

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE  
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 9 ADVISORY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING  
HELD TUESDAY 6:30 PM, MARCH 19, 2019  
ROSS TOWN HALL  
31 SIR FRANCIS DRAKE BLVD, ROSS CA 94939**

<b><u>Advisory Board (AB) Members Present</u></b>	<b><u>District Staff (Staff) Present</u></b>
Bruce Ackerman (BA)	Hugh Davis, Associate Civil Engineer
Sandra Guldman (SG)	Liz Lewis, Planning Manager
Richard Gumbiner (RG)	Felix Meneau, Zone Engineer
Dan Hillmer (DH) (arrived during Item 3)	Tonya Redfield, Ross Valley Program Manager
Chris Martin (CM), Chairperson	Tony Williams, Assistant Public Works Director
John Wright (JW)	<b><u>Others Present</u></b>
<b><u>Advisory Board (AB) Members Absent</u></b>	Richard Simonitch – Town of Ross Public Works Director
Peter Hogg (PH)	Julian Skinner – City of Larkspur Public Works Director

Chair CM Opened Special Meeting at 6:30 PM and provided open time for members of the public wishing to speak on items not on the agenda.

Public input included a request for a special assessment of parcels residing in the Special Flood Hazard Area.

**Item 1. Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project Update**

District Staff provided presentation on the status of the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project, please see [Staff Report dated March 19, 2019](#) and [slides from the March 19, 2019 Meeting Presentation](#).

After receiving recent feedback yesterday from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Planning Chief, District staff recommended the AB action be changed from ‘terminating’ to ‘suspending’ the current District/USACE Agreement. A suspension, versus the previously proposed termination, would allow continued work with the USACE while expanding opportunities for different USACE funding programs. The District could still proceed with a new ‘locally led’ project even while the USACE/District cost-share agreement is suspended, and termination of the agreement would remain an option in the future.

District staff stated that the USACE will be posting public comments received during the public release of the October 2018 Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (USACE Draft EIR/EIS) to the USACE website. District would then link to the comments from the District website (RossValleyWatershed.org).

District staff clarified that the current USACE/District cost share agreement only covered work through the feasibility phase with no additional USACE funding currently authorized for further design or construction phases of the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project. A State grant agreement through Department of Water Resources (DWR) would provide up to approximately \$7M in matching funds to design and construct a project previously agreed to by DWR as consisting of Phase 1

## **Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District**

of the USACE Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project.

Public comment related to the current Agenda item included:

- Support to terminate the District/USACE agreement per current meeting Staff Report and Agenda action
- Support for continued benefit/cost calculations employed by the USACE
- Desire to keep the project moving forward after past delays
- Opportunities to refocus goals for a new 'locally led' project scope while maintaining program transparency
- Any proposed new floodwalls in Granton Park such as those shown in Alternative "J" from the October 2018 USACE Draft EIR/EIS should be extended upstream such as extending to the Hospital Rehabilitation Bridge in Kentfield
- Questions came up about liability within the constructed USACE channel
- Confirming that DWR would need to reauthorize any new project scope moving the location to another part of the watershed
- Confusion on why multi-benefit approach is being discussed along with flood risk reduction goals, instead of reducing flood risk as the singular objective
- Need to have a plan for creek maintenance of private properties residing within Town of Ross limits
- Recent 2017 flooding in Granton Park neighborhood following the raising of the Lagunitas Road Bridge in Town of Ross and several feet of sediment noted within the concrete channel
- Costs spent to date on the current cost-share agreement and program,
- seismic performance of floodwalls,
- Examples of USACE funding provided for other projects which included habitat restoration efforts and not only 'single purpose' flood reduction projects

DH suggested a need to clarify and revisit, per public comments today, the current intent of the Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program and how the program has evolved.

CM brought up that flood risk within the Town was reduced following the raising of the Lagunitas Road bridge, and the continued importance to move forward in completing additional flood reduction efforts such as the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project.

CM asked District staff to place an update of planned maintenance of the existing concrete channel on the next Advisory Board meeting Agenda.

**Action by Board:** recommend the Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors initiate a process to suspend the agreement between the USACE and District for the "General Reevaluation Report for Corte Madera Creek":

**M/S:** SG/BA **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **Absent:** PH, **Abstain:** None

### **Adjourn Meeting**

**M/S:** JW/RG