

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

**FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 7 ADVISORY BOARD**

**JUNE 29, 2023**

**STAFF REPORT**

**Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: March 30, 2023** (Action)

March 30, 2023, Draft Minutes:

<https://marinflooddistrict.org/meetings/zone-7-advisory-board-meeting-march-30-2023/>

**Recommended Action:** Approve minutes.

**Item 2. Officer Elections** (Action)

Article VI of the Advisory Board's bylaws stipulate that officers of the Advisory Board be elected to a two-year term by a majority vote of the Advisory Board. There are two officers – chair and vice-chair. The advisory board will nominate and vote for officers.

**Recommended Action:** Elect chairperson and elect vice-chairperson.

**Item 3. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda** (Information)

Comments will be heard for items not on the agenda (limited to three minutes per speaker).

**Item 4. Proposed Santa Venetia Floodwall Project** (Information)

**Background:** See the agenda packet for the March 30, 2023 Flood Zone 7 Advisory Board meeting for background: <https://marinflooddistrict.org/meetings/zone-7-advisory-board-meeting-march-30-2023/>

**Status:** Currently underway is a supplemental environmental review per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements to see if an addendum to the existing 2019 Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (2019 IS/MND) is adequate or if a new mitigated negative declaration is required. The environmental review process will provide information to refine project cost and future easement acquisition requirements should the project be approved by the BOS. **There is nothing new to present at this time.**

**Next Steps:** Once this environmental review process is complete, the District will return to the Advisory Board and Board of Supervisors with an updated cost estimate and recommendations on next steps.

**Item 5. Annual and Preventive Maintenance Program Update** (Action)

In addition to the pre-winter activities listed below, District maintenance crews check the trash racks and pump stations before, during, and after storms. For questions, email [floodinquiry@marincounty.org](mailto:floodinquiry@marincounty.org).

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

- a. Pump Stations** – There are 5 pump stations in Zone 7. SV1 has 4 pumps, SV2 has 3 pumps, SV3 has 2 pumps, SV4 has 2 pumps & SV5 has 3 pumps. Preventive maintenance at all pump stations takes place every year and includes the inspection, testing, and as needed replacement of electrical and mechanical components. Additionally, individual pumps and motors are typically removed and serviced for major preventive maintenance on a six-year interval at each of the Zone's five stations. This year SV1 #1, SV1 #4, SV4 #1 & SV5 #1 are being serviced the cost for this maintenance is budgeted under the baseline budget for maintenance and trade services. If additional funds are needed, we will return to the advisory board with a recommended budget adjustment. In 2024 the pumps scheduled for maintenance are: SV1 #2, SV1 #3, SV2 #1, SV4 #2, SV5 #2 & SV5 #3.

Santa Venetia Pump Station 4, near the McPhail School Site, was built in 1980 and has two submersible pumps which you cannot see until they are removed from the wet well. They were both removed for servicing this summer to reduce the cost of service compared to doing one this year and the other next year. One of them needed to be fully replaced at a cost that is \$25,766 above the \$8,000 standard pump refurbishment work in the contract for this pump. The pumps were last replaced in 2005 and 2006. A budget adjustment is not needed.

The smaller of 4 pumps at Pump Station 1, by 601 Vendola, required \$5,160 in extra work due to its condition as it is likely the most frequently used stormwater pump in Zone 7. The other pump removed for servicing at this station was the largest which is used the least frequent. It had a major overhaul in 2017 and did not require extra work beyond the standard refurbishment work this year. Though this was the first stormwater pump station in Zone 7, all four pumps were installed in 2004 when the station's reconstruction was completed.

One pump at Station 5 near 825 Vendola Dr was removed for service this year. The pump was in good condition and was new as of 2017. Its motor was installed in 2005 and was also removed for comprehensive servicing this summer and does not require extra work.

A new Trimble Unity alert system has been installed at one of the pump stations (SV#4) in Zone 7, allowing maintenance staff to monitor it remotely. During this year we will continue installing the system in the other pump stations, as time and budget allow. The cost is \$6,873 to install per station and there is an ongoing cost of \$240 per year per station. We will only proceed with install work that can be covered under the zone baseline budget.

During the January and March storms there were issues with the control system at Pump Station 1 and with overheating of the main pump's motor at Pump Station 3. Building Maintenance worked with contractors and consultants on these issues. The one at Pump Station 1 appears to have been resolved. The Pump Station 3 motor was repaired and a soft starter is being installed (within the Zone 7 baseline budget)

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

to prevent recurrence of the issue. In an abundance of caution a portable pump was staged at both stations during the past rainy season, however, were never needed to pump water. Some of the approximately \$25,000 in contracting costs, mitigation costs (soft starter) and portable pump rental costs are potentially eligible for FEMA reimbursement given a Major Federal Disaster was declared during the period when the issues initially occurred. The District is working with FEMA and our mechanical insurance provider on FEMA reimbursement applications.

- b. Vegetation Maintenance** – Vegetation in the ditch between Birch and Mabry is trimmed in early fall to increase flow capacity. The ditch's banks are mowed in the spring for fire fuel reduction. In the summer a section of Castro Ditch will be cleared of debris and low or downed branches will be trimmed or removed. (see below for vegetation maintenance on levees.)
- c. Levee Maintenance** – The inner levee at the Open Space preserve, the section of levee between Pump Station Number 5 and Pump Station Number 4, and is mowed by the Parks Department at no cost to Zone 7. No vegetation maintenance is performed on the Timber Reinforced Berm because it is on private property. Rodent control and filling of burrows are completed by the Flood District in the summer and a second phase may be needed in September. Conditions of the inner levee are continually inspected throughout the winter during storms and/or high tides, when seepage is most evident.

The District is working with some property owners along Vendola Drive to make repairs and/or monitor select parcels where the timber-reinforced berm (TRB), which sits atop much of the earthen levee, is at a particularly low elevation, wall materials are deteriorating, and/or significant tidal seepage is occurring. Last summer and fall a contractor repaired the water-side bulkhead of the TRB at two parcels and rebuilt a section of the underlying earthen levee at one parcel experiencing significant seepage for a total of \$52,383 in contracting costs. Staff recommended doing maintenance this fiscal year at four additional properties where TRB conditions were poor. At each of these properties, the owners did not provide the required permission to do maintenance, however they did agree to sign rights to enter for the purpose of monitoring and emergency response if needed.

There are 9 properties that the District has access to because they are fully or partially on State tidelands and in a trust to the County. TRB repairs are needed at these locations this year because they are badly deteriorated and accelerated failure is anticipated. The primary scope of work involves replacement of posts and planks at segments of the TRB on or near property on which the District already has right of way. To manage costs within Zone 7's means, the material quality specified is more affordable and has correspondingly lower service life. This means the repairs are temporary in nature and this maintenance does not replace a comprehensive floodwall project. The previously recommended budget for levee emergency response and TRB repairs was \$150,000. However, estimates from three

## Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

contractors for the above-described scope of work came in at approximately double that amount for this urgently needed work.

**Recommended Action:** Recommend the Board of Supervisors increase the Zone 7 services and supplies budget by \$150,000.



### *Proposed sites for Timber-Reinforced Berm (TRB) Maintenance in 2023*

This planned maintenance requires full cooperation by adjacent property owners, including agreement to 9 rights to enter (RTEs) for access, staging, and in some locations, repairs. It's important to understand that the maintenance may not happen for any of these reasons:

- 1) one or more property owners does not grant a RTE in time for Board of Supervisors approval of the trade services contract on August 15, 2023
- 2) all bids come in above \$300,000
- 3) no responsive bids are received

If any of the three scenarios above occurs the alternative will be to place sandbags on the most at-risk areas for this winter.

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

reports of levee leakage, cracks, and hazardous trees were received this year at several parcels. The levee was extraordinarily saturated this past rainy season which negatively impacted the levee and TRB. We anticipate based on the level of deterioration on the portions observed already this year that much of the TRB is in similarly poor condition and available funding will not be adequate to make all repairs. In addition to the significant repair work scheduled this summer, the District is planning a comprehensive inspection of the levee and TRB later this summer to identify a recommended work program for next year. A report on the results of the inspection will be presented to the advisory board along with maintenance recommendations.



*One of the TRB segments proposed for rebuild this year.*

- d. Programmatic Maintenance Permit Status** - In 2011 District staff began working with State environmental regulatory agencies now requiring programmatic maintenance permits for agencies working in waterways. Creek/ditch maintenance activities requiring programmatic permitting include vegetation management, sediment and debris removal, erosion control, maintenance and repair of flood control structures, and levee maintenance. The process began by developing a Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) Manual (see the last version of it here: <https://marinflooddistrict.org/documents/marin-county-stream-maintenance-manual-june-2021/>) and then applying for permits from relevant agencies, which for most sites includes the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

***i. Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA)***

In October of 2012 the CA Department of Fish & Wildlife issued a Routine Maintenance Agreement for the District's creek maintenance activities. This RMA

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

outlined various measures required in order to minimize impacts to valuable fish and wildlife resources in Marin's creeks. Conditions also included annual notifications, reports, and fees. The 2012 RMA was set to expire at the end of 2016, but an extension was approved until the end of 2021. Last year, staff applied to renew the permit, negotiating a consolidated "site" definition in order to reduce annual fees. This resulted in savings in 2022 of \$4,522 District-wide. The permit was granted, this time for a 20-year period. The current permit is posted here: <https://marinflooddistrict.org/documents/ca-department-of-fish-and-wildlife-creek-maintenance-activities-permit-2021/>. It came with a requirement for additional environmental and biological studies to be incorporated into the maintenance program, so the net permitting cost is greater overall in spite of the negotiated fee reduction.

### ***ii. San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Order***

This permit took additional years to develop and update after the first DFW permit was approved. During the summer of 2017, RWQCB issued the first Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification for five years of the District's Stream Maintenance Program. The thirty-page order came with 62 conditions (see it here: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/2017/R2-2017-0028.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2017/R2-2017-0028.pdf)) and RWQCB allowed the District to stagger compliance over the first several years of the permitted period. Some conditions resulting in the most significant changes to maintenance practices, creek inspection, and documentation processes include:

- Maintenance activities including vegetation management (not including annual fire fuel reduction), sediment and debris removal, erosion control, maintenance and repair of flood control structures, and levee maintenance may not exceed a program wide cumulative total of 5,000 linear feet of creek channel and 11,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris. **Note, the permit currently being considered by the RWQCB's board in July 2023 increases the limit to 6,000 linear feet.**
- Vegetation management activities are limited to trimming and limbing of trees. The SMP Manual allows for limited treatment of emergent vegetation (like cattails and tules). The work must leave the subsurface root structures behind to allow it to reestablish in the spring and summer. Full root mass removal of cattails is permitted using hand tools to maintain a low flow channel but requires approval on an annual basis.
- By May 1 of each year RWQCB requires that the District submit a list of sites to be maintained that summer for their review and approval. 2019 is the first year that RWQCB denied vegetation management approval until it could verify planned work would not exceed program limits. In response, staff identified a subset of sites that would not exceed the 5000 linear foot limit. Previously staff had been notifying DFW and RWQCB each May that the full length of nearly all sites would be included in the program as it is difficult to predict which sites need work that early in

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

the year, but this exceeded the program limits of 5,000 linear feet by approximately twelve-fold. To improve compliance with the order, staff track maintenance needs based on GIS data collection coupled with prioritization of sites on District owned or maintained lands that allows for more accurate reporting to the regulatory agencies.

- With respect to sediment removal, when the District notifies the RWQCB of planned activities, it also must consider whether any potential capital improvement projects (i.e., new bridge or culvert) may be recommended to reduce or eliminate the need for sediment removal in the future.

The RWQCB permit expired at the end of 2022. The District requested to extend the existing permit in July 2021, June 2022, August 2022, and December 2022, and the RWQCB indicated in April that they will extend the permit until their board issues a new permit. The District is working with RWQCB to add Marin to this regional permit which could result in significantly different permit requirements than the existing order: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board\\_info/agendas/2023/July/StreamMain/TO\\_Order.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2023/July/StreamMain/TO_Order.pdf). **Most notably, trash removal is no longer an acceptable form of mitigation for the perceived temporary impacts of creek maintenance, which will increase the cost of maintenance overall.**

We have been coordinating with RWQCB to update the Stream Maintenance Program Manual. Based on the proposed updates, their Board will consider adopting the new permit in July. A notice of the tentative order was sent to all of the Flood District's subscribers on May 22.

### **Item 6. Schedule Next Meeting** (Information)

At the last meeting the Zone 7 Advisory Board adopted regular meeting dates of the last Thursday of the months of March, June, September, and December. They may be canceled if there is no business need or rescheduled if there is not a quorum or venue available. The next meeting is September 28. Additional special meetings may be called if a budget adjustment or other urgent need is identified.