

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 8, 2026** 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 December 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes
3. Waterway Management Plan Updates:
  - a. Vegetation Management Plan
  - b. Model Update
  - c. Stream Gauges
  - d. Open Discussion on WMP Update
4. Consider Endorsing the City's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Workplan Addendum
5. Discuss Budget Planning
6. Ongoing Updates
  - a. Mid-Higuera Bypass Project
  - b. Creek Maintenance
  - c. Arundo Removal
7. 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.*
8. Future agenda items

**Next Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 1:30 PM  
SLO Vets Hall Lounge  
801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



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

**Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, December 10, 2025**

*Agendas and meeting materials 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 Hix, City of San Luis Obispo  
Greg Cruce, City of San Luis Obispo  
Brendan Clark, County of San Luis Obispo  
Joey Steil, County of San Luis Obispo  
Troy Barnhart, County of San Luis Obispo  
Josh Porter, County of San Luis Obispo  
Valerie Huff, Wallace Group  
Alex Murray, Wallace Group  
Sara Sternberg, Creek Lands Conservation

**1. Introductions and roll call**

W. Peterson called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM; a final quorum was established at 1:40 PM.

**2. Approval of April 9, 2025 meeting minutes**

W. Peterson introduced the item and asked for comments from the Committee.

C. Mulholland suggested the following edits: Correct the written date from 2025 to 2024 in section 2, and correct the written month from September 11 to December 11.

<b>MOTION:</b> Approve the April 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes as Amended				
<b>MOTION BY:</b> C. Mulholland				
<b>SECOND BY:</b> B. Nelson				
<b>MOTION CARRIES</b>	AYES: 4	NOES: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0

**3. Approval of August 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

W. Peterson introduced the item and asked for comments from the Committee.

C. Mulholland suggested the following edits: Verify if “schema” is the correct word recorded

in Section 4, and correct the month noted in section 5.a, changing this from July to June.

<b>MOTION:</b> Approve the August 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes as Amended				
<b>MOTION BY:</b> C. Mulholland				
<b>SECOND BY:</b> B. Nelson				
<b>MOTION CARRIES</b>	AYES: 4	NOES: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0

**4. Waterway Management Plan Updates**

a. Vegetation Management Plan

W. Peterson introduced the item and B. Clark provided a brief verbal update.

b. Model Update

T. Barnhart provided verbal updates on the status of model update, including ongoing surveying efforts and procurement, observations from a recent creek walk and tunnel tour with F. Otte, and budget considerations, among other topics.

c. Stream Gauges

B. Clark and T. Barnhart discussed the relocation of the Marsh Street stream gauge site, as well as the progress of the new San Luis Creek stream gauge project in Avila Beach.

T. Barnhart noted that the District is researching equipment, software, and best practices for measuring streamflow data on a countywide scale.

d. Open Discussion on WMP Update

None

**5. Consider Endorsing the City's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Workplan**

W. Peterson introduced the item and B. Nelson provided an overview of the 2026-2027 Zone 9 Budget Request, which detailed current status and future needs, including general creek maintenance and debris removal, creek maintenance in County areas, silt removal, and additional funding for the Mid Higuera Bypass project and WMP update. The Committee asked clarifying questions.

B. Clark clarified how the work identified in the request aligns with the agreement between the City and County and is consistent with its terms.

C. Mulholland commented on the reimbursement agreement included in the staff report and noted that some of the projects and project language in the WMP may need to be updated, given that it has been over 20 years.

C. Mulholland then asked whether staff would bring back an updated project list. B. Clark and B. Nelson responded.

<b>MOTION:</b> Endorse the City's Proposed Annual Workplan Budget Request for FY 2026-27				
<b>MOTION BY:</b> C. Mulholland				
<b>SECOND BY:</b> B. Nelson				
<b>MOTION CARRIES</b>	AYES: 4	NOES: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0

**6. Ongoing Updates**

*Written updates are included in the meeting agenda packet*

a. Mid-Higuera Bypass Project

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

C. Mulholland asked for clarification regarding restoration of the thalweg as detailed in the written update. B. Nelson responded.

b. Creek Maintenance

No verbal updates.

c. Arundo Removal Updates

No verbal updates.

**7. Public comment**

None.

**8. Future agenda items**

None requested.

The next Regular Meeting of the Zone 9 Advisory Committee is scheduled for February 11, 2026, at 1:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 PM.





## Public Works

---

919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3218  
805.781.7200  
[slocity.org](http://slocity.org)

**Date:** March 31, 2026

**To:** Brenden Clark, Water Resources Engineer – County of San Luis Obispo

**From:** Brian Nelson, City Engineer - City of San Luis Obispo  
Freddy Otte, Biologist – City of San Luis Obispo

**Subject:** 2026-2027 Zone 9 Budget Request Addendum

---

Brendan,

City staff would like to increase the amount of funding previously requested for the update of the Waterway Management Plan Work Plan Task to include a new task for FY 2026-2027. The current request is for \$30,000 for consultant assistance in securing permits for a vegetation management program related to improving conveyance in locations where we have seen problems in the past.

After discussing with County staff, City staff would like to move forward with an expansion of flow assessments of key bridges along San Luis Obispo and Stenner Creeks as they come into and flow through the City of San Luis Obispo. The additional funding request would be \$100,000 for consultant surveying services to provide the topographic information needed to develop a new hydraulic model of the creek channel at the bridges that span the creeks. City Public Works staff is already working with a consultant to gather this information for the three bridges along the Mid-Higuera Bypass Project (Marsh, Bianchi and Madonna) so the scope of services would be increased with the new funding requested and subsequent funding requests will be made until all the bridges, and the undercity culvert, have been surveyed.

Please let us know if you have any other questions and we can have a discussion at the Zone 9 meeting should any of the Committee members have questions as well.

Thank you,

Brian Nelson  
City Engineer



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 8, 2026**  
**SUBJECT: Mid-Higuera Bypass Project Updates**

Project construction is now complete, and the 3-year plant establishment period has begun.

**TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee**  
**FROM: Freddy Otte, Biologist, City of San Luis Obispo**  
**DATE: April 8, 2026**  
**SUBJECT: Creek Maintenance Updates**

Creek Inspections have been ongoing during steelhead migration surveys along San Luis Obispo and Stenner Creeks. No major debris jams or obstructions have been found and it appears that the major winter rains are over for this winter. The permitting effort with Althouse and Meade is underway and the team has been out to the Prefumo Arm (from Loso Osos Valley Road down to Laguna Lake), mainstem SLO Creek from Prado to Los Osos Valley Road, and East Fork SLO Creek from Buckley down to the SLO Creek confluence. The survey team has been recording biological resources, vegetation types and other background studies needed for vegetation maintenance permits to be secured from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Central Coast Regional Water Board. These permits will allow the City to perform vegetation management in key areas where we find problems or trees that may be hindering conveyance.

We are also looking to have our Routine Maintenance Agreement with the Central Coast Water Board extended for another 5 years. After completing the mitigation requirements for the previous permit, we have received verbal approval that this permit will be extended to 2030 allowing us to continue working on the 14 pre-identified locations where we have performed maintenance work in the past to prevent the potential for flooding. City staff are looking at 4 maintenance projects in the fall of this year.

**TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee**  
**FROM: Jon Hall, Land Conservancy**  
**DATE: April 8, 2026**  
**SUBJECT: Arundo Removal Updates**

No work was done during this period.