

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 7 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019**

**HELD AT THE MARIN CENTER
FRIENDS OF MARIN CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM
10 AVENUE OF THE FLAGS, SAN RAFAEL**

Advisory Board (AB)

Members Present

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

District Staff (Staff) Present

Hannah Lee, Senior Civil Engineer
Gerhard Epke, Senior Program Coordinator
Liz Lewis, Water Resources Manager

Advisory Board (AB)

Members Absent

Alex Kahl (AK)

JG opened the meeting at 6:30

Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: May 29, 2019

Action by Board: Approve minutes as written with included mention of the verbal staff report given by Marin County Chief Real Property Agent Eric Lueder regarding easement acquisitions.

M/S: RK/RG Ayes: FOUR, Nay: NONE

Item 2. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda

RG read a personal statement.

A member of the public reported hearing noise at the airport early beginning early in the morning for several months now and is concerned about possible work by the airport on a levee road.

A member of the public inquired whether the advisory board had seen the CEQA comments from the Gallinas Levee Upgrade Project draft initial study. They had not, as responses are still being prepared.

Item 3. Gallinas Levee Upgrade Project Tax Revenue Measure

Staff presented a report on project status and tax revenue measure.

RK gave summary of a neighborhood meeting he attended at a creekside residence on Vendola. He read a list of concerns and questions from other attendees. Members of the audience added that the County is good about cleaning road drainage systems but

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

that it isn't enough to prevent localized drainage issues with high intensity rain and differential settlement of the community.

Creekside resident Robert Dobrin gave the attached presentation.

A member of the public suggested the highest tide he had seen was 16 inches below the top of the timber-reinforced berm and asked about sheet pile walls as an alternative with potential to be raised over time. Staff responded that sheetpile walls are stronger if they are not segmented vertically so it doesn't work well to slowly add height over time. Sheetpile alternatives were evaluated as part of the Levee Evaluation in 2013 and were determined to be cost prohibitive. However, new materials and reduced need for earthwork may bring the cost down so a comparison of sheetpile wall to a TRB upgrade will be part of a design basis study to be completed this fall. Feasibility of safe pile driving given soft underlying soils and nearby structures will also be considered.

A member of the public wondered what a scaled back version of the project would look like if the FEMA grant was denied and inquired about how many properties have had their TRB repaired since maintenance funding was allocated. Approximately half of the properties with TRBs on them have been at least partially rebuilt. A scaled back project could be an increased rate of maintenance of the existing TRB configuration, or a reduced (only high priority areas based on height or condition) or longer-term phased implementation of the upgraded TRB. The details would be determined by the advisory board, but in general would have impacts less than what was described in the CEQA initial study.

A member of the public was interested in the lifespan of the reconstructed TRB and observes the existing TRB to be in bad shape and expressed support for the project to continue. Staff indicated the FEMA grant is intended to fund a reconstructed TRB with a lifespan of at least 30 years, and that the current TRB wood panels are only expected to endure 10-20 years.

A member of the public would like the easement process to be described in writing and codified. Staff will post this information on the project website.

A member of the public is concerned that the project is a 'done deal' and is proceeding before the demonstration project. Staff explained that the demonstration project would have been constructed with funding from a state grant that the District applied for and had not received a decision on. The project is still in the very early stages (planning stage) and has not yet been designed beyond a conceptual drawing and description needed to complete CEQA and apply for a FEMA grant. If the election is successful, staff will work on preparing the project design and will seek feedback from landowners and community members before finalization. In the interim, prior to the election, a design basis study will be carried out and shared.

A member of the public appreciates the necessity of the project, suggested including language in the resolution where answers to many of the questions that came up tonight are known, wondered about replacement of docks and appurtenant structures, and

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

would like local drainage improvements. Staff said the zone has the authority to share the cost for storm drain improvements with Public Works as incentive for the County to make improvements but that available zone funding is limited and needed for facilities with broader impact such as the levee and pump stations.

A member of the public asked why Marin County purchased Buck's Landing and whether there is an opportunity to install a tide gate across the creek. James Raives from Parks & Open Space offered to follow up regarding the Buck's Landing questions. District staff said due to the very special habitat value of the area, a tide gate and its associated barrier tying into high ground would not be cost-effective.

AB discussion:

RG suggested delay on motion until additional answers are provided.

JK suggested the project needed more money for contingencies or cost overruns.

RK agreed that low income senior homeowners would benefit through property value and suggested tax collection contingent on home sales. Asked if this was possible to include in resolution. Easement negotiations should clear up what will happen with structures and landscaping. County match commitment needs to be firmed up.

JG expressed concern that that the board of supervisors will lose confidence in the community if it fails again to pass ballot measure.

Action by Board: Tentatively recommend the tax measure subject to updates to the resolution.

M/S: RK/JG Ayes: FOUR, Nay: NONE

Item 4. Schedule Next Meeting

Next AB meeting will be scheduled for mid-September, avoiding Wednesdays.