

FINAL MINUTES

SLO County Flood Control Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 20, 2011 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Oceano Community Services District Meeting Room

1) Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

Committee members present:

Gary Kobara (Chair), Glenda Guiton, Charlie Lackie, Tom Zehnder, Vicki Cardoza.

Agency/Organization representatives:

Nola Engelskirger/SLO County Public Works; Nicole Smith/CSLRCD;
Ronnie Glick/State Parks; Felma Hurdle/OCSD

Community members:

None

2) Public Comment

None

3) Announcements

None

4) Review and approval of minutes

The minutes of the August 16 meetings were approved as written.

5) County Public Works Update

County Public Works would like to hold monthly Advisory Committee meetings through December to allow for public comment on storm preparations and long term plan.

Nola reported the following:

- A) Los Berros inlet structure rubber duck bills will be replaced back to flap gate type check valves. The metal flap gates have been ordered. These flap gates are not manual. They will operate hydraulically and it will be automatic as water levels rise. The regular inspection of these structures will be added to the County's list of maintenance activities. Permits to install the flap gates have been in the process since spring 2011, but the County is still waiting on an Army Corps of Engineers permit. The County is working hard and using all their means to finalize that permit and start installation before the rains.

Victoria commented that the Los Berros channel and lagoon water levels are high for this time of year. She also said the beaver and dam are still in the channel and should be removed. Nola recognized the issues with the beaver and said that beaver removal was identified in the environmental report for the long term WMP project. If permits were obtained, the beaver and dam removal could be dealt with in the future project.

- B) Channel Maintenance and Vegetation Thinning

KD Janni continues to work on vegetation thinning and has completed the section below the 22nd St. bridge.

Victoria asked why the blackberries and willow saplings were not removed. Nola responded that the project permits do not address understory vegetation, and this was not included in the contactors scope of work. Gary has seen some landowners leave the blackberries to help hold the soil in place and reduce erosion. However, it also decreases the capacity of the channel because they are so thick.

Nola said that after the first pass of the entire channel by the contractor certain areas like the south levee might be revisited for additional work. She would work with County Environmental Dept and the RCD to determine if the south levee area could be thinned more.

C) 2011-12 Storm Preparations

There was a Board of Supervisors meeting last week which provided an project update on storm preparations. The Board requested that Public Works return on October 25th to ask for funding for the project because the environmental alternatives were not yet complete.

1. AG Creek Levee Protection

The levee would be raised almost 1 foot with red rock from around Bejo Seed downstream toward Victoria's property. Nola also said that if a very large amount of water over 2,000 cfs came down the channel it would likely jump the levee just below Highway 1 and go through the mobile home park. The County is looking to build a berm around the Rappe property to protect those homes.

2. Oceano Lagoon Flood Mitigation Alternatives

Environmental documents are being prepared along with the collection of background biological, bathymetric and hydrology information to support project decisions. The RFP for the environmental analysis of the lagoon is moving forward. The County anticipates that in order to implement the flood mitigation measures being discussed this year will require emergency permits. The proposed actions include sand bar management as well as pumps and pipelines to alleviate flood levels in the lagoon. The long range goal is to develop a plan with reviewed alternatives and set criteria to identify when and how a particular action is undertaken. This long term plan will take several years to finalize.

Public Works is looking at both Meadow Creek and Arroyo Grande Creek equally.

Tom asked if the County was working on an emergency plan for flooding. Nola responded that she has been working to update a response plan. The weather forecast is looking similar to last years. Lake Lopez is at about 95% capacity. If it spills it could release up to 1,500-2,000 cfs into the creek. The County has two continuous monitoring stations at the 22nd St bridge and Valley Road that provide flow information. Office of Emergency Services is conducting an emergency training next week for responders (Sheriff, Fire, Public Works).

Zone 1/1A does not have the funds to pay for any of these projects because of the cost of these projects and the limited revenue that Zone 1/1A collects is used for annual maintenance and implementation of the Waterway Management Program. Public Works will be requesting funding for the immediate needs on October 25. To meet Zone 1/1A's

long term needs, Public Works will be requesting assistance from the Flood Control District's General Fund. The Board of Supervisors will be reviewing the flood control district's overall needs sometime in January or February. The Zone annual brings in \$400,000.

D) WMP, Alternative 3a Project

Zone 1/1A was awarded a grant for \$2.2 million from Prop 84 funds and recently DWR has recommended awarding \$2.8 million from Prop 1E grant program. The money will be used to implement the Waterway Management Program Project which includes vegetation and sediment removal to establish a high flow channel. Approximately 22,000 cubic yards will be removed outside of a ten foot vegetation buffer. The high flow channel will then be revegetated with low profile wetland species. The exact types of plants has not been determined. It is also not determined yet where the sediment will go. When the project is complete there will be on-going monitoring to maintain the channel capacity and keep sediment moving through the channel instead of settling out. The total project is estimated to cost \$5.6 million.

The County is waiting for final approval of the Prop 1E grant funds, and is looking into other grant funding from CalEMA as well as low interest loan from the USDA to finance the matching portion of the awarded grant programs.

Permit applications for the project have been submitted to the resource agencies. The Coastal Commission is reviewing an application for the portion of the project in the Commission's original jurisdiction.

Ronnie asked if the County had determined the mitigation for riparian impacts of the project. Nola responded that the County would like all mitigation to occur in the flood control channel and would include placement of large wood debris and revegetation with wetland plants. Nola is looking to other areas like Sonoma who are managing flood control channels with similar challenges.

It was noted that Meadow Creek area residents do not have a self-imposed tax base (218 voted assessment) like the Arroyo Grande Creek area residents. Gary thought the CSD and residents may want to look into that path.

6) Open Forum

None

7) Set dates for upcoming meetings

Next regular meeting: October 18, 2011 and November 15, 2011.

Adjourn.

Websites:

SLO County Zone 1/1A website: www.slocountywater.org and follow the links to Zone 1/1A.

Coastal San Luis RCD Zone 1/1A website: <http://www.coastalrcd.org/Zone1-1A.html>

Acronyms:

CSLRCD: Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
OCSD: Ocean Community Services District
CCSE: Central Coast Salmon Enhancement
CCCs: California Conservation Corps