

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

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE  
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 4 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
HELD WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 25, 2022  
AT STRAWBERRY RECREATION DISTRICT, 1ST FLOOR MEETING ROOM  
TIBURON, CA 94920**

<b><u>Advisory Board (AB) Members Present</u></b>	<b><u>Presenters</u></b>
Kathryn Oliver (KO) – Chairperson	Matt Smeltzer, Geomorphologist and Engineer
Timothy Barteau (TB) – Vice Chairperson	
Carolyn Shadan (CS)	<b><u>District Staff (Staff) Present</u></b>
Sheldon Dorph (SD)	Berenice Davidson, Assistant Director
Liza Bass (LB)	Liz Lewis, Water Resources Manager
	Hannah Lee, Senior Civil Engineer

Meeting started at 6:38pm and CS arrived 6:43pm.

**Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: April 27, 2022**

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

**M/S:** TB/SD, **Ayes:** All present, **Nay:** None, **Abstain:** CS absent for this item

**Item 2. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda**

Consider discussion of potential measures to prevent bay shoreline flooding at Cove apartments on future agenda.

**Item 3. Overview of Zone 4 and 4A Maintenance Update**

See staff report for written update. CS requested more details on maintenance of generator at Cove Pump Station, specifically.

**Item 4. Evaluation of Channel Capacity Improvement Options at East and West Creek**

See staff report. Attached comment was presented from Fred and Prudence Staff.

**Action by Board:** Recommend preparing cost estimates for potential conceptual measures identified for East and West Creeks.

**M/S:** TB/CS, **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **Abstain:** None

District staff will recommend the Board of Supervisors amend Matt Smeltzer’s on-call contract next month to include the development of preliminary cost estimates to be presented to the advisory board in late January 2023. Up to \$38,000 is available in the Zone 4 baseline professional services budget for this work.:

- Matt to develop alternatives to removing the three trees identified in West Creek (e.g. removing portions of roots, pushing back the bank slope opposite the trees). Some of

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the larger trees were planted as part of Cypress Hollow development conditions of approval .

- Larger rocks in upper West Creek are likely from rusted out gabion that eroded
- Project evaluation will need to consider bank stability when roots, rubble and/or other bed armoring material is removed.
- Possible flood reduction measures will be identified as short ( 1 year), medium (2-4 years, and long-term (>4years) .
- Concept of lowering the bottom elevation of the Cecilia culvert on East Creek was introduced.
- District to discuss culvert measures with Caltrans and Town of Tiburon (including the drainage hole on Cecilia in the wing wall.

### **Item 5. Continue Advisory Board Discussion of Potential Zone 4A Boundary Amendment**

AB requested staff send LB a map of Zone 4A including elevation and storm drainage information [map sent 10/26]. Continue item on future agenda. LB to invite Strawberry Circle area to next AB meeting and/or encourage them to sign up for notifications by clicking the “Subscribe to notifications” button on <https://marinflooddistrict.org/flood-control-zone-4-bel-aire/>.

### **Item 6. Zone Outreach/Social Media**

See staff report for written update. AB requested to continue using NextDoor to notice their meetings and to contact the newspaper for free noticing.

### **Item 7. Schedule Next Meeting**

Poll dates in late January 2023.

**Public Comment on Item 4:**

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The following comments are submitted for the Subject Meeting's Agenda Item 4 , Evaluation of Channel Capacity Improvement Options at East and West Creek.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this important project. Our Fred and Prudence Starr family members have lived at 160 Leland Way since 1985 and we have become quite familiar with the conditions and performance of East Creek over the years. We recall observing the earthmoving operations during construction for development of the private open space and homes to the east and my wife experienced the flooding when the west bank overtopped in 1986.

Twenty years ago Willow trees were planted in and along the creek by supervised Bel Aire Elementary School children (including our youngest son!). Apparently this was a project proposed by the school and approved by the County. As a Civil/Geotechnical/Dam Safety Engineer who dealt with similar surface water conveyance features, Fred recalls thinking that this effort was not going to have a happy ending. This is because Willow trees grow relatively quickly and hinder water flow and offer shade for new habitat. These actions to seemed contrary to the original purpose of the East Ditch, the original name.

So here we are today with a Creek that has reduced capacity, occasionally overflows the west bank, and remedial measures are being proposed. We recommend consideration of two phases of remediation. Phase 1 "includes top of bank barriers and feasible removal of obstructions" as a more immediate and lower cost temporary measure at critical locations. Phase 2 includes permanent removal of all willows in East Creek and replacement where appropriate with low profile geosynthetic erosion control systems (i.e. GEOWEB, Reno Mattresses, and others) that can include planted low vegetation and could achieve and maintain optimum creek flow capacity.

Respectfully submitted, Fred and Pru Starr.