

**FLOOD ZONE 1 ADVISORY BOARD**

**JUNE 24, 2024**

**STAFF REPORT**

**Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 8, 2024**

The advisory board is being asked to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2024 meeting. The draft minutes can be found here by clicking the “minutes” tab:

<https://marinflooddistrict.org/meetings/zone-1-advisory-board-meeting-february-8-2024/#/tab-minutes>

**Recommended Action:** Approve minutes.

**Item 2. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda**

Comments will be heard for items not on the agenda (limited to three minutes per speaker).

**Item 3. Novato Creek Bypass Study (formerly called Arroyo Avichi-Baccaglio-Scottsdale-Lynwood Complex or ABSL Flood Study)**

**Background:** A limited evaluation of potential flood reduction benefits for potential projects at Scottsdale Pond was included in the Novato Watershed Study completed in 2016. In November 2020 staff recommended that a more detailed analysis of Novato Creek and the bypass system from Arroyo Avichi through Baccaglio Basin, Scottsdale pond and marsh, and Lynwood Basin be performed leveraging the City of Novato stormdrain model and the new Countywide LiDAR surface data. Below is a summary of elements included in the Novato Creek Bypass study based on feedback from the advisory board at the November 2020 meeting and the Old Town Novato Flood Group:

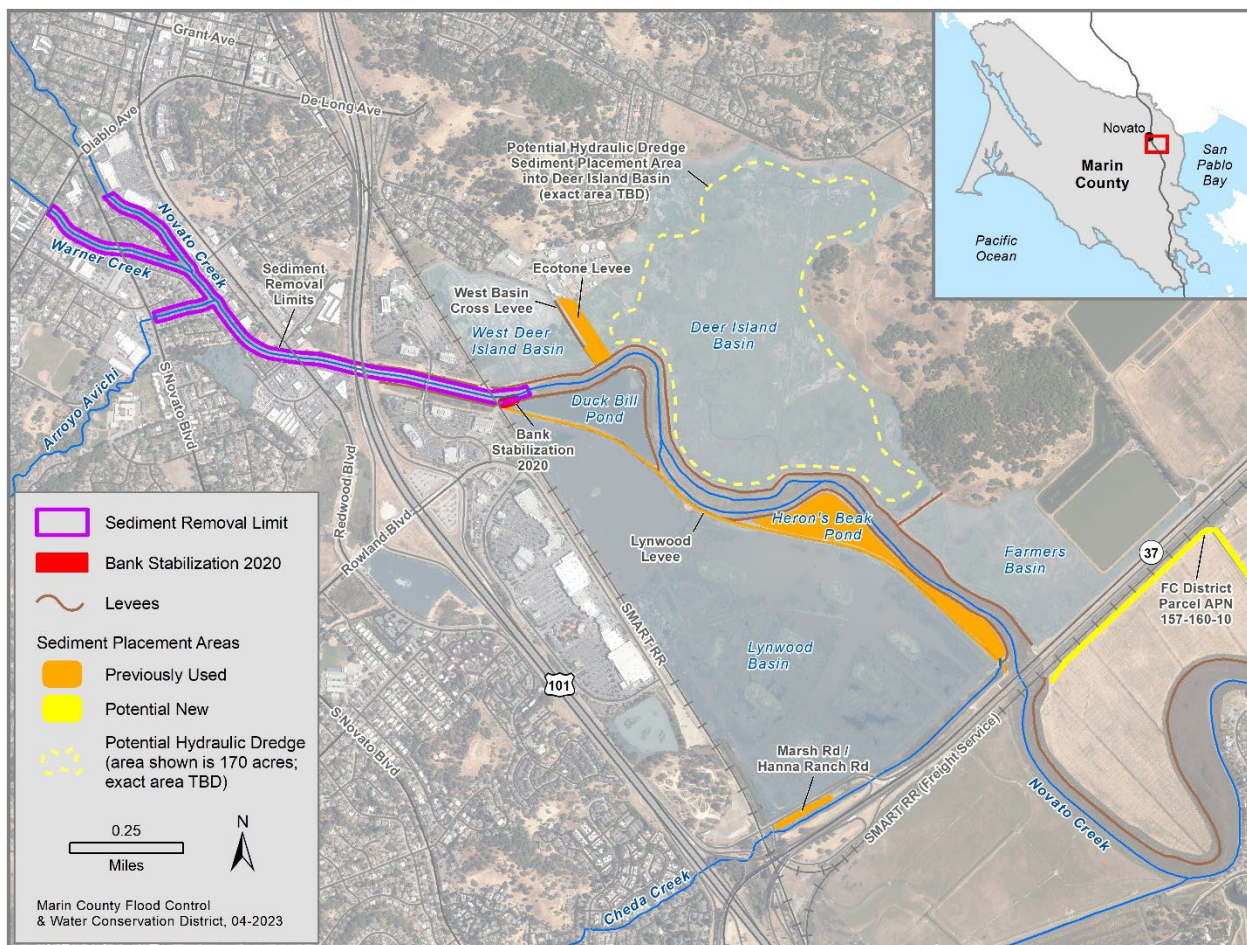
- Identify opportunities along Novato and lower Warner creeks and through the bypass system for new flow gates, perimeter barriers, pump stations, and increased stormwater detention that improve flood mitigation in downtown Novato and Nave Gardens. This includes alternatives to existing systems (i.e. move pump station from Lynwood Basin to Scottsdale). This analysis is key because of the large potential costs for repairing the Lynwood Pump Station in its current location (estimated at \$3M) means that the alternatives evaluation within this scope are important to decide on next steps for this pump station.
- Evaluate potential project alternative benefits for smaller flood events (e.g. 10-year event) than the 50-year.
- Evaluation of the trade-offs between projects that benefit Nave Gardens/South Novato Blvd and their impacts elsewhere.
- Review with City potential storm drain improvements that may be more effective in conjunction with potential Zone 1 projects in the study, and any opportunities for flow gates in City’s road right of way.

**Status Update:** A brief summary of the major findings of the study and recommendations for follow-up work options will be presented to the AB at this meeting. The AB can start to discuss potential next steps for further study and project development based on this analysis. After the meeting, a final report will be posted on <https://marinflooddistrict.org/zone-1-reports-and-documents/>.

#### **Item 4. Proposed Budget Adjustment for FY 2024-25**

**Background:** At the February 2024 AB meeting, District staff told the Flood Zone 1 Advisory Board that there was a recent increase in invasive plant species proliferation and aggressiveness in Novato Creek and its former (diked) baylands. Addressing this issue was not part of the baseline budget for Fiscal year 2024-25 so a budget adjustment is needed to cover the cost.

Prior permits for Novato Creek Maintenance Sediment Removal which allowed us to place dredge spoils in the Deer Island Basin Wetlands Complex, require that we maintain certain aggressive invasive plant species at below 20% of all plants growing in the areas where soil was placed or disturbed. It is important to comply with these permit conditions in order to obtain permits for another sediment removal operation planned in 2025, as well as the first phase of the Restoration of the Deer Island Basin Wetland Complex, for which we have been awarded grant funding.



**Figure 1. Map of Novato Creek showing sediment removal limits and locations for sediment reuse**

**Status Update:** In May a Request for Proposals was released for landscape-scale invasive species management services. These services are primarily to be focused on the portion of Heron's Beak Pond and the Ecotone Levee in Deer Island Basin (both shaded orange in Figure 1) where 2020 dredge spoils were beneficially reused in preparation for the Deer Island Basin Wetland Complex restoration project. Several firms indicated an interest in this work but only one firm submitted a proposal. Based on their proposal the recommended contract budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 is \$200,000. This will cover work this late summer/fall. Depending on how the plants respond to this initial treatment we may amend the contract later to add an additional treatment in the spring or summer of 2025. We would return to your board with a specific recommendation for an amendment at a later date.

Additionally, the District worked with the Conservation Corps North Bay to get a \$360,000 grant for limited invasive species management in 2024 (12 weeks of work) and 2025 (11 weeks of work). This work will be focused on the portions of the riparian areas of Novato Creek and its tributaries where sediment removal takes place (the funding covers approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre)

**Recommended Action:** Recommend the District Board of Supervisors increase the services and supplies budget in Zone 1 by \$200,000 for management of invasive species in key areas to protect native habitat and maintain permit compliance.

#### **Item 5. Novato Baylands Strategy Plan Preparation (Action Item)**

**Background:** At the prior meeting your board recommended a budget of \$120,000 of Zone 1 funds to cover the cost of adding modeling of Pacheco Pond to the scope of work for ESA's Novato Baylands Strategy Plan Preparation contract. This contract was approved by the District Board of Supervisors on June 4, 2024. See the February 8, 2024 staff report for more information on this project.

**Status:** Subsequent information from North Marin Water District and representatives of the Los Robles Mobile Home park upstream of Pacheco Pond has led staff to recommend also modeling portions of the creek upstream of the pond. This would increase the scope and cost of the contract with ESA, but would provide valuable information related to the causes of flooding and impacts of potential projects in Pacheco Pond on the neighbors upstream.

**Recommended Action:** Recommend the District Board of Supervisors increase the services and supplies budget in Zone 1 by \$20,000 to add surveying and modeling of the creek system upstream of Pacheco Pond to better assess flood impacts.

#### **Item 6. Schedule Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2025. Special meetings will be held for project needs.