

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.