

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, June 10, 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

AGENDA

1. Introductions and Roll Call
2. Approval of April 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes
3. Receive Presentation from Creek Lands Conservation on the San Luis Obispo Creek Resiliency and Rewilding Plan
4. Receive Presentation from City of San Luis Obispo Staff on Zone 9 Funded Creek Projects
5. Waterway Management Plan Updates:
 - a. Vegetation Management Plan
 - b. Model Update
 - c. Stream Gauges
6. Ongoing Updates
 - a. Creek Maintenance
 - b. 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, August 12, 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, April 8, 2026

Agendas and meeting materials can be viewed at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone9>

Members Attending:

Brian Nelson, City Staff (Vice Chair)
Christine Mulholland, City At-Large
Jon Hall, County At-Large
Sara Gault, County At-Large

Non-Voting Members and Guests Attending:

Wyatt Hix, City of San Luis Obispo
Freddy Otte, 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
Alex Murray, Wallace Group
Erin Winett, Cal Poly

1. Introductions and roll call

B. Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. 4 voting Members were present, constituting a quorum.

2. Approval of December 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes

B. Nelson introduced the item and opened the floor for questions or comments from the Committee; there were none.

MOTION: Approve the December 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes as Presented

MOTION BY: C. Mulholland

SECOND BY: B. Nelson

MOTION CARRIES

AYES: 4

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

3. Waterway Management Plan Updates

a. Vegetation Management Plan

B. Nelson introduced the item, and F. Otte presented an update on the Vegetation Management Plan and related activities.

b. Model Update

T. Barnhart, F. Otte, and B. Clark provided updates on the status of the model update and upcoming work activities.

B. Nelson asked whether the modeling would be performed by the consultant or completed in-house. T. Barnhart responded.

C. Mulholland asked whether agreements needed to be in place for the survey work or whether drone airspace clearance could proceed without them since staff would not be physically accessing the property. T. Barnhart responded.

J. Hall asked whether the length of the survey spans the whole watershed or just the downtown area. T. Barnhart responded.

B. Nelson summarized the discussion, noting that the goal is to update the hydraulic model for the creek watershed and use the resulting data to help prioritize future creek maintenance and capital improvement projects. T. Barnhart responded.

B. Nelson noted that, with the completion of the Mid-Higuera Bypass Project, bridge and culvert survey work will also be conducted to provide data for the hydraulic model update.

c. Stream Gauges

B. Clark and T. Barnhart discussed the status of the new San Luis Creek stream gauge project in Avila Beach.

d. Open Discussion on WMP Update

None

4. Consider Endorsing the City's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Workplan Addendum

B. Nelson introduced the item and summarized the City's Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Workplan Addendum, including the request for the Committee to endorse the Addendum as proposed in the staff report. F. Otte commented on the scope of the vegetation management program and the proposed work activities included in the Addendum.

C. Mulholland asked whether raising or replacing the flood-prone bridge on Buckley Road is being considered. T. Barnhart and F. Otte responded.

B. Clark noted that having the request submitted through the City is the most effective approach for implementing the proposed work.

J. Hall asked how the projected costs were developed. B. Nelson and F. Otte responded.

MOTION: Endorse the City's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Workplan Addendum as presented				
MOTION BY: C. Mulholland				
SECOND BY: J. Hall				
MOTION CARRIES	AYES: 4	NOES: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0

5. Discuss Budget Planning

B. Nelson introduced the item, and Committee members and staff discussed the following budget planning topics:

- Ongoing and expanding program scope.
- Long-term budget trends, including the potential for expenditures to exceed revenues.
- Year-to-year budget performance, including operating budget, property tax revenues, and reserve balances.
- Tracking flood control expenditures to help inform future funding requests.
- The percentage of annual expenses attributable to the City's budget request.
- Final accounting and cost breakdowns for the Mid-Higuera Project, including potential categorization by project component (e.g., environmental review, design, and construction).
- Options for establishing reserve funding or procedures to address emergency expenditures, including the timing and process for budget adjustments.
- Opportunities to discuss the use of Zone 9 funds to support capital projects led by the City.
- Providing a mid-year forecast of projects beginning work, followed by a December update on completed work and project progress.

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 completed Mid-Higuera Bypass Project.

b. Creek Maintenance

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

c. Arundo Removal Updates

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

B. Nelson asked if additional budgetary needs are anticipated for the program. J. Hall responded.

7. Public comment

E. Winett commented on ongoing efforts to address flood and drainage concerns at and around Cal Poly, including those resulting from the 2023 storms.

8. Future agenda items

B. Clark asked if an update on the SLO Creek Resiliency & Rewilding Action Plan could be

provided at a future meeting. S. Gault responded.

B. Nelson asked if there is an update on the Avila Beach drainage and flood study project. B. Clark responded.

C. Mulholland commented on the practice of resleeving pipes instead of fully replacing them and asked whether that approach could be considered for this project. T. Barnhart responded.

The next Regular Meeting of the Zone 9 Advisory Committee is scheduled for June 10, 2026, at 1:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:04 PM.

Ongoing Updates

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee
FROM: Freddy Otte, Biologist, City of San Luis Obispo
DATE: June 10, 2026
SUBJECT: Creek Maintenance Updates

The flood control permitting effort with Althouse and Meade is continuing 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.

Our Urban Streams Maintenance Agreement with the Central Coast Water Board was extended and expires in 2030. We will need to apply for a new permit from the Water Board when we apply to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to renew our Routine Maintenance Agreement in 2028, since we will be amending and adding more sites to that permit. This will be a nice change to have both state permits on the same schedule. We are still interested in pursuing a Regional General Permit from the ACOE so all the permitting for these maintenance sites will be covered. 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: June 10, 2026
SUBJECT: Arundo Removal Updates

No new updates for this report.