

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

FLOOD ZONE 6 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MARCH 5, 2019

STAFF REPORT

Item 1. Introductions

Item 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: March 6, 2018

Item 2 Attachment: Draft 2018 meeting minutes

Recommended Action: Approve minutes.

Item 3. 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 4. Updated Flood Control Zone 6 Bylaws

An update of the Flood Control Zone Bylaws was undertaken by an ad hoc committee of the District Board of Supervisors consisting of Supervisors Rice and Sears, an ad hoc committee of a selected Flood Control Zone Advisory Board (AB), District staff, and County Counsel (acting on behalf of the District). The goals were to improve consistency between the bylaws and the State Water Code, which governs the District, and to provide clarity on the types of matters referred to the Advisory Board for consultation. As a result of this process, new Flood Control Zone 6 Bylaws are attached to this staff report for the AB to review and consider recommending to the District Board of Supervisors for approval. Zone 6 bylaws were last updated in 2008. New bylaws bear a close resemblance to the existing bylaws but expands upon the purpose and role of the Advisory Board and extends officer terms to two years. This same effort is taking place with all other Flood Control Zones and makes them consistent across the District. The final step will be to present all the zones' updated bylaws to the District Board of Supervisors for approval later this year.

Item 4 Attachment: 2019 Bylaws

Recommended Action: Recommend the District Board of Supervisors approve the Updated Flood Zone 6 Bylaws.

Item 5. Zone 6 Budget FY 19-20

Staff and AB will review the proposed Zone 6 FY 19-20 budget.

Item 5 Attachment: Draft Zone 6 FY 19-20 budget

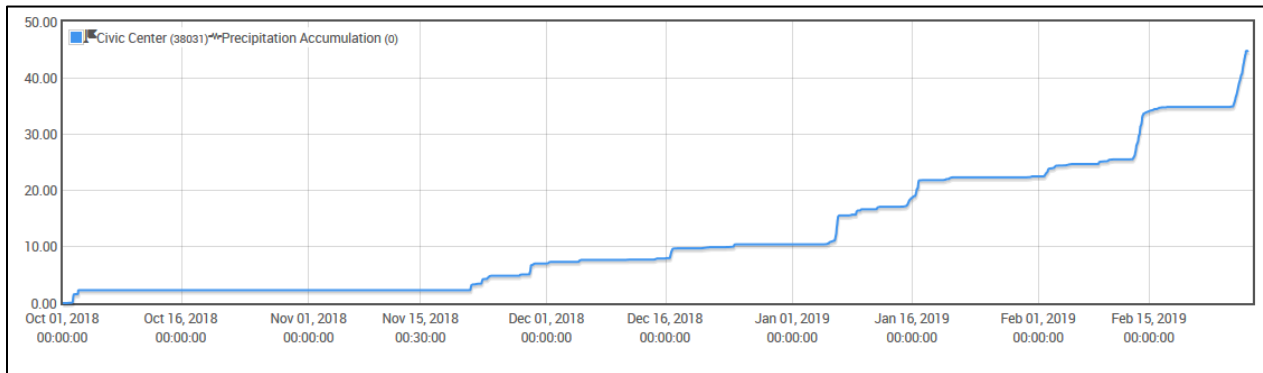
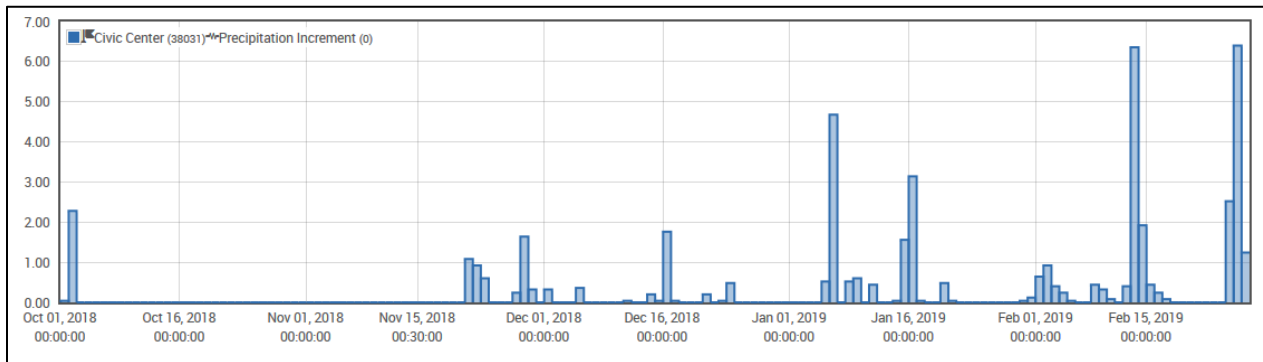
Recommended Action: Recommend that the District Board of Supervisors approve the budget.

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Item 6. Winter Storm Report

The figures below show this year's pattern of storms as recorded at the new civic center rain gauge (<https://marin.onerain.com>). Storms have been arriving at almost weekly intervals consistently since mid-November and as of February 27 we have received 45 inches. This is about 30% above average for a whole year. The rain on January 6 was particularly intense over a short duration when 4.5 inches of rain fell in six hours, which is the 100-year recurrence interval for that duration¹. Over 8 inches fell on February 14 - 15th and almost 10 inches fell between February 25 and 27th.

No damaging floods have been reported. Minor flooding occurred on Canada Court, where a private ditch had become obstructed with vegetation. High tides and storm runoff have overwhelmed the Highway 101 culvert at the Civic Center SMART station several times, causing water to back up to the tracks and flow overland through the freeway overcrossing, see photos on page 4.



¹ NOAA Precipitation Frequency Data Server-
https://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/pfds_map_cont.html?bkmrk=ca

Item 6. Current Activities Update

a. Annual Leaves Mailer

The annual flyer encouraging residents to rake and properly dispose of leaves was updated and sent out this fall. Language was changed to include information on the new civic center rain gauge and a solicitation for another Advisory Board member.

b. Maintenance Contract with San Rafael

In 2017 the District entered into a 5-year agreement with the City of San Rafael reimbursing them for channel vegetation management every fall before the rainy season. The amount reimbursed by Zone 6 to the City of San Rafael for this work is not to exceed \$8,000 per year as recommended by the advisory board in 2015. The agreement seems to be working as intended. However, one section of the creek shown in the agreement is actually being maintained by SMART because the channel is on SMART property and no easement exists. Staff recommends that in 2022, when the current maintenance agreement expires, the Exhibit A map be updated by removing this section of the channel that is the responsibility of the SMART district.

Recommended Action: Recommend that future maintenance contracts with the City exclude the sections that are the responsibility of the SMART district.

c. Pipe Rehabilitation on Corrillo Drive

The City of San Rafael rehabilitated a set of stormdrain pipes under the cul-de-sac at the end of Corrillo Drive. The Zone reimbursed the City for half the cost, or \$39,680. The two 18-inch corrugated metal pipes had rusted out and were repaired using a trenchless technology to reconstruct the inside of the existing pipe. This method fills the rusted bottom with concrete and uses steam to inflate a PVC liner against the inside of the old pipe. Photos below show the pipe condition before and after the finished repair.



Before



After

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d. SMART Update

District staff were in contact with SMART last fall regarding maintenance of drainage ditches between Las Gallinas Ave pedestrian crossing and the culvert under Highway 101 at the civic center station. The District encouraged SMART to clear a set of culverts under their tracks and maintain channel capacity along the tracks downstream of the ditch between 403 and 405 Corrillo Drive. These are areas owned by SMART and not under any kind of maintenance easement. SMART did ultimately complete some channel clearing here and District staff will remind SMART of this ongoing responsibility again if needed.





Flooded tracks
on West side of
Highway 101,
February 13th

e. Development along Merrydale Creek

A development of 44 townhomes is being proposed on a parcel along Merrydale (upper South Fork Las Gallinas) Creek at 3833 Redwood Highway/350 Merrydale Rd. District staff have been working with the City of San Rafael and developer to negotiate certain encroachments on one of the two District-owned easement.

The District owns a flood control easement over the creek and a 15-foot wide access easement along the top of the south bank of this parcel. Although the access easement is used by the City through our maintenance agreement and the application was submitted to the City, the District's ownership of the easement makes us responsible for protecting it and regulating encroachments.

The South side of the creek bank is currently reinforced with rip rap and concrete and is higher than the North side, which abuts a self-storage unit. The developer is not proposing changes to either bank besides replacing a storm drain outfall. The access easement along the top of the South bank is currently an asphalt parking lot with a stand of redwood trees at either end.



Merrydale Creek
flood control and
access easements
looking towards
Hwy 101

The proposed townhomes would not be located within either easement but the developer has proposed a promenade along the South bank. The goal is to enhance its aesthetic appeal without compromising or conflicting with access. Vehicular access would be preserved here, but a planting strip with trees, benches, and a split-rail fence would be along the top of the rip-rap slope. The District is prepared to issue an agreement allowing these encroachments as long as the fence can be opened at regular intervals to provide Direct access to the creek. The developer will also have to comply with City stream setback rules and regulations from the state and federal environmental regulatory agencies. For more information contact San Rafael Project Planner Caron Parker at (415) 485-3094 or Caron.Parker@cityofsanrafael.org

f. Merrydale Creek Easement Transfer

When Zone 6 was incorporated into the City of San Rafael, most of the existing drainage easements were transferred to the City. These two easements remained in the District's ownership for some reason. Since the City maintains the easement through the maintenance agreement, District staff recommend pursuing transfer of these easements to the City as well as a matter of administrative housekeeping. The City has indicated a willingness to accept the easement if it included ongoing maintenance funding. The maintenance agreement serves this purpose on a temporary five-year term, so it would need to be made permanent.

Recommended Action: Formally offer transfer of the Merrydale Creek Flood Control and Access easements to the City of San Rafael and propose a permanent funding strategy.

Item 8. Schedule Next Meeting

Schedule the next meeting of the Zone 6 Advisory Board.