

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
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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.