in the S&W model. The bridges were split into two discrete structures to alleviate computational challenges of the original implementation.
12. Modified hydraulic structures were checked against field surveys, with two exceptions. First, the northernmost private drive bridge was replaced following failure in the early 2023 flood events. No documentation was available for the new crossing, so the model instead reflects the now-replaced structure. Second, the agricultural culvert crossing over Tank Farm Creek on the Avila Ranch property (approximately east of Tango Way) was unable to be verified. The crossing was field surveyed in preparation of the 2023 analysis/model, but the District was never provided with the survey documentation for that particular location.
13. The S&W model included two hydraulic structures along the private, non-engineered levee along East Fork SLO Creek downstream of its confluence with Tank Farm Creek. The basis for these structures (which represented alterations to the levee crest elevations) was unclear. One primarily raised a low point in the levee, shown in high-resolution terrain data, that is known to have experienced a partial breach in the 2023 floods. The other dropped the elevation of a longer extent of the levee crest, and it was not clear from available documentation whether this was a proposed or existing condition. The two structures were removed entirely to instead rely on the Caltrans 2021 high-resolution DEM that covers the vicinity.

#### Conclusion/Guidance

14. Limited comparison of the updated model to the original indicates only modest changes to key results (such as less than  $\pm 0.25$  feet of maximum WSE in the vicinity of the Buckley Road crossing over Tank Farm Creek). Some discussion of the changes will be presented at the August 13, 2025 Zone 9 Advisory Committee meeting.
15. Stability and usability of the model is greatly improved. The original model displayed significant instability near the confluence of Tank Farm and East Fork SLO Creek, rendering its suitability for evaluating hydraulic structures suspect. The instability has been completely resolved with the updates. Computation times per scenario have been reduced from hour-order to ~5 minutes on County machines.
16. The updated model is suitable for hydraulic design and evaluation as best available basis per County implementation of local floodplain and Waterway Management Plan regulations. The 2-, 5-, 10-, 25-, and 100-year events are implemented as scenarios in the model. If a project must evaluate the 50-year scenario, project proponents should contact District staff to verify a compliant hydrologic approach.
17. Additional modeling improvements, such as resolution of the aforementioned hydrologic concerns and evaluation of more detailed hydraulic computation methods, are planned for the East Fork vicinity in forthcoming updates to the overall Waterway Management Plan.

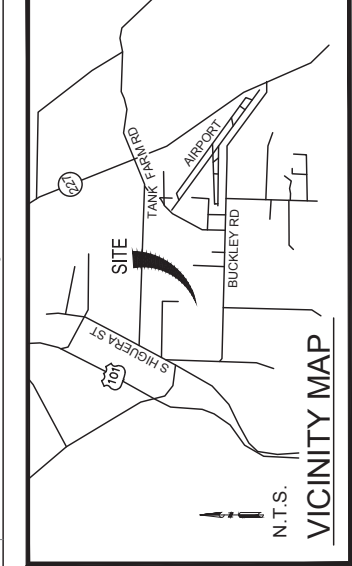
Troy Barnhart, EIT  
Engineer II

Attachment

Wallace Group Topographic Survey Sheet from LOMR 24-09-1118P



FOR REDUCED PLANS  
ORIGINAL SCALE IS IN INCHES





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CONTOURS DERIVED FROM EXISTING GRADE ELEVATION DATA BASED ON WALLACE GROUP SURVEY AND DATA COLLECTION CIRCA 2021 PERFORMED AT THE DIRECTION OF CLAYTON BRADSHAW, PLS 8298

CONTOURS DERIVED FROM EXISTING GRADE ELEVATION DATA BASED ON THE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE CA AZ FEMA 19 2017 DIELIDAR SURVEY PERFORMED FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES SERVICE, CALIFORNIA DISTRICT OFFICE, WASHINGTON, ASK ORDER #410623166027, ACCORDING TO THE PROJECT REPORT PREPARED BY WOOLPERT CIRCA 2017. DATA SET HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED AND CONstrained TO BEST FIT APPROXIMATE THE HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL SPATIAL REFERENCE SYSTEM OF THIS SURVEY. DATA SET IS REFERRED TO AS **ADJUSTED NOAA LIDAR** HEREON.

CONTOURS DERIVED FROM DESIGN FINISHED GRADE ELEVATION DATA BASED ON THE DIGITAL TERRAIN MODEL FOR LOMR 21-08-0731P PROVIDED BY RRM REPRESENTING THE FINISHED GRADE ELEVATIONS OF PHASE 1 OF TRACT 3089, AVILA RANCH.

CONTOURS DERIVED FROM DESIGN FINISHED GRADE ELEVATION DATA BASED ON THE DIGITAL TERRAIN MODEL FOR THE MASS GRADING PLAN PROVIDED BY WALLACE GROUP REPRESENTING THE FINISHED GRADE ELEVATIONS OF PHASE 2,3 OF TRACT 3089, AVILA RANCH. THE MASS GRADING IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD SURFACE AND UNDERGROUND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS IS IN PROGRESS. DATA SET IS REFERRED TO AS **DESIGN FINISHED GRADE ELEVATION DATA** HEREON.

INDEX CONTOUR

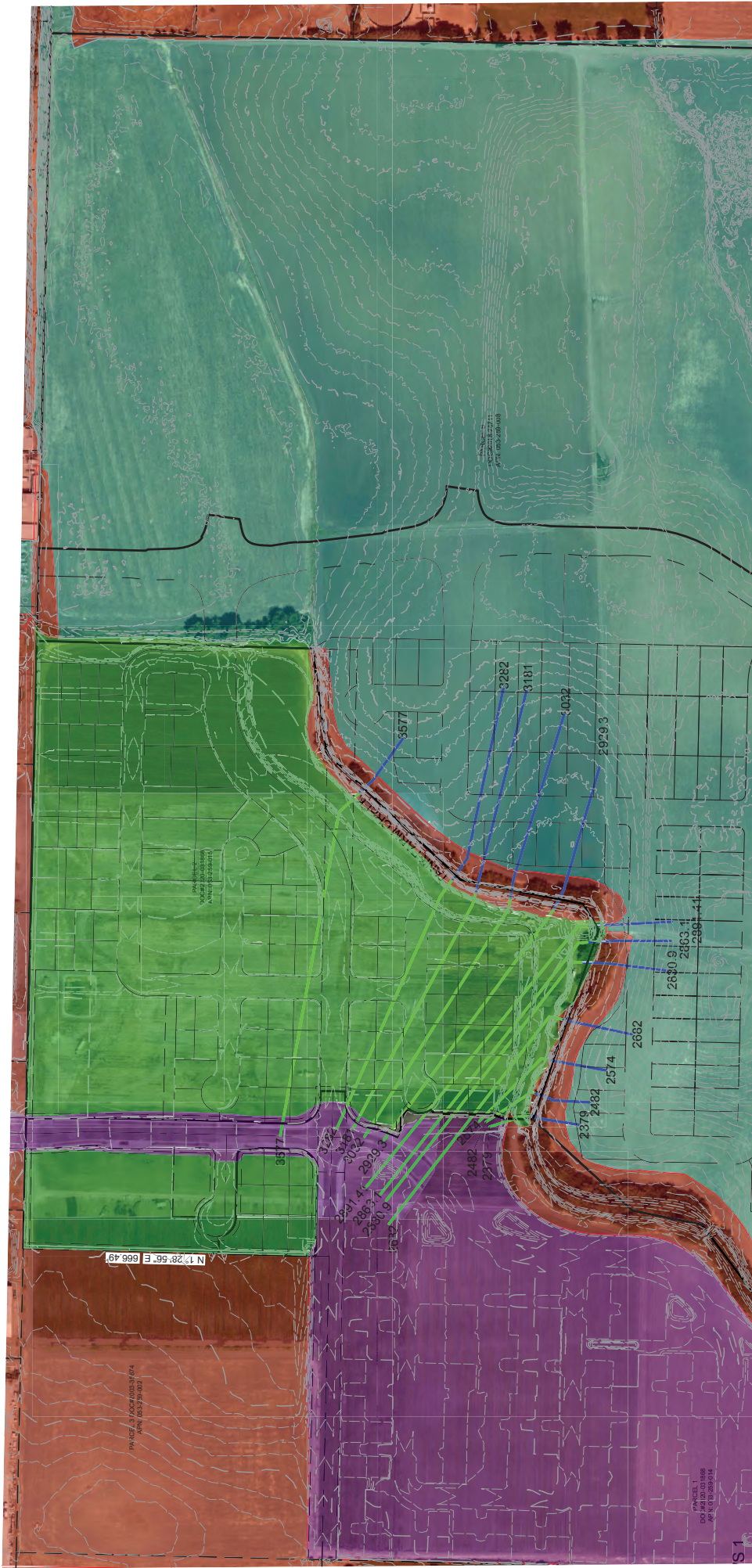
INTERVAL CONTOUR

GROSS SECTION ALIGNMENT AND LOCATION BASED ON WALLACE GROUP FIELD SURVEY AND DATA COLLECTION CIRCA 2021 PERFORMED AT THE DIRECTION OF CLAYTON BRADSHAW, PLS 8298

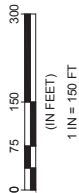
GROSS SECTION ELEVATIONS BASED ON **DESIGN FINISHED GRADE ELEVATION DATA**.



2929.3



GRAPHIC SCALE



#### SURVEY NOTES:

- HORIZONTAL POSITIONS AS BASED ON THE CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HORIZONTAL CONTROL NETWORK 2007 POINT 8091 AND POINT 1. POINT 8091 BEARS NORTH 65° 31' 11" EAST 11249.39' FROM POINT 1. POINT 8091 COORDINATES ARE LISTED IN THE CONTROL INVENTORY HEREON. LOCATIONS ARE NOT SHOWN
- THE ORTHOMETRIC HEIGHTS (ELEVATIONS) WERE BASED ON THE CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BENCHMARK SYSTEM 2007 AND REFERENCED BY BM#98, HAVING A PUBLISHED ELEVATION OF 200.17'.
- ALL MEASUREMENTS LISTED, SHOWN, AND REPRESENTED HEREON ARE BASED ON GROUND DISTANCES.
- THE CONTOUR INTERVAL IS 1 FOOT.
- VISIBLE SITE FEATURES AND UNDERGROUND UTILITY LOCATIONS ARE NOT PLOTTED.
- EASEMENTS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY SHOWN HEREON MAY EXIST. NO TITLE INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED. NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO PLOT EASEMENTS.

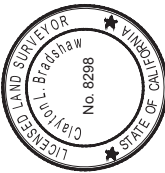
#### SURVEYOR'S STATEMENT

THIS MAP REPRESENTS A SURVEY MADE BY ME AT THE REQUEST OF WCP DEVELOPERS, LLC. THE FIELD SURVEYS WERE PERFORMED IN 2021.

DATE: 8/20/2024

*Clayton L. Bradshaw*

CLAYTON L. BRADSHAW, LS 8298



TRACT 3089 - AVILA RANCH PHASES 2 - 3  
LETTER OF MAP REVISION (LOMR) APPLICATION  
CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA

JOB # 1493-0007  
SURVEYOR(S) CB  
DRAWN BY RMS  
DATE 08/20/2024  
SHEET

1  
1 OF 1 SHEETS



**Agenda Item #4.a:**

**Waterway Management Plan: Receive Presentation from Staff on the WMP Model Update  
and Provide Feedback**

**TO:** Zone 9 Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Troy Barnhart, Engineer II  
Brendan Clark, Secretary

**DATE:** August 13, 2025

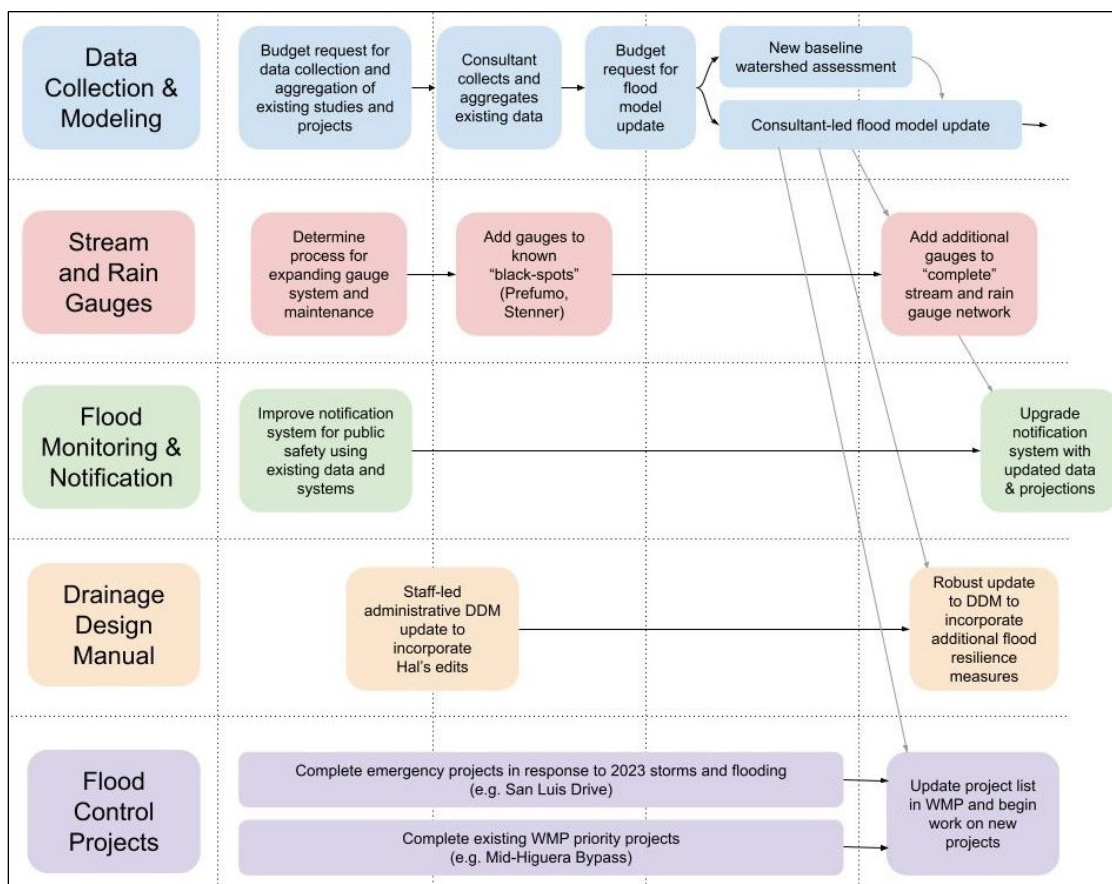
**SUBJECT:** Waterway Management Plan: Receive Presentation from Staff on the WMP Model Update and Provide Feedback

**Recommendation:**

Receive Update from Staff and Provide Feedback

**Background:**

First discussed two years ago at the August 9, 2023 Zone 9 Advisory Committee meeting, County and City staff have been working collaboratively to conceptualize, plan and execute an update to the San Luis Obispo Creek Waterway Management Plan. The Update is slated to include Data Collection/Model, Stream and Rain Gauges, Flood Monitoring and Notification, Drainage Design Manual, and Flood Control Projects. These update “tracks” are conceptualized in the image below:



In the last two years, the following has been completed and/or initiated, generally related to the WMP update:

- Amendment to the City Reimbursement Agreement to include WMP Update tasks.
- Budget allocation for Consultants/Contractors:
  - Marsh Street Gauge Replacement (\$100,000)
  - San Luis Bay Drive Stream Gage Installation (\$100,000)
  - WMP Update (\$200,000)
- Vegetation Management Plan to include creek properties owned or managed by City. Funded by the CA Coastal Conservancy.

Specific work completed and/or initiated work pursuant to the 'Stream and Rain Gauges' track includes:

- Awarded grant (\$64,209) from DWR for SLO Creek at San Luis Bay Drive near Avila Beach stream gauge installation and operation, in cooperation with USGS.
  - Planning and permitting activities will occur between late 2025 and mid-2026.
  - Slated for mid-2026 installation.
- Project Execution Plan Development for Marsh Street Gauge Replacement in development.
  - Tentative Z9 Advisory Committee update planned for October 8, 2025.
- Stream and Rain Gauge Plan reconnaissance performed in 2024 as previously discussed. Memorandum in development.

### Discussion:

Today's update is focused on the Data Collection and Modeling track. The planned approach for this track will provide a foundation for other tracks as diagrammed above.

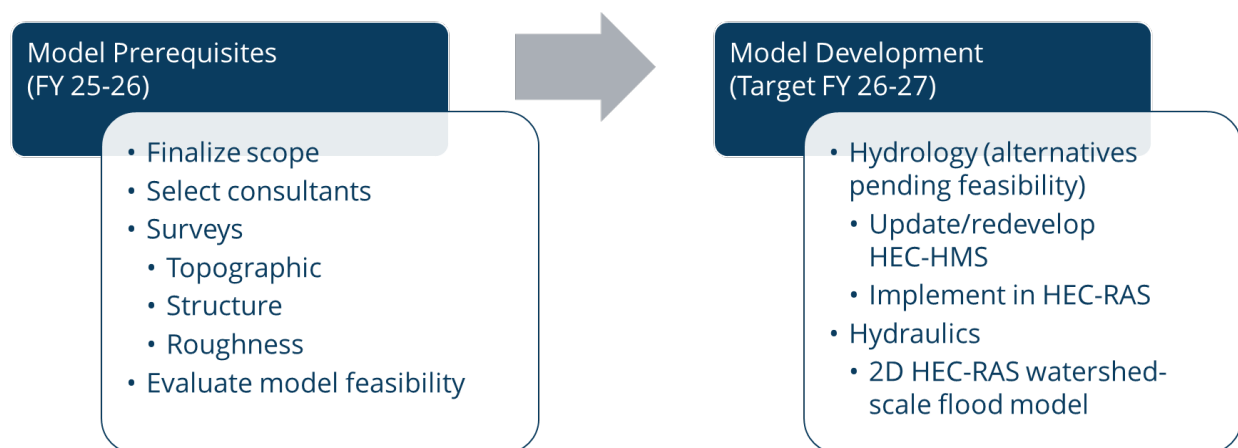
County and City staff have collaborated to identify several key components of the 2003 WMP 'baseline' that require updates. These sections are represented as line items in the table below. The rightmost columns of the table list near-term and future work efforts planned to address each of the components.

2003 WMP Component		Immediately Proposed	Future Work
<b>Problem Identification (Geomorphology / Incision)</b>	Vol I - Sec 3	Surveys: - Topo - Structures - Hydraulic Roughness	Geomorphology Analysis
<b>Environmental Baseline</b>	Vol I - App B	Veg Mgmt Plan (City jurisdiction)	Possible targeted plan for County jurisdiction
<b>Hydrologic &amp; Hydraulic Model(s)</b>	Vol I - App C	Watershed-scale flood model(s)	Possible derivatives of model(s): - Habitat / low-flow - Urban drainage - Flood forecasting
<b>Project Identification</b>	Vol I - App D	n/a	Preliminary Engineering & Restoration Concepts

Staff propose that rather than engage a consultant to immediately begin updates or wholesale redevelopment of the early-2000s hydrologic (HEC-HMS) and hydraulic (HEC-RAS) models, the District first procure adequate fundamental physical data to serve as inputs to the model. Although detailed lidar topographic data collected within the past decade is available from the USGS/FEMA, this terrain data reflects neither major floodplain development projects within City limits nor instream geomorphological changes observed after recent high-flow years. At this meeting, County staff will present a proposed approach to hydraulic surveying, including topographic, structure, and vegetation components, informed by recent efforts in other watersheds.

Discussion of this item during the meeting will include technical considerations identified while scoping the model update, including (1) the WMP models' relationship with FEMA mapping; (2) the feasibility and benefits of County/City cooperation in maintaining a 'living' model; and (3) the potential to unify the hydrologic and hydraulic models using 'rain-on-grid' implementation.

Near-term proposed activities for the WMP model update are outlined in the figure below.



When internal scoping is complete, County staff intend to solicit proposals for planned survey and modeling (engineering) services separately. In accordance with County purchasing policies, any services contract in excess of \$200,000 must be publicly advertised, selected by committee, and awarded by the Board of Supervisors.

Regarding sequencing, the topographic and structure surveys can be conducted immediately. However, staff believe it would be beneficial to select and engage consultant(s) for planned modeling work prior to the initiation of the vegetation/roughness survey, due to the engineering judgment involved. The different types of surveys may be procured using separate firms/multiple contracts depending on provider capabilities and cost-effectiveness.

Currently, \$200,000 is allocated for consultant services for such WMP Update activities in FY25-26. Near-term proposed activities as outlined in the figure above are expected to exceed this amount. Staff intend to initiate procurement of the Topographic and Structure surveys with these allocated funds and provide a budget request for FY26-27 to accommodate other activities. If suitable bids for the Topographic and Structure surveys together exceed the

allocated \$200,000 amount, staff will return to the Advisory Committee for consideration of a mid-year budget adjustment request.

Alternatively, should a Request-for-Proposal (RFP) selection and contract process for modeling (engineering) services complete before July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, a mid-year budget adjustment could be performed when such contract award is considered by the Board of Supervisors. The Advisory Committee will be kept apprised of the procurement process, and staff will request formal recommendation prior to any contract award or budget adjustment requiring Board of Supervisors approval.

## 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: August 13, 2025**

**SUBJECT: Mid-Higuera Bypass Project Updates**

Wallace Group completed final design work in August 2024, and the project was publicly advertised from September 12<sup>th</sup> to October 10<sup>th</sup>. The City held a public bid opening on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

Since June, Souza has begun work in San Luis Obispo Creek. To date, five of the six total stream diversions have been installed as authorized by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. City Biologist Freddy Otte and representatives from SWCA have relocated all wildlife within stream diversion areas prior to diversion installation. Souza has completed all grading and Vegetated Rock Slope Protection placement at the Bianchi Bypass Channel Exit and the South Street Bypass Channel Entrance and Exit. Grading at Bench 1 behind Caltrans Maintenance Yard at the outlet of the South Street Bypass Channel and Bench 2 behind Villas Automotive at the inlet of the South Street Bypass Channel has been completed. Bench 4 grading at Matthews Open space has been started, but work was paused at that location to focus efforts at Bianchi Lane. Hydroseed and erosion control blanket has been installed at Bench 1 and the South Street Bypass Channel.

Work at Bianchi Lane has progressed substantially and is on track to be completed within the dry season window. The Bianchi Lane bridge was demolished and disposed of at an appropriate disposal facility. All cast-in-drilled-hole piles have been completed, and the center pier columns and pier cap have been placed. Abutment 1 on the west bank of the creek is complete, and the Abutment 3 footing is complete, and the abutment and wingwalls are currently being formed on the east bank of the creek. Work to install Vegetated Rock Slope Protection at Bench 3 under the Bianchi Lane Bridge is underway, to be completed before the bridge girders are installed.

Upcoming work will include the installation of the bridge girders and finishing the top deck of the bridge. While the bridge work is being completed, Souza will finish grading work at Bench 4 and the Matthews flow return areas. Finally, the last stream diversion will be installed, and sediment will be removed at Marsh Street bridge. All revegetation and irrigation installation will be completed once grading activities are finished.

**TO:** Zone 9 Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** Freddy Otte, Biologist, City of San Luis Obispo  
**DATE:** August 13, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** Creek Maintenance Updates

No updates for this meeting.

**TO:** Zone 9 Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** Jon Hall, Land Conservancy  
**DATE:** August 13, 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 and continued through 2024. Funding was accomplished through Zone 9 funding matched by \$50,000 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. For our 2025 season, work will focus on surveys and control from this population downstream to Avila Beach. In August we will begin landowner outreach for surveys with work in the creeks occurring Late August into September.