

# FLOOD ZONE 9 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

June 26, 2023

## 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 for officers.

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

## Item 2. Approval of Minutes for Prior Meetings

- a. See updated draft meeting minutes from March 31, 2022 meeting here:

<https://marinflooddistrict.org/meetings/zone-9-advisory-board-meeting-march-31-2022/>

- b. See draft meeting minutes from April 25, 2022 meeting here:

<https://marinflooddistrict.org/meetings/zone-9-advisory-board-meeting-april-25-2022/>

- c. See draft meeting minutes from the June 14, 2023 special meeting here:

<https://marinflooddistrict.org/meetings/special-zone-9-advisory-board-meeting-june-14-2023/>

**Recommended Action:** Approve the minutes.

## Item 3. Flood District Website

The Flood District now has a new website. Former sites [marinwatersheds.org](http://marinwatersheds.org) and [rossvalleywatershed.org](http://rossvalleywatershed.org) will be decommissioned. Please visit [marinflooddistrict.org](http://marinflooddistrict.org) for information on flood zones and projects.

## Item 4. Project Updates

### San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction (SAFRR) Project

The primary purpose of the Project is to reduce flood risk by (1) reducing peak discharge by attenuating flows through use of a flood diversion and storage basin, and (2) increasing creek capacity by removing existing obstructions to creek flow and then regrading and improving the creek channel. The project will reduce flooding on 480 properties during a 100-year storm event. The creek improvements in San Anselmo will also set the stage for the Town's Creekside Park Project. The scope of the SAFRR Project consists of three distinct components: (1) the Sunnyside Flood Diversion and Storage (FDS) Basin at 3000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd; (2) the removal of a building at 634-636 San Anselmo Avenue (BB2) in the San Anselmo, a structure that partially obstructs the flow of San Anselmo Creek; and (3) structural mitigation measures downstream.

Construction of the FDS Basin is complete except for some landscaping, and staff are currently working to finalize environmental mitigation requirements. The basin was functional during the January and March storms but water levels were not high enough for the facility to be used. By design, creek flows do not enter the detention basin until they reach a certain height, at which time the excess flow is detained in the basin to reduce potential flooding downstream.

Removal of the building at 634-636 San Anselmo Avenue in the San Anselmo, referred to as Building Bridge 2 (BB2), is an important component of the SAFRR project. It spans San Anselmo Creek and its foundations are in the channel and are a major obstruction to flow. The existing buildings on top of the deck of the supporting concrete BB2 bridge were demolished in the summer of 2020. However, the remainder of the BB2 project has been delayed primarily due to the building bridge being located within a FEMA regulatory floodway and potential downstream impacts.

Removing BB2 increases the channel capacity and as a result, increases flood depths downstream of the project. Structural mitigation measures may be required to address impacts to affected properties and need to be implemented prior to increasing channel capacity. To allow the bridge removal project and associated creek enhancements, Creekside Park improvements and pedestrian bridge construction to move forward prior to implementation of the structural mitigation measures, a temporary flow restriction device (baffle) that mimics the flow restriction characteristics of BB2, has been designed as an option for the BB2 Removal Project. It is preferable to remove the bridge without installing a baffle to achieve the full benefits of the project. These objectives must be balanced with the District’s ability to do the downstream mitigations required both from a timing and funding perspective.

The District was able to secure a grant extension to 2024. The District’s design team prepared 95% design plans and the required FEMA application package last year for a BB2 alternative with a baffle, and is currently preparing 100% design plans, specifications and estimate for the removal of the building bridge (BB2) for a no-baffle alternative. An additional FEMA application is being prepared for the no-baffle alternative. The specific approach for this application depends on the upcoming discussions with FEMA. It is not yet known whether BB2 removal will require a baffle or not.

Summary of Next Steps and Schedule:

<p><i>FEMA Coordination</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- District to prepare FEMA application</li> <li>- District &amp; FEMA review mitigation approach</li> <li>- FEMA approve model</li> </ul>	<p>Estimated Timeline March 2023 through March 2024+</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FEMA Floodplain Remapping Public outreach (independent of BB2 project)</li> </ul>	<p>2+ years</p>
<p><i>Permits and Environmental</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update Natural Resources Permits</li> <li>- CEQA Addendum</li> <li>- Building Permits – San Anselmo</li> </ul>	<p>Estimated Timeline June 2023 through March 2024</p>
<p><i>Private Property Mitigation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review Survey &amp; Update as needed</li> <li>- Private Property Outreach</li> <li>- Work with Property Owners to Mitigate</li> </ul>	<p>Estimated Timeline June 2023 through October 2024</p>
<p><i>Design and Construction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finalize Design</li> <li>- Bidding and Contract Award</li> <li>- Construction (Summer 2024)</li> </ul>	<p>Estimated Timeline March 2023 through October 2024</p>

The following table is a summary of SAFRR project costs to date and anticipated future costs and funding needs.

Task Description	Total Cost Estimate	Encumbered + Spent	Remaining Cost
FDS Construction Cost	\$6.1M	\$6.1M	\$0
FDS Construction Management	\$300k	\$300k	\$0
FDS Design Costs	\$2.7M	\$2.7M	\$0
BB2 Construction Cost	\$3.1M	\$100k	\$3.0M
BB2 Design Costs	\$1M	\$1M	\$0
BB2 Construction Management	\$200k	\$0	\$200k
SAFRR Real Estate Cost	\$6M	\$5.6M	\$400k
SAFRR Staff Labor Costs	\$2M	\$1.4M	\$600k
SAFRR Environmental Costs	\$1.4M	\$1.4M	\$0
SAFRR Offsite Environmental Mitigation Costs	\$200k	\$0	\$200k
Other* Costs	\$100k	\$100k	\$0
SAFRR Structural Mitigation	\$3M	\$0	\$3M
<i>Total:</i>	<i>\$26.1M</i>	<i>\$18.7M</i>	<i>\$7.4M</i>

\*e.g. permits, utilities

Existing Revenue:

\$8,720,500	State Department of Water Resources (DWR) Grant
\$8,720,500	Flood Zone 9 Fee (Required DWR Grant Match)
\$6M	Additional Zone 9 contribution (portion of fee revenue FY 2023-2027, the rest needed for Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project contribution)
<i>\$23,441,000</i>	<i>Total</i>

Anticipated Additional Revenue Needs: \$2.7M

District staff are working on a grant application for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to close the funding gap.

### Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project

The project includes elements that would increase flow conveyance capacity, provide flood protection, and/or enhance habitat within Corte Madera Creek. District staff have been working with the Town of Ross, Friends of Corte Madera Creek, and other stakeholders on project design, permitting, and Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The EIR was certified by the District Board of Supervisors on August 17, 2021. The project has funding from a CA Department of Water Resources Grant. The expiration for that grant has been extended by three years to March 31, 2026. The project is being bid as multiple contracts spanning several years. Construction in the Granton Park neighborhood of the new stormwater pump station is underway and the maintenance access ramp is complete.

The following table is a summary of Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project costs to date and anticipate future costs and funding needs.

Task Description	Total Cost Estimate	Encumbered + Spent	Remaining Cost
Maintenance Access Ramp & Stormwater Pump Station Construction Cost	\$4.1M	\$4.1M	\$0
Unit 4 Transition into Natural Channel (Fish Ladder Removal) Construction Cost	\$3.8M	\$0	\$3.8M
Fish Resting Pool Improvements Construction Cost	\$1.7M	\$0	\$1.7M
Lower College of Marin (COM) Restoration Construction Cost	\$3.5M	\$0	\$3.5M
Design Costs	\$2.3M	\$2.2M	\$100k
Environmental* Costs	\$1.3M	\$940k	\$360k
Real Estate Costs	\$180k	\$180k	\$0
Staff Labor Costs	\$1.2M	\$415k	\$800k
Total:	\$18.1M	\$7.9M	\$10.2M

\*Includes CEQA, permitting, and Lower COM Restoration design

Existing Revenue:

\$7,030,377	State Department of Water Resources (DWR) Grant
\$7,030,377	Flood Zone 9 Fee (Required DWR Grant Match)
\$1,410,600	SF Bay Restoration Authority Round 6 (Managed by Coastal Conservancy)
\$750,000	County Sea Level Rise Funds (for Lower COM Restoration construction)
\$16,221,354	Total

Anticipated Additional Revenue Needs: \$2 million

District staff are working on grant applications for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, National Estuary Program, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, and National Marine Fisheries grants to close the funding gap. For some of these grants we heard the project is highly ranked and are optimistic that more funding will come through in the next couple years. This could in turn free up funding for BB2 and private structure mitigations.

Some of the in-channel improvements that are part of this project would cause a minor rise in water surface elevation within the existing concrete channel, and therefore need to be approved by FEMA and the Town of Ross and the County’s respective floodplain administrators. The projects will follow a Conditional Letter of Map Revision process similar to the SAFRR project which is expected to take from 6 to 9 months and therefore construction of these project components is scheduled for the 2024-2025 construction seasons. These components include removal of the existing wooden fish ladder structure, and replacement of the transition structure between the upstream natural channel and the existing concrete channel plus any work to raise the height of the existing concrete channel walls downstream.

The CMC FRM EIR includes the removal of a portion of the concrete channel and restoration that the Friends of CMC have been supporting, with funding from a State of CA Coastal Conservancy grant, at the downstream end of the concrete channel next to College of Marin. A No-Rise certification for this portion of the project has been approved by the County’s floodplain administrator. Information on the project can be found on the Friends of Corte Madera Creek’s website: [https://friendsofcortemaderacreek.org/new\\_site/](https://friendsofcortemaderacreek.org/new_site/)

## Item 5. Historic Revenue and Expense Summary

In response to the severe flooding that occurred in 2005 voters approved an annual Storm Drainage Fee in 2007 to provide funding for flood protection in Ross Valley. In the 16 years since program initiation, the District has worked with the community to develop and implement flood reduction projects in the Ross Valley. An overview of Ross Valley Program Expenditures and Revenues is provided below.

### Expenditures

Since the fee measure was passed in 2007, the District has undertaken a variety of efforts including watershed wide flood risk identification and reduction studies, public outreach, administration, engineering and feasibility studies, capital improvement projects, coordination with the Cities and Towns on joint projects to enhance creeks and remove obstructions like bridges. **Expenditures for the program total approximately \$47M to date.** A summary of projects and program activities is provided below.

#### *Summary of Ross Valley Program Activities and Associated Expenditures*

##### Watershed Planning, Outreach, and Administration

- Ross Valley Watershed Program \$2 million
- Outreach and Administration \$3 million

##### Engineering and Feasibility Studies

- Corte Madera Creek Units 2, 3, and 4 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) \$2 million
- Phoenix Lake IRWM Project \$3.3 million
- Detention Basin Studies (Lefty Gomez, Loma Alta Preserve, Deer Park, and Memorial Park) \$1 million
- Sleepy Hollow Creek/Morningside Feasibility Study (within Town of San Anselmo) \$100,000

##### Capital Improvement Projects

- San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction- Sunnyside & Building Bridge 2 (see Item 5 for scope) \$18.7 million
- Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Management Project (see Item 6 for scope) \$7.9 million
- Lower Corte Madera Creek Project (includes Local Levee Evaluation and dredging studies in Larkspur) \$4.3 million
- Hillview Pump Station and Storm Drain Project (within City of Larkspur) \$1 million

##### Coordination with Cities and Towns on Creek and Bridge Improvements

- Creek Maintenance \$1.5 million
- Culvert Inspections, Replacements and Repairs \$250,000
- Bridge Projects with City and Town Partners \$2 million
- Flood Preparedness Pilot Program – Installed gauges \$100,000

### Revenues

The majority of funding for the Ross Valley program comes from 2 sources, fee revenues and grants. As of April 2023, approximately \$35.1 million in Fee Revenue has been collected and \$20.2 million in grant revenues have been awarded. In addition, assuming there are no fee increases or changes in the number of parcels as part of our annual evaluation in Flood Zone 9, the Projected Future Fee Revenue to be collected between FY 23/24 through FY 26/27 is \$10.5M. This results in a Projected Total Program Funding of \$65.8M.

*Projected Total Program Funding \$65.8M*

- *Fee Revenue Collected - \$35.1M*
- *Grants Awarded - \$20.2M*
- *Future Fee Revenue - \$10.5M*

## 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). While members of the public are welcome to address the Advisory Board, under the Brown Act Board members may not deliberate or take action on items not on the agenda, and generally may only listen.

## Item 7. Next Meeting

A special meeting will be held later this year to review which approach FEMA recommends for BB2. Additional special meetings may be held for other project needs.