

# Marin City Stormwater Plan | Task Force Meeting #1

## Monday, April 3, 2023 | 12 - 2 PM | Via Zoom



### Attendees:

Task Force Members Affiliation
Kappas Marina and Waldo Point Harbor
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
One Tam
Isoji Building Community from Within
Marin City Climate Resilience & Health Justice (MCCR&HJ)
Marin City Community Development Corporation
Marin City Community Services District
Marin Housing Authority
Marin City People's Plan
Marin City Resident (Upper Watershed)
Sausalito Marin City School District

Agency Attendees Affiliation
Caltrans District 4/Bay Area
City of Sausalito
Marin City People's Plan
Marin County Office of Emergency Management
Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
Sausalito Marin City Sanitary District

Other Attendees	Affiliation
June Farmer	Community Coordinator
Five other guests attended	

Elected Representatives & Office Staff	District
Stephanie Moulton-Peters	District 3 Supervisor
Doreen Gounard	Office of District 3 Supervisor

Project Team	Affiliation
Susan Harden	Circlepoint, Facilitator
Ivy Morrison	Circlepoint
Patti Ransdell	Circlepoint
Tracy Clay	Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
Berenice Davidson	Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
Hannah Lee	Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
Felix Meneau	Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
Robin Lee	Schaaf & Wheeler
Sandra Carroll	Schaaf & Wheeler



The purpose of the summary is to provide a high-level overview of the key questions and issues that arose during the Task Force meeting. Questions and comments will be addressed at future meetings.

### I. **Welcome**

Stephanie Moulton-Peters, on behalf of Marin County Flood Control District (MCFCD), provided a welcome to meeting attendees and described the importance of this project to Marin City.

### II. **Task Force Introductions**

Task Force meeting attendees introduced themselves and described why they were participating, and where they are located in the watershed.

#### **Discussion:**

Stakeholder priorities were discussed. Task Force members identified the following as priorities:

- It's important that people from Marin City are in attendance to make sure they're properly represented.
- Prioritize equity.
- Ensure the focus is on other areas of Marin City and not just on the freeway and shopping center.
- Residents in the lower watershed are particularly interested in ensuring that watershed policies that are developed reflect the community's priorities (Editor's note: the purpose of the project is not focused on watershed policies, but on practical short and longer-term ways to reduce flooding.)
- A new detention basin should be considered.
- The retention pond and its discharge and outflow have cut very deep channels adjacent to floating homes in the past. What will the status of the detention pond be and the status of the outfall?
- Marin Housing Authority is interested in mitigating flood waters that pass through the GGNRA property.

### III. **Task Force Charter (Handbook) Overview**

The draft **Charter (Handbook)** was briefly discussed:

- Some members of the Task Force said the draft handbook should have been circulated earlier. This would help set the tone for an inclusive process that enables task force members to be kept informed and engaged. This will result in a community-driven plan, and not one that was pre-determined.
- The Project team acknowledged that the Task Force will have opportunity to review the DRAFT Handbook.
- The Community Coordinator has just come on board; she will help us stay in touch with the community. Task Force members acknowledged this is an important role for the Project.
- The Project team will review and consider everyone's input before distributing the DRAFT Handbook to not cause confusion within the community or Task Force.
- The Facilitator noted that the Handbook is a draft, which can be revised, and Task Force feedback will be valuable.

- An updated version of the DRAFT Handbook will be shared with the Task Force prior to the next Task Force meeting.
- The Task Force noted that there are environmental justice (EJ) issues associated with the Project.
- Marin City flooding issues are severe at the Shopping Center due to the challenging drainage in this location. It should be noted that the Shopping Center representative was invited to participate in the Task Force and were unable to attend the first meeting.
- The Facilitator noted that the Task Force is not the only opportunity for involvement in the planning process and there will be community meetings in the future. She suggested that the project team creates a Task Force roster.

#### IV. Project Background/History

Past projects were discussed briefly by Project Manager Felix Meneau. These have included:

- A temporary pump at Donahue & Drake,
- A second pond discharge culvert (unfeasible for the District, is in the design phase by Caltrans),
- A permanent pump station at the pond (FEMA is looking at funding a permanent pump station to help with flood relief),
- District staff noted that we can build upon the District's previous efforts to improve stormwater/flood planning in Marin City.

#### V. Looking Forward

- Schaaf & Wheeler presented their current scope of work. Task Force members were encouraged to provide input about areas that have known flooding issues.
- The Marin City Stormwater Plan will include a recommended list of measures in order of priority, based on Task Force recommendations and community input.
- Review of Goals & Definition of Scope: Schaaf & Wheeler asked if there were any areas of their scope of work that haven't been discussed yet, that need attention?

Some of these areas were identified by Task Force Members and include:

- Solve flooding at Drake & Donahue to address ingress/egress flooding issues for U.S. 101.
- A previous conceptual study was tasked with finding ways to bypass the shopping center (4 options).
- The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is taking a look at a bypass and detention at the ballfield but neither of these are under design.
- Integration with Caltrans
- Concrete ditches in wildland areas fill quickly with debris and don't work without consistent maintenance. Let's move away from this as a solution moving forward.
- There has been major flooding across from the library.
- Marin City used to be a landfill and the shopping center knew in the 90's/early 2000's, when an EIR was completed, that the land was sinking. How will we address the current sinking with how water gets infiltrated into the ground? Will Schaaf & Wheeler consult with the people that do EIRs in this area?
- The main storm drain that the ballfield will run into goes beneath the Ridgeway Apartments—they need to be a part of the conversation.



- If the flooding will be disbursed via pump station, where will the water go?
- If we do a data assessment, we need to focus on the top of the ridge; those pipes are quite old.
- A previous study indicates that the pipes at the top of the watershed are too small, there are pipes that don't go anywhere, or are filled with debris. There are no connecting storm drain pipes down Donahue so the water doesn't have anywhere to go. Mold and mildew are concerns.
- The water should be disbursed away from the floating homes; and instead flow directly into the larger parts of the bay.
- Did previous drainage studies look at the conveyance from undeveloped areas of the watershed?
- Schaaf & Wheeler shared a map of the project area and asked attendees to mark up or provide information about known flooding locations.
- Members of the public may review the map that will be developed for the subsequent public meeting and can provide comments, flood photos, and new input by emailing [MarinCityStormwaterPlan@marincounty.org](mailto:MarinCityStormwaterPlan@marincounty.org).

### VI. Community Engagement Plan

- The Community Engagement Plan was discussed. A clear mission statement is needed.
- The Task Force agrees that it's key to have a consistent community presence to make sure this project is kept relevant.
- Community Meeting locations are critical. The MLK School or Senior Center were recommended as potential community meeting locations.
- A Task Force member volunteered to have meetings at the Marin City Community Services District (CSD).
- The Task Force agreed that the community walk should be part of the Community Meeting and encouraged outreach to be aligned and in collaboration with community-wide events.
- It is critical that there is transparency around fundability. Some Task Force member feedback regarding this included:
  - "Marin City residents are tired of project proposals that don't actually happen. They need funding to have projects come to fruition!"
- County staff noted that this project won't secure funding but will help to determine which projects to prioritize and pursue grant funding for / and matching funds outside of the flood district. This project will serve to demonstrate community support, which can result in more fundable projects.
- It was noted that all three lanes on U.S. 101 have flooded as much as three feet under water – need to take this into consideration in this project.

### V. Next Steps:

- Create a Task Force Roster
- Bring forth options to resolve the Task Force member account of historical flooding across from the library to include in the plan (*Schaaf & Wheeler*).
- Look into the Marin City EIR from the 90's/early 2000's to address concern around sinking land in Marin City. Is it possible to do another EIR to reassess the impact of sinking around the shopping center? (it should be noted that an EIR is not part of the scope of the Stormwater Master Plan).
- Invite a representative from Ridgeway Apartments to be part of the conversation.
- A representative from the County of Marin Office of Equity (OOE) should be present during a future Task Force meeting.



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