

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 7 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019
KURLAND LOUNGE AT THE OSHER MARIN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
200 N. SAN PEDRO ROAD, SAN RAFAEL**

Advisory Board (AB)

Members Present

Russ Greenfield (RG)
Jacqueline Garcia (JG)
Roger Kirk (RK)
Jeffrey Krupnick (JK)
Alex Kahl (AK)

District Staff (Staff) Present

Hannah Lee, Senior Civil Engineer
Gerhard Epke, Senior Program Coordinator

JG opened the meeting at 6:35 amid a moderately potent 24-hour storm.

Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: July 24, 2018

Action by Board: Approve minutes as written with no amendments.

M/S: RK/AK **Ayes:** FIVE, **Nay:** NONE

Item 2. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda

Robert Dobrin pointed out that this meeting was scheduled on the same night as the CSA 18 meeting and there are people who would likely want to attend both. Staff informed AB that they realized this the day before the meeting and have added coordination of advisory board meeting scheduling to the agenda for quarterly CSA meeting coordination with the Parks Department in order to avoid the conflict again in the future.

Crystal Yezman introduced herself as a representative of the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors and levee-adjacent Santa Venetia resident who plans to attend future Zone 7 meetings. She described the sewage treatment system as working very hard now because of infiltration of stormwater into the sewage system. She is also an engineer who manages the Marin Municipal Water District watershed and is experienced in addressing the impact of storms/landslides on water facilities.

Byron Morales, 680 Rosal Way, would like to discuss the street drainage in front of his house. Background on this issue was described in Item 6 of the staff report. The AB decided to change the order of business and discuss Item 6 at this time, so that Byron and neighbors could return home to monitor and address their own flood risk.

Sam Corkum, 103 LaBrea Way, has rented a pump and 100 feet of hose with plans to deploy it tonight to pump water ponding at his property to a catch basin across the street at 102 LaBrea Way.

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Byron's understanding is the drainage problem is related to differential land settlement and can't likely be solved by modifying underground street drains. He suggested the County should pay for staging temporary pumping there during storms in lieu of private property owners renting a pump.

JG asked if Roads could stage a pump in the area during storms. Staff said they would reach out to Roads about this. Staff also said that Building Maintenance deploys and operates trash pumps in areas of Santa Venetia where low spots prone to ponding can be pumped over the levee and thus there is no risk of exacerbating flooding elsewhere. Examples include pumping at the end of Meadow Way over the levee and into Las Gallinas Creek, and on Estancia over the levee into Santa Venetia Marsh.

Frances Nunez asked why the Santa Venetia Storm Drain Hydraulic Study Final Report did not identify this issue. Staff clarified that the study did indeed identify this area as being Santa Venetia's second most vulnerable area to damages from poor stormwater drainage. The study also suggested a project to increase the size of the pipes under the street. Until the Engineering Division completes an investigation of utility conflicts and obtains updated elevations it is unknown whether the proposed project is feasible. Zone staff are assisting Engineering in utilizing the storm drain model that was created for the study.

Robert Dobrin suggested that the zone should publicize in its newsletter that stormwater drainage issues in Santa Venetia should generally be referred to the County Roads Maintenance Division and that the zone should not pay to resolve these issues in order to preserve its limited funding for levees and pump stations.

Crystal Yezman suggested during major storms that residents concerned about their property flooding should call the Marin County Emergency Operation Center to have the duty officer dispatch a portable pump.

Discussion moved on to La Pasada interceptor, the bypass pipe apparently associated with damage to the street pavement during a January storm. Staff updated the AB about County plans to video the pipe and explore options to prevent further damage (such as a trenchless pipe liner). Engineering and construction would be undertaken by the County Road and Engineering Divisions without Zone 7 funds, except for limited staff time spent to protect the Zone's interests. This work also utilizes the Santa Venetia Storm Drain Hydraulic Study.

Item 3. Updated Flood Control Zone 7 Bylaws

Staff presented an overview of the rationale and changes to the bylaws.

Action by Board: Recommend the District Board of Supervisors approve the Updated Flood Zone 7 Bylaws.

M/S: RK/AK Ayes: FIVE, Nay: NONE

Item 4. Zone 7 2019-20 Budget Review

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Staff presented the propose budget. Discussion went to line item 12, \$686,000 of miscellaneous expense for initiating easement acquisition for the Timber Reinforced Berm (TRB) project and whether the Zone would want the easements even if funding for rebuilding the berm is not available.

The County has agreed to contribute \$840,000 to the project in concept, contingent upon the grant and successful ballot measure. Staff inquired whether the AB wants to pursue removing the qualifications on that contribution and begin working on title searches and real estate acquisition.

Rochelle Karter was concerned that the other potential contributions of the FEMA grant, loan income, and Special Tax revenues were not shown in the budget.

Frances Nunez was concerned that if the Zone pursues the easements without a project it gives the District too much latitude to construct something without homeowner approval.

Robert Dobrin asked if there was time to redo this budget and enumerate the \$686,000 expenses.

AB asked if they could approve two versions of the budget. Staff responded that that wasn't feasible with the County's accounting system.

RG and RK expressed concern that if the budget wasn't approved, everything would stop. Nothing would get done.

Robert Dobrin suggested approving last year's budget and the board could later amend the budget.

JG asked JK what he thought of the proposed budget. JK seemed to think it was a lot of money.

RK made a motion to approve last year's budget and plan to amend it at a future meeting and to have staff ask the County to remove restrictions on its \$840,000

Action by Board: Approve motion above
M/S: RK/AK Ayes: FIVE, Nay: NONE

Item 5. Zone 7 Public Outreach Update

RK suggested high water mark signs should be redesigned for simplicity by using a standard height or datum.

Item 6. Winter Storm Report

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

This item was moved up and discussed during Item 3. Open Time.

Item 7. Timber-Reinforced Berm (TRB) Improvement Project Update

Item 4, the budget, included some discussion of this item. A resident suggested more strategically proceeding with the door-to-door visits of levee adjacent landowners, by focusing first on the property owners that did not express written support of the project.

Item 8. Annual and Preventive Maintenance Work Program

Staff suggested it would prioritize some minor maintenance issues such as gates, fences, and trash racks as the budget allowed.

RK suggested a trash rack at Castro Field. Staff will look into incorporating this into this year's program.

Item 9. Schedule Next Meeting

Targeting the 3rd week of May for the next AB meeting was agreed upon.