

Marin City Stormwater Plan | Task Force Meeting 4

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 | 4:30 - 6:30 PM | Via Zoom & In-Person



In-Person Attendees:

Task Force Members Affiliation
Marin City Homeowners Association
Marin City Climate Resilience & Health Justice
Marilyn Mackel, Community Member
Marin City Health and Wellness
Marin City Climate Resilience & Health Justice
Performing Stars (2)

Agency Attendees Affiliation
County of Marin
United States Army Corps of Engineers (2)
Marin County HHS

Project Team	Affiliation
June Farmer	Circlepoint, Community Coordinator for Marin City Stormwater Plan
Judd Goodman	County of Marin
Tony Swan	County of Marin
Berenice Davidson	County of Marin
Tracy Clay	County of Marin
Robin Lee	Schaaf & Wheeler

Zoom Attendees:

Task Force Members Affiliation
Kappas Marina
Marin City Community Development Corporation
Flood Zone 3 Advisory Board
Marin County Office of Equity
Marilyn Mackel, Community Member
Parks Conservancy

Agency Attendees Affiliation
Caltrans
Caltrans D4 Water Quality

Project Team	Affiliation
Susan Harden	Circlepoint, Facilitator
Tracy Highwart	Circlepoint, Note Taker
Patti Ransdell	Circlepoint, Project Manager
Hannah Lee	Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Invited but did not Attend Task Force Meeting #4:

Task Force Members Affiliation



Coast Miwok Tribal Council of Marin
Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
Gateway Shopping Center / Gerrity Group
GGNPC, ONE TAM
Golden Gate Village Resident Council
Floating Homes Association
Hannah Project
Hope Housing
Isoji Building Community from Within
Marin City Community Services District Board
Marin City CSD
Marin City Health and Wellness
Marin City Ministerial Alliance
Marin City People's Plan
Marin Housing Authority
ONE TAM
Sausalito-Marin City School District
Upper Watershed Homeowner
Waldo Point Harbormaster

The purpose of the summary is to provide a high-level overview of the key questions and comments that arose during the Task Force meeting.

I. Welcome and Introductions

June Farmer, Marin City Community Coordinator and Marin City Resident, welcomed the Task Force members to the fourth Task Force Meeting, the first hybrid meeting (allowing for in-person and virtual attendance). June explained the community outreach being implemented (pop-ups, and surveys) and the collateral (flyers, door hangars, etc.) created to inform the community about the project. June asks the in-person audience to fill out the 9-question survey and informed them about the comment cards available to them, with questions being answered at the end of the presentation. June notes that although this meeting is designed to hear from the Task Force members, there were a few community members in attendance, and their participation will be limited to comment card questions as time allows. She then introduced the technical team working on the project, including herself and the following:

- Judd Goodman, Project Manager, County of Marin
- Tony Swan, In Person Coordinator, County of Marin
- Susan Harden, Meeting Facilitator, Circlepoint
- Robin Lee, Project Manager, Schaaf & Wheeler
- Patti Ransdell, Project Manager, Circlepoint

Tony Swan, Flood Control Senior Program Coordinator, County of Marin, introduced himself and noted he will be facilitating the in-person portion of the hybrid meeting. His goal is for the meeting



to be respectful and make sure everyone's voice is heard. He noted that the team is striving for inclusivity by meeting the community where they are, such as providing multiple ways to participate.

Susan Harden, Circlepoint facilitator, reiterated the respectful nature of the meeting and encouraged attendees to raise their hands or use comment cards if they are in-person, and raise their hand and use the Zoom chat feature for questions if they've joined online. She reviewed the ground rules for the meeting, including:

- Striving to create a collaborative, problem-solving environment
- Using common conversational courtesies
- Valuing all ideas and points of view
- Striving to be concise
- Thinking innovatively and welcoming new ideas
- Having conversations that are forward-focused
- Giving equal opportunities for participation
- Avoiding ascribing motives for the opinions expressed by others
- Avoiding adopting right-wrong paradigms

The County of Marin Project Manager, Judd Goodman, discussed the meeting's purpose to review criteria and weighting for project concepts, review the draft scores of proposed concepts to mitigate flooding which came from initial community input and technical analysis, and to gather input and answer questions. He also reviewed the agenda.

Announcements:

Ariel Espiritu Santo, Assistant County Executive, County of Marin briefly discussed the Sea Level Rise Governance Project which will look at how the county can respond to and adapt to sea level rise. Rather than individual projects, the governance structure will recommend an entity that would have authority over staff, money, decision making, project implementation, etc. based on what communities and agencies need. More information will be brought back to the Marin City Stormwater Plan Task Force as the project progresses and stakeholder feedback is sought. The project is kicking off and feedback is welcome. A handout was posted to the Zoom chat which includes an email address if there are questions. This handout is attached to the Task Force Meeting #4 Summary as Appendix 1.

Jessica Ludy and Lexi Karon, from the US Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, provided an update of the Marin City Community Services District's Flood Emergency Action Plan. A second phase of the project has begun which focuses on members of the community with disabilities, chronic illness or other access or functional needs. A workshop is being planned for the first week of August to bring together service providers, emergency responders, health care workers, public health, etc. to collaborate, build relationships and identify gaps in the emergency planning processes to ensure the needs of everyone are met.

II. Project Recap – County



Judd Goodman, County of Marin Project Manager, provided a recap of past flooding and actions. He noted that the 2017-2018 drainage study came from the systemic flooding that has occurred in Marin City and resulted in grant funding for design projects that are being designed now, namely the pond pump station project that will be discussed by Robin. Judd discussed how over the last decade, two drainage studies have been conducted and how those studies are being combined into the current project, the Marin City Stormwater Plan. He reviewed the purpose of the stormwater plan and noted that the plan will ultimately include a list of improvement projects. He reiterated that it will be essential for the community to support the projects the flood control district will implement.

Judd reviewed the timeline of the project and the community outreach efforts to date. He acknowledged that it has been a while since the Task Force has met and there will be a refresher on the background of the study. He reviewed the projected timeline and showed that the intent is to complete the project in Fall 2024.

Judd reviewed the work plan elements and showed that the following have been completed:

- Collect Ideas/data
- Modify model
- Analyze
- Recommend

Projects are now being “prioritized” to be included in , the Marin City Stormwater Plan document. Judd noted that the project concepts have come from multiple sources, including The People’s Plan, the technical study conducted, and the community itself.

Judd discussed how ownership of the storm drain system plays a role in the implementation of projects. Much collaboration is needed with other agencies to implement projects, as less than 30% of the storm drains are owned by the county.

Judd reviewed a map of the upper and lower watershed in Marin City, as delineated by Schaaf & Wheeler, noting the outlet of the watershed is Richardson Bay. He noted the upper watershed is mostly steep terrain and hills that generate debris and sediment into the storm drain system. The lower watershed is naturally tidal marsh, which is flat, and as such susceptible to flooding. He explained the stormwater issues inherent in both sections of the watershed. The lower watershed experiences regional flooding issues from sea level rise, the detention pond and other factor, while the upper watershed experiences localized drainage issues from debris flows and pipes that are broken causing localized flooding.

Judd reviewed the community outreach events undertaken by the project team to get the word out on the stormwater plan and discussed upcoming events. He noted that survey responses doubled as a result of Tony Swan and June Farmer’s attendance at the recent Emergency Preparedness event. There will be two more community events in June where in-person surveys will be filled out by the community.

A community issues map was shown, and Judd thanked the community for meeting with the project team to identify flooding issues in the city.



III. Analysis – Schaaf & Wheeler

Schaaf & Wheeler’s Project Manager, Robin Lee, reviewed the analysis that has taken place. She reiterated the current Stormwater Plan being developed builds off work that was done in the 2017-2018 drainage study which developed a model in the Integrated Catchment Modeling software (ICM) of open channels and pipe (closed) conduits. To develop the new Stormwater Plan, the model was updated to include smaller pipes and incorporated more detailed topography through the use of LIDAR (Light Detecting and Ranging, a remote sensing method that examines surfaces in detail). Robin noted the consultant currently designing the pond pump station is working in the same model and is providing the Stormwater Plan team with real time controls of what the pump operation will look like. These updates have allowed the Stormwater Plan team to identify other concepts to convey stormwater through Marin City.

Robin explained that the design criteria is based on local methodology from Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. She discussed design criteria used in the past, and how they’re used as the Basis of Design for these concepts, with updates based on climate change and sea level rise.

Robin reviewed proposed projects funded by a grant from the 2017-2018 drainage study. The project is a combination of installing a permanent floodwall in place of what is currently referred to as the “muscle wall”, upsizing a segment of pipe through the shopping center, and a permanent pump station. The project is funded for design, and construction is anticipated in 2026.

There was a question from the in-person audience on the height of the flood wall. Robin indicated the top of the wall is elevation 11 or 12 feet. This was later clarified that the height above ground level would only be around 3 feet.

Robin responded to a question from the in-person audience that the grant funded project just discussed is The Marin City Flood Reduction Project and the county has a web page for the project.

Robin showed the flood risk reduction results for a 10-year, Mean Higher High Water (MHHW), 24-hr storm event once the Marin City Flood Reduction Project is constructed. She explained that the project team is using the projected flood reduction from the Marin City Flood Reduction Project as their baseline so the projects being proposed for the Stormwater Plan work in conjunction with the pond pump station, wall and upsized pipe. Robin noted the project concepts being recommended in the Stormwater Plan improve the conveyance of water ponding at both Drake and Donahue intersections.

IV. Improvement Concepts – Schaaf & Wheeler

Robin discussed the type of improvement concepts being recommended. These concepts were also presented at the community meeting. Improvements in the lower watershed would increase conveyance capacity, either through upsizing pipes, bypass, or adding detention. The upper watershed project concepts are related to maintenance, repair, and hillside stabilization.

The recommended flood protection concepts in the lower watershed shared were:

- Drake Pipe Upsize and Increase Inlet Capacity



- Bypasses:
 - Donahue Full Bypass
 - Drake Partial Bypass to Pond
 - Drake Partial Bypass to Bay
- Drake and Donahue Street Raising
- Drake Watershed Detention
- New Outfall to Richardson Bay
- Maintenance and Repair

Robin noted that green strategies were being recommended in conjunction with the flood protection projects to tackle the water quality aspect of stormwater. Green strategies might include:

- Bioretention
- Rain Gardens
- Tree Boxes
- Pervious Pavement
- Curb cuts

Robin noted that the construction of the conveyance improvements, such as upsizing underground pipes, is a perfect opportunity to add green strategies.

The recommended concepts in the upper watershed shared included:

- Improve Trash Racks
- Increase Inlet Capacity
- Connect Hillside Drainage Pipes
- Headwater Inlet Sedimentation Basins
- Maintenance and Repair!
- Hillside Management

Robin noted green strategies for the upper watershed that, again, could be built in conjunction with the recommended project conveyance concepts. Green strategies for the upper watershed include:

- Eureka Pacheco ditch – vegetate and add capacity to the existing concrete lined ditch
- Dispersed Rain Gardens
- Waldo Court – increase inlet capacities

Robin discussed that the project team has broken the upper watershed into three areas based on where most issues were noted during the community mapping exercise:

- Burgess and Phillips/Drake Staircase
- Eureka/Pacheco Ditch
- Hillside Drainage /Cole Drive

Robin noted that the proposed upper watershed projects are centered on keeping debris and sediment flow from clogging the downstream pipes and inlets. She also noted that hillside management opportunities would need to be coordinated with the owner of the hillsides, Golden Gate National Recreational Area.



Robin paused to take questions or thoughts on the analysis presented and the improvement concepts from the Task Force. The following input was provided:

- There was a question regarding the new proposed outfalls into Richardson Bay, and whether they would be away from the houseboats. The project team indicated that one of the proposed new outfalls would be on the Phillips Dr. side of the pond, away from the houseboats. The location for the new proposed outfall from the pond is limited due to the location. Both outfalls will need to be coordinated with Caltrans as they will go under the freeway. The project team acknowledged that they had heard the concern regarding the outfall being close to the houseboats. That input was directly related to the new Phillips Dr. outfall concept. Additionally, it was noted that the new proposed Phillips Dr. outfall would cut the output of the current outfall in half.
- The houseboat/floating homes community has concerns regarding being affected by the new outfalls as currently there is a lot of erosion. The project team explained the daily tidal flushing of the pond carves out channels close to the houseboats. The project reiterated that the new proposed Phillips Dr. outfall provides opportunity to alleviate the current output from the current outfall which is close to the houseboat/floating homes community.
- Susan Harden noted that there was a question in the online chat regarding the aforementioned ownership of Marin City infrastructure and how the county will manage agreements with the agencies that own the infrastructure. The project team noted that to have this Stormwater Plan be comprehensive, they needed to look at more than the 30% of the infrastructure owned by the County. With that understanding, agencies and property owners that would need to be coordinated with were invited to be Task Force Members to facilitate important collaboration between the various agencies.
- There was concern expressed that the door hangars are incomplete. The commenter believed the community needs to see the models to complete the survey.
 - The project team noted that they made the content available to the public through holding open office hours for interested parties to come talk to the County about the proposed concept projects. It is noted that there is a project website and an email address that can be used for questions and comments on the proposed projects.
- There was concern expressed over the models being based on a 10-year storm, rather than a more significant storm.
 - The project team noted that they are considering 100-year storms and factoring climate change into the models.
- It was noted that the 2017 – 2018 technical study referred to missing pipes. There was concern expressed that the project concepts presented did not address the missing pipe issue.
- There was concern expressed that there is no drainage from the ballfield which floods, and there was no proposed project to resolve the issue.



- The project team stated the school district has a design for the ballfield, which includes green infrastructure and filtering the stormwater into an existing storm drain.
- There was a concern about the proposed raising of Donahue Street. The commenter noted that the community has voted many times against that project due to concern that it would cause more flooding.
 - The project team noted that raising Donahue Street was an idea presented by another Task Force Member. The project team indicated that all ideas are being evaluated and the scores will be presented later in the meeting. It is noted that not all the projects evaluated will make the CIP list.
- There was concern expressed about the partial bypass proposed and not wanting all the water put into the pond. The commenter would like to see the water filtered before going into the bay.
 - The project team noted that both the “Drake Partial Bypass to Bay” and the “Donahue Full Bypass to Bay” concepts bypass the pond and create new outfalls to the bay. It is further noted that both concepts came from community input.
- There was concern regarding the Pump Station. The commenter indicated that the question has been asked many times about that project and how the pump station is being built on a potential second access point in and out of Marin City. The commenter plans on attending the Board meetings and expressing her concerns and providing alternative project ideas for moving water out of Marin City.
 - The project team noted that the pump station project will need to undergo the CEQA process, which requires public outreach prior to construction.
- There was concern about the height of the floodwall. The project team clarified that the actual top of the pond is about 7.5-8 feet, and the top of the wall would be elevation 12-foot NAVD88, 4 to 5 feet above the pond.
- There is interest in seeing the plans Caltrans has for raising Hwy 101, as well as concern expressed for the flooding such a project would bring. The commenter asked when the community will be able to see the plans and noted she is asking Caltrans the same question.
- The commenter noted there is a streambed that travels from Donahue and Turners Drive and travels under the tunnel to Bridgeway. She questioned the project team on if the streambed is the reason they aren’t doing the “whole drainage”.
- The project team was asked about the time frame on the projects.
- There is a question on if the 17 manholes will be cleaned out or just sealed up.

Due to time constraints, the project teams informed the participants that Q&A would continue at the end of the meeting, time permitting.

V. Evaluation - Project Concept Report Cards – Schaaf & Wheeler

Schaaf & Wheeler’s Project Manager, Robin Lee, reviewed the ask of the community to prioritize the most important project criteria, or the “Initial 9 Criteria” as noted below:

- Flood management effectiveness



- How can this improve the entrance/exit to Marin City?
- Does this reduce flooding near our homes and buildings?
- Climate change resiliency
- What is the impact on our community's health?
- Will this project affect our plants, air, trees, water, etc.?
- Will this increase access to our recreation areas?
- Can the project be combined with green infrastructure features?
- How will this impact our community during construction?

Robin stated that as an engineer, her job is to fix the problems and meet the community's priorities. In response to the earlier question on the raising of Donahue Street, it was noted that the project scored the lowest in the evaluation, but now the project team has the data to support the reason behind not including it as a proposed project in the Stormwater Plan.

Robin reviewed the criteria weighting. She stated that the results being shown at the meeting are not final as the survey is ongoing, and all input would be considered. The results were shown from the online survey and the second community meeting. The results indicated that at the time of the meeting, the four most important criteria to the community were:

- Does this reduce flooding near our homes and buildings?
- How can this improve the entrance/exit to Marin City?
- Climate change resiliency
- Flood Management Effectiveness

Robin then showed the percentages of the results when the online survey and community meeting were combined and discussed the weights assigned to the criteria for evaluating the projects. Robin explained that as the project team is looking at the models and results, they are looking for how the improvement concepts achieve the priorities the community indicated are most important.

Robin explained the report card concept and how the conceptual projects are graded. She stated again that the project grades shown are not final. The concept project evaluations will continue until the public outreach has concluded, at the end of June. Robin explained that the concepts will work in conjunction with the pump station project. She noted many communities utilize pump stations to remove stormwater.

Robin showed the model for the existing conditions during a 10-year storm, MHHW tide and noted grade of D+. She indicated there are 200 slides with different projects applied to the model, but she wouldn't go through them all at the meeting.

- A Task Force Member asked for all 200 of the slides and was told they would be given to her.

Robin reviewed the projects that were discussed at earlier points in the outreach process but are not being evaluated for a variety of reasons. Those projects include:

- Re-Route Caltrans
 - Conversations with Caltrans indicate this is not a feasible project for the near future. The project team wants to propose projects with a high likelihood of being built.



- Sealing Manholes
 - The Phillips Drive New Outfall to the Bay improves the Phillips Drive system and the bolted manholes are not needed
- Full Bypass
 - Modeling results showed a full bypass of the shopping center was not effective for flood management and also starved the pond of fresh water.
- Elevated walkways
 - This is considered more of an intermediate step and the study is focused on improvements to mitigate the flooding first
- Detention in Ballfields
 - The ballfields are situated in the Phillips Drive watershed and do not provide detention for the Drake stormwater drainage system, which is where detention is needed to reduce flooding in the Drake/ Donahue intersection.
- Detention in MHA Historical Site
 - This site was found to be a historical site which would prohibit the construction of a detention system

Robin discussed next steps:

- Gather more feedback on criteria
- Updated score cards
- Develop capital improvement plan
- Task Force Meeting 5
- Community Meeting 3
- Publish Report
- Seek Funding

Robin stressed that publishing the report is key to funding. She notes that the earlier question on project schedules can't be answered until the report is published and the projects funded.

After a question was posed regarding the ballfield detention and/or drainage, there was discussion on alternative routes to drain the ballfield. Pros and cons of various scenarios were discussed. Ultimately, the repair and maintenance of the storm drain system that drains that area was thought to be the best option. It was reiterated that repair and maintenance is one of the key projects being proposed.

VI. Question and Answer

Robin asked for any questions from the Task Force, both in-person and online. The following input was provided:

- A commenter questioned when Caltrans would seek input from the Marin City community on raising the freeway.
 - The project team noted that they are collaborating with Caltrans on projects being proposed in the Stormwater Plan. Caltrans is the lead agency for the raising of the freeway and combatting sea level rise.



- Caltrans responded to the question by noting they have been to Marin City for outreach on 2 or 3 occasions. It is noted that the project is in a preliminary stage and has not completed the environmental process, let alone the design process. Caltrans indicated that they are trying to generalize the scope of work to attract funding and enter the Project Initiation Document (PID) phase.
- Caltrans posted the project website to the Zoom chat: [US-101, State Route 1 Sea-Level Rise Project | Caltrans](#)
- Another question was posed on the timeline. Caltrans responded that there is no construction timeline, the plans are all conceptual and, again, there has been no environmental process or design process, nor has the project been funded at this time.
- Caltrans noted there were three alternatives considered:
 - Accommodate – modify existing resources
 - Protect – employ engineered or nature-based structure to defend existing conditions
 - Retreat – relocate existing resources

Caltrans noted the “retreat” option is not viable as the freeway cannot be relocated.

- A commenter noted he was part of the 2017 Flood Study and questioned when the missing pipes will be addressed.
 - The project team recommended reviewing the video of the “missing pipes”, which they don’t believe are missing, to verify if they are intact. The thought is other issues, such as clogging, downstream capacity issues, broken pipes, etc. are what is causing the flooding.
- There was a request for the project team to bring the school’s drainage plan for the ballfield to the Task Force and community for review.
 - The project team indicated the public will see the plans as part of a CEQA process being conducted outside of this stormwater plan effort by the school.

Judd asked if there were any comments on the evaluation method the project team is using.

- There was a question on the survey. The project team responded that the survey was initially designed for input from the Task Force but was eventually opened to input from the community.
- A follow-up question was posed on non-Marine City residents taking the survey.
 - The project team indicated those who do not live or work in Marin City were not able to complete the survey.
- A comment from the Zoom chat was read to the participants:

The evaluation criteria and the presentation of results is thoughtful and is easy to understand. I would like to see how the combined projects might result in an A+

 - The project team responded that the report card grade for implementing the proposed pump station projects is a C+. Individual project concepts added to the pump station projects earn a B, however, a suite of projects added to the pump station projects has the potential to earn an A.



- There was curiosity on how the evaluation criteria will be used to determine what goes into the plan, how will input inform the process, and how will the criteria be used to determine what gets built.
 - The project team responded that project cost and whether the county owns the project is not factored into the project grades, but it is still a consideration because you may not be able to implement the highest rated project because the funding isn't there or you may be able to put a lower graded project in the ground quicker because the county owns the infrastructure.
 - The project team reiterated that they want the proposed project grades to be based on the community criteria.

VII. Next Steps and Upcoming Meetings

To close the meeting, the facilitator thanked Task Force members for their participation and the project team reviewed the following next steps and upcoming meetings:

- Develop Draft Plan
 - Task Force review of draft plan at Task Force meeting #5.
 - Community review of draft plan at community meeting #3
- Publish Report
- Seek Funding
- Design Projects
- Get Projects in the Ground!

A Task Force Member requested the meetings be held later, at 6:30 pm, when people are off work, to garner more participation.

- The Task Force was reminded that it was decided early on that the Task Force would meet earlier in the day, and the community meetings would take place later. However, the times can be changed if it's the consensus of the group to hold the Task Force meetings later. June and Tony will reach out to the Task Force members to gain consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Presentation

If you could not attend the meeting and have questions about the presentation please reach out to MarinCityStormwaterPlan@MarinCounty.org.



For disability accommodations including from any presentation links described above please phone (415) 473-6530 (Voice), CA Relay 711, or e-mail MarinCityStormwaterPlan@MarinCounty.org. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon request.

DRAFT