



Raul M. Rojas  
Director

May 30, 2019

**Update:** Gallinas Levee Topographic Survey & Schedule Change  
Remote Sensing UAV Flight Scheduled **June 5 and/or 6**

Dear Homeowner and/or Resident along Gallinas Creek,

Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District – Santa Venetia Zone 7 has been planning to conduct a topographic survey of the levee surrounding the Vendola Drive neighborhood. This survey is an important component of a project being contemplated to reconstruct the timber-reinforced berm and bring the levee up to a consistent elevation. Per my letter sent last month, the County surveyor had been prepared to conduct the land survey over the course of several weeks in May, however due to a combination of reasons this plan has changed.

We now plan to complete the survey using an airborne LiDAR unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or drone. LiDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure distances. The UAV will fly over the creek (not levee or yards) on the morning of June 5<sup>th</sup> and/or 6<sup>th</sup> when the tide is very low, between the hours of 7am and 12pm.

Some benefits of this approach include:

- The ability to produce a more accurate digital 3-D representation of the levee with far more data points
- Less disruption and more privacy for residents because there is no need to physically enter yards – the drone will fly over the creek
- Significant time and cost savings (and potential cost share by collecting data for other county projects in the vicinity)

This approach does not provide the opportunity to conduct a concurrent inspection of the levee condition. Therefore, if you are aware of urgent maintenance issues on your levee such as rotted or broken pieces of the wooden berm, evidence of gophers or other structural threats to the levee's ability to prevent flooding, please contact me directly (415-473-6562 or [gepke@marincounty.org](mailto:gepke@marincounty.org)) and I will coordinate with our maintenance team. Note, the District still has a backlog of high priority areas of the berm that were identified in the prior inspection and the berm behind your home may or may not be prioritized this year based on relative condition.

Thank you.

Gerhard Epke

Senior Program Coordinator

Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District