

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

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, August 13, 2025

*Agendas and meeting materials can be viewed at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone9>
A recording of this meeting can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1QpyZNgo88>*

Members Attending:

Brian Nelson, City Staff (Vice Chair)
Emily Francis, City Council
Christine Mulholland, City At-Large
Stephnie Wald, County At-Large

Non-Voting Members and Guests Attending:

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
Gabriel Munoz-Morris, City of San Luis Obispo
Dan Garson, Trumark Homes
Scott Smith, Stillwater Sciences
Rachel Hawthorne, Wallace Group
Sara Sternberg, Creek Lands Conservation

1. Introductions and roll call

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

2. Approval of April 9, 2025 meeting minutes

B. Nelson introduces the item and asks for comments from the Committee.

The Committee suggests bringing this item back at a future meeting since only two Members present had been in attendance during the April 9th meeting.

This item will be agendized for the next regular meeting.

3. Receive and file District Staff Memorandum “Updates to East Fork SLO Creek Working Hydraulic Model”

B. Nelson introduces the item, and T. Barnhart presents on the memorandum of updates to the East Fork SLO Creek Working Hydraulic Model. Committee Members and attendees ask clarifying questions throughout the presentation, in addition to the following.

C. Mulholland asks if staff were aware of bulldozer activity in the creek and what the work entailed. B. Nelson and T. Barnhart responds.

4. Waterway Management Plan

a. Receive an update from Staff on the WMP Model Update and Provide Feedback

B. Nelson introduces the item, and B. Clark and T. Barnhart present on the Waterway Management Plan Model Update. Committee Members and attendees ask clarifying questions throughout the presentation, in addition to the following.

C. Mulholland asks whether staff will be reviewing the full plan and project lists rather than only specific components, and whether sections of the document will be removed or added as part of that process. T. Barnhart responds.

S. Wald comments on the iterative nature of the components and how the proposed work appears to be organized in buckets/categories, noting that a table of contents for the document would be helpful. B. Clark responds.

C. Mulholland asks if a new map of the entire watershed would be created after the proposed topo surveys are completed. T. Barnhart responds.

S. Wald comments on recently completed survey data from Creek Lands and other agencies that is available for reference. T. Barnhart responds.

S. Wald comments on vegetation roughness modeling and how it can help inform and improve the management approach. T. Barnhart responds.

E. Francis asks whether the modeling also takes into account rock substrate or other manmade impediments. T. Barnhart responds.

B. Nelson asks whether the underlying topography of the channel that dictates capacity is manually surveyed in addition to LiDAR. T. Barnhart responds.

S. Wald asks if any consultants are using AI for their watershed modeling work. T. Barnhart responds.

C. Mulholland asks if there is a FEMA office located in our region. T. Barnhart responds.

S. Wald comments on the SLO Creek Resiliency and Rewilding Project and Action Plan.
B. Clark responds.

b. Stream Gauges (Avila, Marsh)

B. Nelson introduces the item, and B. Clark provides verbal updates on funding and planning efforts for the Marsh Street gauge, as well as a new gauge planned for San Luis

Bay Drive near Avila. The new gauge is grant-funded and is scheduled to be installed by the USGS next year.

c. Open Discussion on WMP Update

No further questions/comments on the WMP.

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 comments on the June Zone 9 meeting, which was held at the project location, noting she was impressed by the large scope of the project, the contractor's implementation of the work, and the overall progress being made.

b. Creek Maintenance

No verbal updates.

c. Arundo Removal Updates

No verbal updates.

6. Public comment

None.

7. Future agenda items

B. Clark requests a Committee update/presentation on the Creek Lands Resiliency and Rewilding Project Action Plan.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:42 PM.