

FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 7 ADVISORY BOARD
SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

STAFF REPORT

Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: June 29, 2023

June 29, 2023 Draft Minutes will be posted at this site:

<https://marinflooddistrict.org/meetings/zone-7-advisory-board-meeting-june-29-2023/>

Recommended Action: Approve minutes.

Item 2. Proposed Santa Venetia Floodwall Project

Background: The recommended design for the Proposed Santa Venetia Floodwall Project includes a composite sheet pile floodwall along 111 properties extending approximately 1.5 miles along Gallinas Creek in Santa Venetia. It is designed to replace an existing Timber Reinforced Berm (TRB). Project development has been ongoing for several years. For more background information on the project please visit the project website here: <https://marinflooddistrict.org/proposed-santa-venetia-floodwall-project/>

Status: Currently underway is a supplemental environmental review per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements to determine 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. A draft final version of CEQA Project Description is complete, and a summary will be provided to the advisory board at the meeting. In support of this supplemental CEQA review, field visits by environmental and archaeological consultants took place in August and September.

Next Steps: The District anticipates reviewing the supplemental document draft in late November 2023. Once complete, the District will return to the Advisory Board and Board of Supervisors with an updated cost estimate and recommended next steps.

Item 3. Annual and Preventive Maintenance Program Update

Listed below is a summary of routine maintenance activities in the Zone. In addition to these maintenance activities, District maintenance crews check the trash racks and pump stations before, during, and after storms. For questions, email floodinquiry@marincounty.org.

- a. **Pump Stations** –Individual pumps and motors are typically removed and serviced for major preventive maintenance once every six-years at each of the Zone’s five stations. This work was completed this summer for 4 pumps and their motors at Stations 1, 4, and 5. One of the pumps at Pump Station 4 had to be fully replaced with a new pump due to its condition which cost \$25,765 above the original quote, for a total replacement cost of \$33,765. Installed in 2005, the pump that had to be

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replaced had a service life of only 18 years due to extensive rust. The total cost for the pump station maintenance this year (\$105k) is budgeted under the baseline budget for services and supplies.

A new Trimble Unity alert system will be installed at all the pump stations in Zone 7 by the end of September, allowing staff to monitor them remotely, which will increase our ability to detect and respond to pump station issues during storms. The total cost for equipment and installation was \$30k, and there is an ongoing cost of \$240 per year per station. All costs are covered under the zone's annual baseline budgets.

- b. Vegetation Maintenance** – Vegetation management was completed in the ditch between Birch and Mabry Ways and at Castro Park. In preparation for levee work and inspections described below, non-native and invasive vegetation species were removed where necessary.
- c. Levee Maintenance** – This summer the District issued a Request for Proposals to replace the Timber-Reinforced Berm (TRB) behind 9 parcels. M3 Integrated Services, Inc., was selected to perform the work for a base price of \$273,775 plus a \$25,000 (9.1%) contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$298,775, within the \$300k budget that was recommended by the advisory board at the June 29 meeting. The primary scope of work involves replacement of posts and planks at segments of the TRB located on State Tidelands granted to the County that are badly deteriorated and where accelerated failure is anticipated. A total of 10 Rights-to-Enter were granted from adjacent property owners to allow construction access and contractor staging needed to perform this work.

A comprehensive inspection of the levee and TRB was completed this summer to identify priorities for future levee maintenance. Because the estimated remaining service life of the TRB is estimated to be 0-5 years at 29 parcels, these were identified as high priority for repairs. Of these 29 parcels, 9 are included in the repair work being done this fall. A map of the inspection results and recommended maintenance priorities is attached. Photos will be shared in a slideshow at the AB meeting. The results of the inspection are in a software program utilized by the County Office of Emergency Management, so this information will be readily available to the District representatives who would be in the Emergency Operations Center during a flood event. District staff recommend prioritizing work on the 20 additional high priority parcels in the near future. We will estimate costs and return this winter with a recommended TRB work plan and budget for next fiscal year.

The inner levee at the Open Space preserve is mowed by the Parks department at no cost to Zone 7. Rodent control and filling of burrows were completed by the District's contractor in the summer. Conditions of the inner levee are continually inspected throughout the winter during storms and/or high tides, when seepage is most evident.

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- d. Programmatic Maintenance Permit Status** – After over a decade of coordination, the District received approval for a 5-Year Programmatic Stream Maintenance Permit. This work was done primarily by staff, saving a significant amount of money. Similar efforts in Sonoma and Napa County cost millions of dollars in consultant contracts. Listed below is a summary of the key steps and milestones in the process.

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 latest version of it here: <https://marinflooddistrict.org/documents/marin-county-stream-maintenance-manual-2023/>) 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.

CA Department of Fish & Wildlife issued a Routine Maintenance Agreement for the District's creek maintenance that can be viewed here: <https://marinflooddistrict.org/documents/ca-department-of-fish-and-wildlife-creek-maintenance-activities-permit-2021/>

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) adopted a new Order on July 12 that can be found here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2023/R2-2023-0011.pdf

Item 4. Winter Preparedness Outreach

District staff in coordination with the County Office of Emergency Management will discuss ideas for helping the neighborhood get ready for winter. Planned outreach will include distributing the following information through email and mail this fall:

- [So, you live behind a levee!](https://marinflooddistrict.org/documents/so-you-live-behind-a-levee/) (https://marinflooddistrict.org/documents/so-you-live-behind-a-levee/)
- [Winter is coming brochure for levee inundation areas](https://marinflooddistrict.org/documents/winter-is-coming-brochure-for-levee-inundation-areas-2023/) (https://marinflooddistrict.org/documents/winter-is-coming-brochure-for-levee-inundation-areas-2023/)

Role of District

Flood District staff and contractors prepare for every winter as though it is an El Niño year through normal annual maintenance (see Item 3). During the winter we have storm patrols check on pump stations, ditches, trash racks, and the levee at the Open Space Preserve before, during, and after major storms. They remove debris and respond to any visible levee seepage issues with sandbags utilizing supplies kept at the pump stations.

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Role of Property Owners and Residents

Because we don't currently have easements over most of the levee along Vendola Drive, the District needs levee-adjacent residents to be active partners in protecting the neighborhood from flooding. Most property owners are great about identifying potential issues and notifying District staff (at floodinquiry@marincounty.org or 415-473-6530). For everybody's safety, only District contractors should install sandbags at the levee. Areas of known seepage were identified this summer and District staff will check in with those property owners when tides are high to see if concerning conditions are developing – like visibly flowing water through a hole or crack in the levee. **Residents who see rapidly flowing or muddy water coming through the levee should immediately evacuate and then call 911.**

Property owners throughout Zone 7 need to make sure they protect their properties including making sure valuable or hazardous items are not on the floors of garages or homes. Many people in floodplains strategically place sandbags around their structures to limit entry of floodwater. Residents should purchase materials for this at a hardware store well before bad weather is forecast to occur, learn proper techniques, and help neighbors. **Visit the Marin County emergency portal today to begin preparing:** <https://emergency.marincounty.org/>

Some neighborhoods in floodplains have organized for the purpose of helping each other properly prepare for floods, for example the Tam Valley Neighborhood Response Group (<https://www.southernmarinnrg.org/tam-valley>) and the Old Town Novato Flood Group (<https://m.facebook.com/groups/oldtownnovatofloodgroup/>). Flood Zones 1 and 3 provide information and resources to these organizations within those zones and they get the word out to the neighborhoods.

Role of Marin County Office of Emergency Management

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) updates the public emergency portal before and during potential flood events (<https://emergency.marincounty.org/>). OEM coordinates any necessary evacuations. In addition to monitoring the emergency portal, sign up now online for [Alert Marin](#) and Nixle (<https://local.nixle.com/register/>) to receive notifications direct to your phone. OEM coordinates with the Flood District throughout the year to plan for flood risk through [Local Hazard Mitigation Planning](#), emergency response exercises, and attending public information events together. During emergencies, Flood District staff are in constant contact with OEM's Emergency Operations Center – typically the District has representatives sitting at a desk in the Emergency Operations Center even overnight.

Item 5. Zoom Policy

The advisory board will have the opportunity to discuss and recommend a policy for hybrid advisory board meetings. Many issues must be considered in this recommendation including cost to provide the services, facility compatibility, staffing, ADA accessibility, and translation.

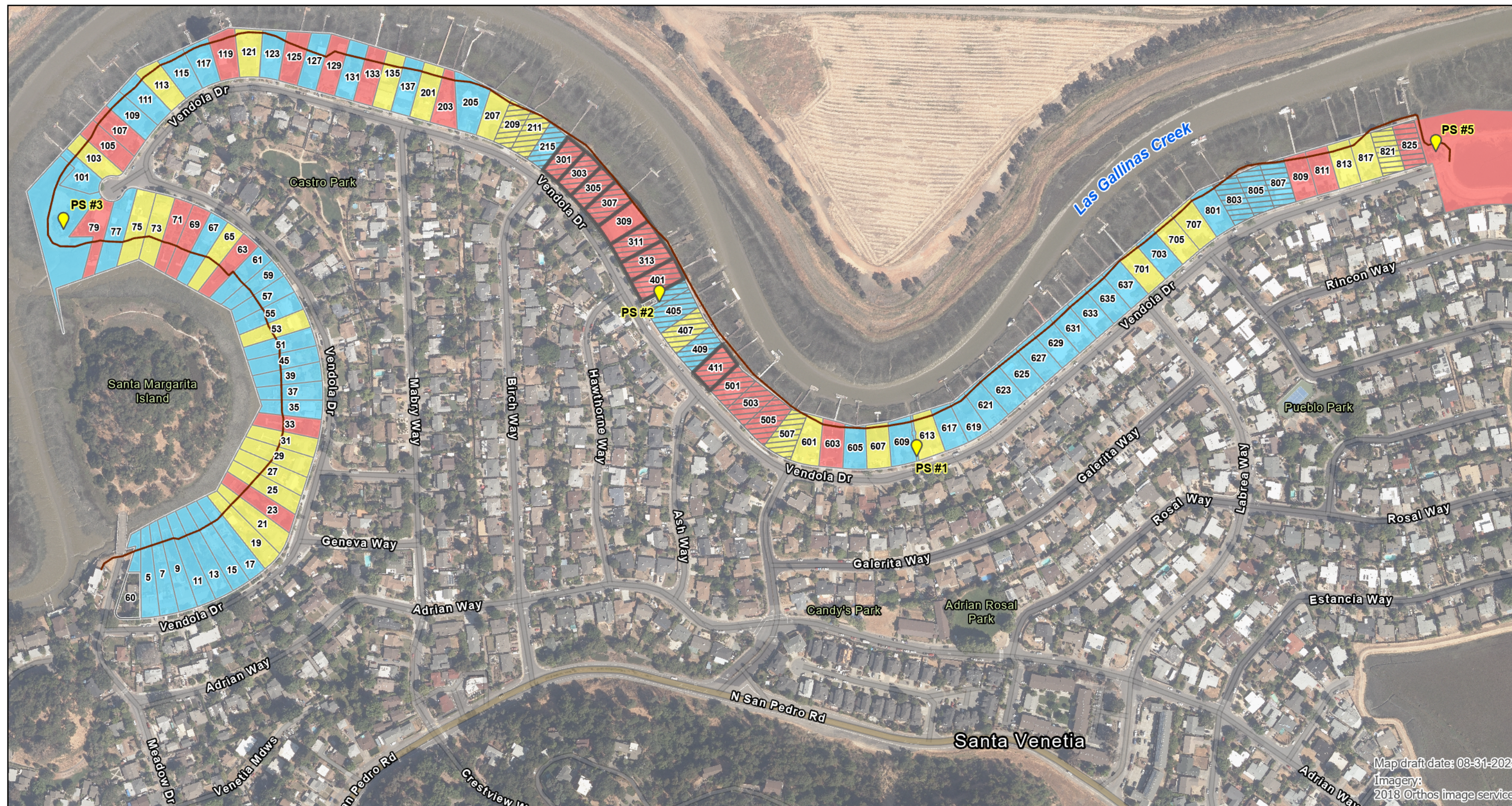
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Item 6. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda

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

Item 7. Schedule Next Meeting

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 December 28. Additional special meetings may be called if a budget adjustment or other urgent need is identified.



Map draft date: 08-31-2023
 Imagery:
 2018 Orthos image service

TRB/Levee Temporary Repair Priorities Map

- 1 - High: 0-5yr TRB svc life
- 2 - Medium: 5-10yr TRB svc life
- 3 - Low: 10-15yr TRB svc life
- 2023 Repairs: >15yr TRB svc life

- Pump Station
- Centerline of Existing TRB
- Parcel Abuts State Tidelands
- *No existing TRB/Earthen Levee is higher than elev. 10+/-

PRELIMINARY
 (still under review)

0 200 400 800 Feet

