

**FLOOD ZONE 9 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**MARCH 10, 2021**

**Item 1. Officer Elections**

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 by roll call for officers. Staff will give roll call.

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

**Item 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2019**

**Recommended Action:** Approve the minutes.

**Item 3. 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 4. Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022 Baseline Budget**

District staff reviewed expected expenditures for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2020, and ends June 30, 2021, with the Zone 9 Budget Subcommittee on February 4, 2020. Following the Shelter In-Place Order in March and with input from the County Administrator's Office most fund budgets from Fiscal Year 2019-2020 were automatically rolled over into the next fiscal year, including Zone 9. Going forward, the County Administrator's Office requested that the zones recommend a baseline budget for the beginning of each fiscal year that does not include major project expenses. Baseline budgets are intended to be relatively consistent year to year. Major project expenditures will require separate actions from the AB and District BOS to adjust the budget as needed. As usual, the approved budget may always be adjusted as necessary as priorities and cost estimates for projects and studies planned for this coming fiscal year are more clearly identified. The Proposed Flood Zone 9 Baseline Budget for FY 2021-2022 can be viewed at: <https://www.marinwatersheds.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/Zone%209%20Proposed%20Baseline%20Budget%20FY%202021-22.pdf>

Description of line items can be found here:

<https://www.marinwatersheds.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/Zone%209%20Budget%20Details%20FY%202021-22.pdf>

At a future meeting staff will present a cash flow projection through FY 2026-27, which is a tool that is being continuously refined. Based on the current cash flow projection, a multi-million-dollar, multi-year loan (beginning about early 2022) would be needed in order to construct the projects described in Items 5 and 9 below.

In July 2020, due to economic hardships presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the District Board of Supervisors did not increase the Zone 9 watershed by the otherwise allowable 3% this fiscal year. The cash flow projection *assumes* that the 3% annual increases resumes beginning in FY 2021-22.

**Recommended Action:** Recommend the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed Zone 9 Baseline Budget for FY 2021-22.

**Item 5. San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project**

The San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction (SAFRR) Project consists of three components: (1) design of the Sunnyside Nursery Flood Diversion and Storage (FDS) Basin at 3000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd; (2) the removal of a building at 634 San Anselmo Avenue and creek bank stabilization in San Anselmo; and (3) flood mitigation measures on downstream private properties that may see impacts from the project. The District design team led by Stetson Engineers has produced design and plan sheets to the 60% level which were used to prepare and submit permit applications to the State and Federal regulatory agencies. Staff and the design team has worked proactively with the agencies to respond to their initial requests to secure final permit approval. The design team is finalizing comments on the 90% design plans to be re-submitted to the agencies prior to receiving final approval. Following is an update of the progress of each of the project elements:

<b><u>Milestone</u></b>	<b><u>Timeline</u></b>
Permit applications submitted	May 2020
BB2 building demolition completed	June 2020
FDS Part 1 Construction completed	November 2020
90% SAFRR engineering design plans	February 2021
Permit approval expected	Spring 2021
100% design plans for FDS	Spring 2021
FDS Part 2 Construction bidding and award	Spring/summer 2021
FDS Part 2 Construction	Summer to Fall 2021
100% design plans and specs for downtown San Anselmo flood mitigation project	Summer 2021
Downtown San Anselmo flood mitigation construction bidding and award	Spring 2022
Downtown flood mitigation construction	Summer to Fall 2022

**A. Sunnyside Nursery Flood Diversion and Storage Basin (FDS)**

The Stetson design team has moved from 60% to 90% design plans, specifications and estimate for the FDS basin. The 90% plans and specifications have undergone review by staff and are awaiting updates to 100% level.

In order to accelerate the schedule for completion of the detention basin, the District has split construction into two phases. The first phase began the basin construction in 2020 and included demolition of the nursery site's structures, excavating and stockpiling gravel and topsoil to be reused for aspects of the project in 2021, and excavation and hauling of approximately 20,000 cubic yards of earthen material from the site. The first phase of the basin project was put out to bid and awarded in August 2020 and completed in mid-November 2020, about a month ahead of schedule.

The second phase of the work, expected to commence in summer 2021, will involve completing excavation of the basin, as well as construction of a side weir, outlet pipe and embankments around the basin. The \$6 million basin project, budgeted as part of the SAFRR Project, is expected to be completed by fall 2021.

During the planning of the FDS project, the design and permitting has been for both an "active" and "passive" basin. The active basin includes an embankment that crosses the creek and a gate that is controlled to create a back water that spills over a side weir into the detention basin during peak flows. The passive basin does not include this diversion structure and overflow into the basin occurs when the levels in the creek rise above the elevation of the side weir. Both these alternates were analyzed in the 2018 certified EIR. The intent was to put both these projects out to bid for construction as bid alternates and that the District would approve the alternative to construct depending on the final bid amounts and the amount available in the zone budget and future fee revenue. Based on the latest estimates and cash flow projections, the District is planning to bid and construct the passive basin only in 2021 given the cost difference is estimated to be substantial (\$5 million).

**Recommended Action:** Recommend the District Board of Supervisors increase appropriations in the Zone 9 miscellaneous expenses budget by up to \$600,000 for environmental compliance and/or mitigation plantings as required under project permits. The increase in appropriations will equal the amount of the final approved permits and agreements, and if additional funds are needed the advisory board will be updated in advance.

**Recommended Action:** Recommend the District Board of Supervisors increase appropriations in the Zone 9 professional services budget by up to \$900,000 for final design, permitting, and construction management services for the FDS basin project. The increase in appropriations will equal the amount of the final approved agreement(s), and if more is needed the advisory board will be updated in advance.

**Recommended Action:** Recommend the District Board of Supervisors increase appropriations in the Zone 9 construction budget by up to \$4,300,000 for construction of the FDS project. The increase in appropriations will equal the amount of the final

approved agreement, and if more is needed the advisory board will be updated in advance.

#### **B. 630-636 San Anselmo Avenue**

Due to the shutdown of local businesses resulting from the pandemic, San Anselmo decided to move ahead with demolition of the existing buildings on top of the deck and supporting concrete bridge in the creek. An agreement was signed between the District and Town in April 2020 for the Town to lead the demolition work under a contract with their own contractor, Massa Construction. This work was completed in the summer of 2020. The concrete slab foundation that spans the creek will remain in place until final permit approval and the main BB2 construction contract is bid and awarded. This was expected to occur in 2021 but recent unexpected federal funding issues for the Winship Bridge project (see Item 6) have resulted in a delay in construction to 2022 or later. The construction of flood mitigation project is expected to occur after or in conjunction with the Winship Avenue bridge replacement project.

The Stetson design team has moved from 60% towards 90% design plans, specifications and estimate for the BB2 part of the project. The District is working closely with The Town of San Anselmo to incorporate certain elements of the Reimagine Creek Park (RCP) vision into the SAFRR project. These elements that are not part of the flood mitigation project will be paid separately by the Town. The District plans will include reconstructing the right bank retaining wall in place to maximize room for a new pedestrian plaza along San Anselmo Avenue.

#### **C. Coordination with FEMA and Floodplain mapping updates**

The District is updating the creek modeling and floodplain mapping for the SAFRR project in coordination with FEMA and the Towns of Ross and San Anselmo. The District team is working on the submittal of a work plan in coordination with FEMA staff following their published 2019 guidance. FEMA has provided the effective hydraulic model that was developed in 2014 when the Ross Valley flood plain was last mapped and updated. The Ross valley/SAFRR/Winship mapping update process requires input from Washington DC FEMA headquarters as their team has the final say on the District's CLOMR/map revision.

More details and updates will be provided in future meetings and on the project page: <https://www.marinwatersheds.org/resources/projects/san-anselmo-flood-risk-reduction-safrr-project>.

**Recommended Action:** Recommend the District Board of Supervisors increase appropriations in the Zone 9 professional services budget by up to \$75,000 for floodplain modeling updates. The increase in appropriations will equal the amount of

the final approved tasks, and if more is needed the advisory board will be updated in advance.

#### **D. Private Property Structure Flood Risk Mitigation**

The District has been in contact with the three residential homeowners identified as requiring flood mitigation within their private properties due to impacts from the project per the certified project EIR consistent with the 2/19/20 technical memorandum. District staff have been identifying feasible flood mitigation measures and approximate costs acceptable to both the District and the private property owners, as the mitigation would need to occur on private property. Two of the three mitigation measures involve raising a structure which would require raising one foot above the 100-year base flood elevation and the third mitigation measure is initially proposing to implement both wet and dry floodproofing to the garage/basement level of the primary structure containing primary structure utilities. Homeowners will be asked to approve the proposed mitigation as part of a written agreement, and any mitigation funding provided to the owners previously recommended by the Advisory Board would also require a recommendation through the Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

**Recommended Action:** Recommend the District Board of Supervisors increase appropriations in the Zone 9 professional services budget by up to \$80,000 for design services for private property mitigation measures. The increase in appropriations will equal the amount of the final approved agreement(s), and if more is needed the advisory board will be updated in advance.

#### **Item 6. Bridge Projects Including Winship Avenue**

This is a written update only, but staff will be available to answer questions. The District has been supporting five bridge replacement projects in Ross Valley through funding agreements as these bridges were anticipated to increase creek capacity under the bridges. These bridge replacements were identified within the District Phase 1 work plan due to their eligibility to receive a large proportion of outside funding through the Caltrans administered Highway Bridge Program (BBP). These bridges include three bridges in San Anselmo: Nokomis Avenue, Madrone Avenue, and Center/Sycamore Boulevard, Azalea Avenue bridge in Town of Fairfax, and the Winship Avenue bridge within the Town of Ross.

The Highway Bridge Program, which had programmed federal funding for the majority of the replacement costs of the bridges, has indefinitely delayed providing any further funding at this time. The Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement, functionally linked to other District projects such as the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project, was fully covered by federal funding following completion of the California Environmental Quality Act. Due to the federal funding issue, the Town of Ross is pursuing alternative funding sources in order to get the bridge project underway as soon as possible. As a result, the District will delay the start of the foundation removal in downtown San Anselmo at 634-636 San Anselmo Avenue (formerly known as

Building Bridge #2) until the Town of Ross has secured alternative funding and construction is underway.

See related news release here: <https://www.marincounty.org/main/county-press-releases/press-releases/2021/dpw-safrrproject-012021>

### **Item 7. Hillview Pump Station & Stormdrain Improvements**

This is a written update only, but staff will be available to answer questions. The City of Larkspur (City) identified a need to improve the drainage system that captures stormwater runoff in the Hillview neighborhood and discharges it to lower Corte Madera Creek. Over time, the pre-existing outfall pipes became blocked by creek sediment which reduced the pipes' capacity to discharge the runoff. The City identified an opportunity to improve the drainage system as part of the Pump Station and Drain Improvements in the Hillview Neighborhood Improvements Project (Project). The Bon Air Road Bridge replacement (separate from this Project and funded by City and FHWA Bridge Program) included constructing a new pump station – which was just completed at the end of October – along Bon Air Road to pump drainage along Bon Air Road. As part of this Project, expanded capacity and additional storm drain connections to the new pump station are being constructed so that the Hillview's stormwater runoff can be directed to and accommodated by the Bon Air Road pump station. More details are available from the project webpage:

<http://www.marinwatersheds.org/resources/projects/hillview-pump-station-stormdrain-improvements>

A Memorandum of Agreement between Larkspur and the District was executed by the District Board of Supervisors on July 18, 2017, in the amount of \$42,000 to help the City fund development of the conceptual design for this project. An additional Cooperative Agreement between the City and Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District) to provide up to \$910,000 in reimbursement for final design and construction to the City for the project was approved by the Board on August 18.

**As of February 2021, the City has completed 95% plans for construction of storm drain improvements in the Hillview neighborhood which will connect to the new pump station. The project should be ready to go out to bid this spring.**

### **Item 8. Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project**

District staff have been working with the Town of Ross, Friends of Corte Madera Creek and other stakeholders to continue moving forward with the project planning and development of the new Draft EIR. In May 2020 the Flood District contracted with Panorama Inc. and the team of consultants from Horizon Water and Environment and Stillwater Sciences to develop the

Project EIR and file permit applications with the applicable regulatory agencies for the project. In June 2020 District staff were successful in amending the DWR Grant agreement to extend the project completion date to March 31, 2023, which requires construction of the project to be completed by the end of December 2022. At the end of June, two public workshops were held to present the project concepts and seek input from the community. On August 27, 2020 a public scoping meeting was held to solicit input for development of the Draft EIR for the project. Comments were received and incorporated into the development of the Draft EIR for the proposed project and alternatives that will be released for public review on February 1, 2021, available to view on the District website here: <http://bit.ly/2LiopTn>. There will be a formal hearing on March 2, 2021, at the District Board of Supervisors meeting to review the project and discuss the adequacy of the Draft EIR. **The purpose of this advisory board meeting is not to accept comments. Comments will be received through March 17, 2021, and may be emailed to: [cortemaderacreek@marincounty.org](mailto:cortemaderacreek@marincounty.org)**, sent by mail to Joanna Dixon, Project Manager, Marin County Flood Control District, 3501 Civic Center Dr., San Rafael, CA 94901 or may be addressed to the Board of Supervisors during the hearing on March 2, 2021 (instructions for participation are available here: <http://bit.ly/2XxhvvZ> ).

**The current schedule** (subject to change) is outlined below.

June 2020 through August 2020	Informational Project update & Community workshops and scoping meeting held
2021	Coordination Agreements Executed with the Town of Ross other stakeholders and Agencies
Apr 2020 – May 2021	Project EIR Process February 1 release of draft EIR with 45 day comment period. Comments due by March 17, 2021 March 2, 2021 District BOS Hearing on DEIR. Respond to Comments and develop final EIR by mid June 2021 August 2021 Present Final EIR at District BOS Hearing File Notice of Determination by Sept. 1, 2021
Sept. 2021	Project Approvals as needed to proceed with construction -Town of Ross, USACE, College of Marin
May 2021- Feb 2022	Final Project Design and Permitting
Spring 2022 – Fall 2022	Project Construction
<b>Public Engagement and Stakeholder Coordination Occurs throughout Process</b>	

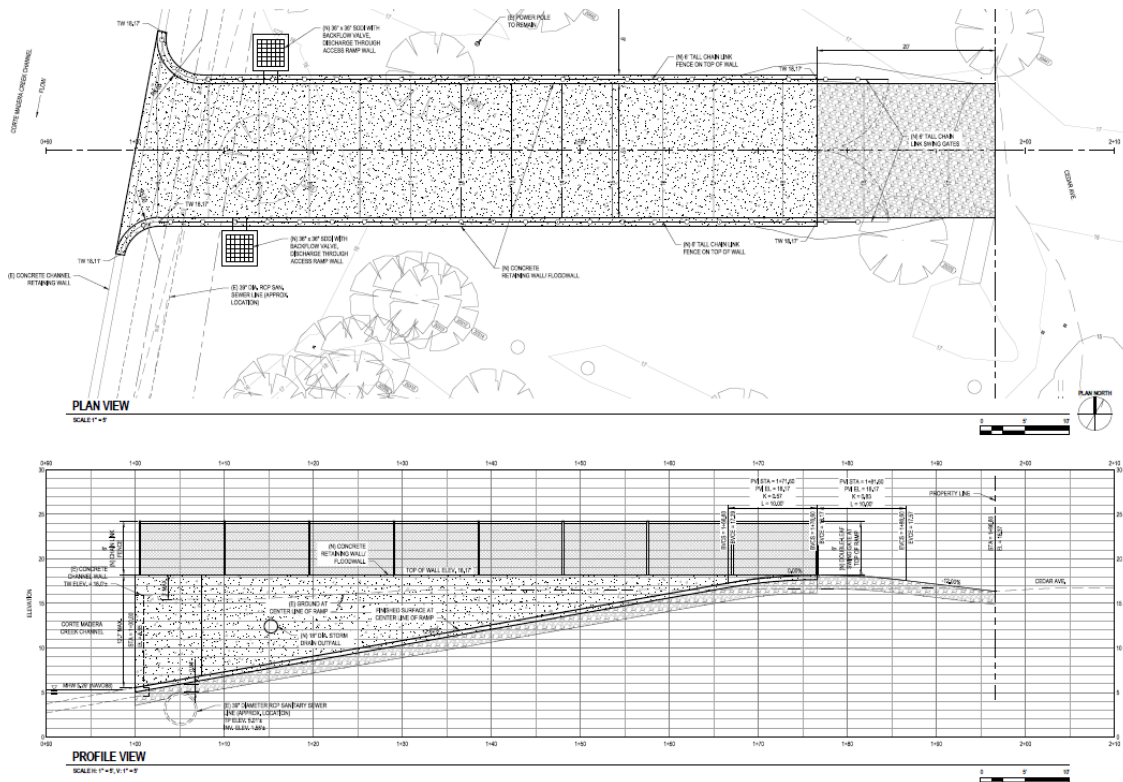
**Recommended Action:** Recommend the District Board of Supervisors increase appropriations in the Zone 9 professional services budget by up to \$2,000,000 for final design, permitting, and construction management services for the CMC FRM Phase 1

project. The increase in appropriations will equal the amount of the final approved agreement(s), and if more is needed the advisory board will be updated in advance.

**A. Maintenance Access Ramp**

The District has identified the independent need for the design and construction of a proposed Maintenance Access Ramp which is intended to get constructed in spring of 2022 ahead of the overall project. The ramp will be constructed on District owned land at the end of Cedar Ave. to allow maintenance and construction vehicular access down into the concrete channel. The Access Ramp project was presented to environmental regulatory agencies in an early February pre-application meeting. GHD is currently finishing up the design plans which will include all the grading and concrete work to form the new ramp behind the existing concrete channel wall. The maintenance access ramp will facilitate regular maintenance work within the existing concrete channel (for fallen tree removal, vegetation management, sediment removal from the fish resting pools, repairs to the concrete surface abrasion in the bottom of the channel, graffiti removal, etc.) even if the overall CMC FRM project is not approved. The cost estimate for the ramp construction is approximately \$500,000, including new drainage culverts, backflow prevention, and eventually breaking through the concrete channel wall and connecting the ramp walls to the channel.

**Recommended Action:** Recommend the District Board of Supervisors approve the Maintenance Access Ramp project.



35% Plans for the Ramp



**B. Concrete Channel Restoration**

The CMC FRM EIR includes the concrete channel restoration scope that the Friends of CMC have been designing, with a State Coastal Conservancy grant, at the downstream end of the concrete channel by College of Marin. Friends of CMC is seeking grant funding for the concrete removal project construction. Information on the project can be found on Friends of Corte Madera Creek's website:

[https://friendsofcortemaderacreek.org/new\\_site/](https://friendsofcortemaderacreek.org/new_site/)

**Item 9. Next Meeting**

Staff recommend that the advisory board meet at its next by-law meeting date on the third Tuesday of January and convene special meetings in the interim as needed to support project progress and other needs that come up.