

Marin City Stormwater Plan | Task Force Meeting #2

Tuesday, August 1, 2023 | 12-2 PM | Via Zoom



Attendees:

Task Force Members Affiliation
Coast Miwok Tribal Council of Marin
Gateway Shopping Center / Gerrity Group
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
Homeowner's Association (Marin City)
Isoji Building Community from Within
Kappas Marina
Marin City Community Development Corporation
Marin City Climate Resilience & Health Justice
Marin City Homeowners Association
Marin City Ministerial Alliance
Marin City People's Plan
One Tam
Waldo Point Harbor

Invited but did not Attend Task Force #2:

Task Force Members Affiliation
Caltrans
Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
Floating Homes Association
Hannah Project
Historic Golden Gate Village Resident Council
Hope for Housing
Marin City Community Services District
Marin Housing Authority
Performing Stars
Sausalito Marin City School District

Agency Attendees Affiliation
Marin County Administrator's Office / Office of Equity
Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
United States Army Corps of Engineers

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
June Farmer	Circlepoint, Community Coordinator for Marin City Stormwater Plan
Monica Dwight	Circlepoint
Tracy Clay	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
Felicia Su	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 comments that arose during the Task Force meeting. Questions and comments will be addressed at future meetings.

I. Welcome

Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters provided a welcome to meeting attendees and described the importance of this project to Marin City. She emphasized that this effort is a planning project to explore opportunities for improved infrastructure and understand priorities for implementation. The data from this effort will be used to seek additional funding to bring the projects to fruition.

II. Task Force Charter Update & New Task Force Member Introductions

The draft **Charter (Handbook)** was briefly discussed by Susan Harden, the meeting facilitator.

- The facilitator noted that the Handbook is a resource available to all members of the Task Force. It discusses objectives and how to participate in the Task Force, among other topics. She noted that although there is a signature page in the handbook, signatures from the Task Force members are not required.
- The facilitator discussed the principles of participation, which include creating transparency, cultivating shared participation, making consensus-based recommendations, engaging respectfully, and maintaining efficiency.
- The ground rules for the meeting were also discussed. These included:
 - Striving to create a collaborative, problem-solving environment
 - Using common conversational courtesy
 - Valuing all ideas and points of view
 - Striving to be concise
 - Thinking innovatively and welcoming new ideas
 - Having conversations that are forward-focused
 - Giving equal opportunities for participation
 - Avoiding ascribing motives for the opinions expressed by others
 - Avoiding adopting right-wrong paradigms
 - Task Force members were invited to contribute additional guidelines. It was noted by a Task Force member that there are additional individuals not present that might have additional input at a later time.



- The facilitator then read the full list of invited guests, and attendees that were present introduced themselves.

III. Recap of Work Completed So Far

Schaaf & Wheeler's Project Manager, Robin Lee, then shared the work that has already been done on this project.

- Work to date includes the first Task Force meeting, the first community meeting, and fieldwork. Based on input received, an issue map was created that shows the flooding hotspots in Marin City.
- It was also noted that meeting summaries are available [online](#).

IV. Discussion of the Upper Watershed

Schaaf & Wheeler's Project Manager, Robin Lee, discussed the upper watershed in Marin City, clarifying that this was the focus of today's Task Force meeting. A subsequent Task Force meeting in October will include a discussion of the lower watershed.

She began by explaining what happens when it rains in Marin City, what they noticed based on fieldwork conducted, and educating the Task Force about key hydrology terminology. She then provided an analysis overview, discussed existing conditions, identified problem areas, and offered possible solutions for conceptual improvements based on what the project team observed during fieldwork.

The three key issue areas that were identified, along with potential solutions, include:

1. **Burgess and Drake/Phillips Staircase.** Just downstream of the Drake/Phillips Staircase, there is flooding in the roadway due to a highly vegetated channel with limited capacity. When it rains, water moves quickly down the hillside and the existing trash rack becomes clogged. Excess runoff that cannot enter the pipe flows down the staircase or through private property. In addition at Burgess Ct, there is a broken pipe in the upper watershed that appears to be on Golden Gate National Recreation (GGNR) property.

Potential Solutions Discussed:

- Near the Drake/Phillips Staircase, reposition the trash rack with a new one that is at more of an angle so stormwater can move unimpeded out of the system (An angled rack collects more trash without clogging because it forces the trash to float to the top, and move up the rack allowing water to flow underneath).
 - Improve open channel flow just upstream of the Drake/Phillips Staircase drainage.
 - Because upstream of Burgess is in Golden Gate National Recreation Area's jurisdiction, District to coordinate with GGNRA to address these challenges.
2. **Eureka/Pacheco Ditch.** There is limited capacity of the drain inlets above the concrete-lined ditch for the runoff to enter into the storm drain system, so the water coming down the hillside



pools at this location. The concrete-lined ditch has capacity to convey the flows, but due to the smooth nature of concrete, the flows are very fast.

Potential Solutions Discussed:

- Create higher capacity inlets at the top of the hillside.
- Install a larger vegetated channel to slow the higher stormwater velocities within the concrete-lined ditch which currently cause floodwater backups further downstream.
- Redesign the trash rack and create a higher headwall (a concrete wall immediately upstream of trash rack) to replace the temporary sandbags.

3. **Historic Golden Gate Village Storm Drain System.** The goal of this site is to convey water running down the hillside and capture it in inlets into the underground pipes. The vegetated hillside surrounding the site should help slow the water down as it flows down the hillside after it rains. However, fieldwork revealed that there are low-capacity inlets and during the first community meeting several issues were reported including flooding of structures, mold and mildew, debris blockages, and other drainage system issues.

Potential Solutions Discussed:

- Create higher capacity inlets.
- Create a sedimentation basin.
- Re-route Caltrans runoff so that it is not conveyed down the hillsides into Marin City.
- Construct a pressurized bypass pipe that takes flows from the upper watershed to the pond or to the bay through sealed pipes meaning that no other stormwater can enter or exit. The existing stormwater pipes in the lower watershed would serve to collect the lower watershed runoff.
- Increase the frequency of maintenance crews clearing debris at this site.
- Plant more vegetation on the hillsides.

The Task Force then discussed the information provided about the upper watershed and provided the following input:

- The stormwater management challenges are also an environmental issue; it might be fruitful to explore the role soil can play in absorbing water to minimize flooding, since this has supported flood control efforts in the past.
- It is important to note that due to the work that is to be completed underground for this project, there is a potential for discovery of tribal cultural resources and this process should be managed with care.
- It is important to look through different lenses to understand the most critical flooding issues in Marin City. This might include assessing the number of people impacted, the intensity of the impact, the economic impact, and more.
- There was curiosity about the potential use of the baseball field at a local school for flood risk reduction. Based on research completed during a drainage study in 2017, the



groundwater was identified as potential challenge to implement a proposed detention within the existing school field area which is in a low-lying area of the watershed.

- The role of bioretention areas using plants, in conjunction with soil, to filter water, was noted. The project team indicated that this usually needs to happen in a flat location, so this may not be an appropriate measure to reduce flooding in Marin City in the upper watershed because of the steep hillsides.
- The role of erosion in flow concentration.
- How homeowners and renters might participate in this process. The impact of including rain barrels in community members' yards were explored for this project, but the impact is anticipated by the Engineering Consulting team to be much smaller than the proposed solutions described further above. However, residential rain barrel solutions could be implemented by individuals through other ongoing community efforts such as through the Marin City People's Plan.
- How the funding works for phased project planning. Projects identified in this plan will give the County/District/Landowners a tool to explore additional funding to make these projects a reality.
- The role of redwoods and other plants in mitigating flood impacts.

V. **Community Engagement Plan**

The facilitator, Susan Harden, then sought input from the Task Force about how to more effectively engage the community. Insights from the Task Force included:

- Engage directly with Marin City community members that represent the voice of a larger group (ex. Ministers). There are individuals in Marin City that are well-known who can provide insights on the pros and cons for each of the issues provided. Targeted conversations with these individuals might be fruitful to gain insight.
- Provide technical information in a digestible way, along with description of common terminology used in Task Force meetings
- Administer surveys via text to meet people where they are.
- Providing insights into the potential future project timeline(s) and outlook on implementation will foster trust in the community.
- Be transparent about details for next steps and how this plan will translate into action for the community.
- Highlight small wins throughout the process to show progress.
- Task Force members may be key ambassadors to transmit this information and engage the community.
- Harness social media.
- Work with high school seniors to engage youth.
- Examine the feasibility of door-to-door outreach for this project.
- Attend community group meetings, like Isoji. (The County was invited to attend the next Isoji meeting).



VI. Closing and Next Steps

The next Task Force meeting will be held in October to discuss the lower watershed.

Presentation

If you could not attend the meeting and have questions about the presentation please reach out to MarinCityStormwaterPlan@MarinCounty.org.



For disability accommodations including from any presentation links described above please phone (415) 473-6530 (Voice), CA Relay 711, or e-mail MarinCityStormwaterPlan@MarinCounty.org. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon request.