

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, October 14, 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 June 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes
3. Discuss 2026-27 Winter Season & Preparations
4. Waterway Management Plan:
 - a. Vegetation Management Plan
 - b. Model Update
 - c. Stream Gauges
5. Discuss a Draft Letter to the Board of Supervisors
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, December 2, 2026 at 1:30 PM
SLO Vets Hall Lounge
801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Purpose of the Committee

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.

Zone 9 By-Laws, dated March 1, 2011

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

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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:

Wyatt Banker-Hix, City Staff
Emily Francis, City Council
Christine Mulholland, City At-Large
Jon Hall, County At-Large
Sara Gault, County At-Large

Non-Voting Members and Guests Attending:

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
Ann Fletcher, County of San Luis Obispo
Kellie Fortner, City of San Luis Obispo
Valerie Huff, Wallace Group

1. Introductions and roll call

W. Banker-Hix called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.
5 voting Members were present, constituting a quorum.

2. Approval of April 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes

W. Banker-Hix introduced the item and opened the floor for questions or comments from the Committee; there were none.

MOTION: Approve the April 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes as Presented				
MOTION BY: C. Mulholland				
SECOND BY: W. Banker-Hix				
MOTION CARRIES	AYES: 5	NOES: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0

3. Receive Presentation from Creek Lands Conservation on the San Luis Obispo Creek Resiliency and Rewilding Plan

S. Gault provided a presentation on the Creek Lands Conservation San Luis Obispo Creek Resiliency and Rewilding Plan.

C. Mulholland commented on the Stenner Creek map and asked about the location of the former dam removal site where step pools were constructed, and whether the area is

accessible for visitation. S. Gault responded.

E. Francis asked why access to the Stenner discharge tunnel is closed. S. Gault responded.

J. Hall asked about the two separate Nacimiento and State Water pipelines and whether invasive species have been a concern. S. Gault responded.

C. Mulholland commented on the streamflow map, noting the limited availability of regional environmental data, and asked whether the program could provide value to the WRAC in evaluating regional environmental water demands. B. Clark responded.

J. Hall asked whether minimum flow levels were parameterized for multiple species or only for steelhead. S. Gault responded.

C. Mulholland asked how Salmon Enhancement became Creek Lands Conservation and what factors led to the organization's transition. S. Gault responded.

B. Clark asked whether the Watershed Action Plan will be the final deliverable for the project or if additional deliverables are anticipated. S. Gault responded.

4. Receive Presentation from City of San Luis Obispo Staff on Zone 9 Funded Creek Projects

W. Banker-Hix provided a presentation on the City of San Luis Obispo's Zone 9 funded projects.

T. Barnhart asked whether silt removal activities are performed by City crews or contractors. F. Otte responded.

C. Mulholland commented that silt removed during maintenance activities can have other have beneficial uses and asked what the contractors will do with the material once it is removed. W. Banker-Hix responded.

J. Hall asked whether a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) has been established for sediment in San Luis Obispo Creek. F. Otte responded.

E. Francis asked about the anticipated timeline for completion of the City's projects. F. Otte responded.

T. Barnhart shared design plans and specifications related to the Cuesta Tunnel sections.

5. Waterway Management Plan Updates

a. Vegetation Management Plan

F. Otte provided verbal updates on the Vegetation Management Plan and related activities.

b. Model Update

T. Barnhart provided verbal updates on the status of the model update and upcoming work activities.

c. Stream Gauges

T. Barnhart provided verbal updates on the status of the new San Luis Creek stream gauge project in Avila Beach.

6. Ongoing Updates

Written updates are included in the meeting agenda packet

a. Creek Maintenance

F. Otte summarized the written updates and discussed upcoming creek maintenance activities.

b. Arundo Removal Updates

J. Hall summarized the written updates and discussed upcoming Arundo removal efforts.

7. Public comment

None.

8. Future agenda items

None noted.

The next Regular Meeting of the Zone 9 Advisory Committee is scheduled for August 12, 2026, at 1:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45 PM.

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ZONE 9 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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**San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and
Water Conservation District**
Flood Control Zone 9
Advisory Committee

Wayne Peterson
Chairperson

Brian Nelson
Vice Chairperson

Brendan Clark
Secretary

County Government Center, Room 206
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

PH (805) 781-5252
FX (805) 781-1229

MEMBERS

Emily Francis
City Council
Brian Nelson
City Staff
Christine Mulholland
City At-Large
Jonathan Hall
County At-Large #1
Wayne Peterson
County At-Large #2
Sara Gault
County At-Large #3

DATE TBD

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo Flood Control and Water Conservation District

County Government Center

1055 Monterey Street,

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Chairperson Paulding,

The members of Flood Control Zone 9 (Zone 9) Advisory Committee are appointed by the Board to advise them on issues related to the operation of the Zone. The 6 person Committee is comprised of 3 City members and 3 County members, and it's staffed by the County. Zone 9, San Luis Obispo Creek watershed, has existed since the 1970's when it was established by a vote of the residents of the entire watershed. The need for a special flood control zone became apparent after two very large damaging flood events in 1969 and 1973. The community was so alarmed by the events that they voted to establish the zone and agreed to be taxed to support it.

The purpose of the Zone is to gather and analyze data to recognize when and where flooding may occur and to identify projects and programs to maintain creek capacity and mitigate flood events where possible.

The Zone also has established several rain and stream gages, maintained a collaborative relationship with the City, and operates with an adopted Waterway Management Plan (2004) that includes creek maintenance and development standards. Two of our most recent projects include establishing a new stream gage at the San Luis Bay Drive bridge in near Avila Beach, with the United States Geologic Survey (USGS). And, the Zone was instrumental in supporting the City's construction of the Mid-Higuera Bypass Project, a significant stream flow improvement project on San Luis Obispo Creek between Marsh Street and Madonna Road in the City of San Luis Obispo.

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Zone 9 By-Laws dated March 1, 2011



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The committee has a vision of improving our data gathering system and pairing it with an updated model that would provide real-time information during a rainfall event. Our current model was last updated in 2007. We believe that such a model will allow our public safety staff to provide proactive assistance to the public during an emergency. In addition to emergency support, such a model will also help County and City staff identify cost effective solutions to problems and therefore help guide budgets.

It is our experience that the staff of Zone 9, primarily at the County, are limited in prioritizing Zone 9 projects and programs compared to other countywide efforts. Flooding only becomes an issue when it occurs. This situation makes it difficult to get our proactive goals addressed in a timely manner. Please note the Zone has its own source of money; we do not compete with other parts of the government. Our reason for writing the Board is to ask you to direct your staff to prioritize development of our next generation model and waterway management projects and programs.

Sincerely,

Wayne Peterson, Chair
Flood Control Zone 9 Advisory Committee

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Zone 9 By-Laws dated March 1, 2011

Ongoing Updates

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee
FROM: Freddy Otte, Biologist, City of San Luis Obispo
DATE: October 14, 2026
SUBJECT: Creek Maintenance Updates

We are still working on the flood control permitting effort with Althouse and Meade is continuing and the team has been out to the Prefumo Arm (from Los 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 recorded 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. A CEQA document will be produced as part of this project to support the permitting effort.

Pre-activity coordination with City crews is continuing to discuss El Nino and who is looking out for what. We are still meeting monthly through winter to ensure we have eyes on any hot spots and pinch points so if there should be problems that develop during storms, we know what to expect and how to respond. City staff have completed 4 silt removal maintenance projects across the City and we have started inspections on City owned properties and where the City holds drainage easements to document threats before the winter rains begin.

TO: Zone 9 Advisory Committee
FROM: Jon Hall, Land Conservancy
DATE: June 10, 2026
SUBJECT: Arundo Removal Updates

Zone 9 and USFWS Partners Grant Program funding allowed for large scale removal of *Arundo donax* stands to begin in See Canyon. Stands were removed September 15-18, 2026 via mechanical removal and biomass was removed from the site. Roughly 0.6 acres of stands were cleared this season and follow-up herbicide treatments will be completed in October. LCSLO is continuing landowner outreach and education to complete removal in See Canyon in 2027.

Surveys and treatments of other known small populations throughout San Luis Obispo Creek will take place this fall. We are in the process of completing follow up herbicide treatments on known small Arundo patches in SLO Creek and several large stands (Los Osos Valley Rd/Hwy 100 exit and behind Souza Construction/Wallace Group Engineering). Other stands of Arundo have been identified in small tributaries of SLO Creek. LCSLO is working expanding survey efforts and establishing more landowner relationships to remove the Arundo in future seasons.

