

# Marin City Stormwater Plan | Task Force Meeting #3

## Wednesday, October 4, 2023 | 12-2 PM | Via Zoom



### Attendees:

Task Force Members Affiliation
Caltrans
Coast Miwok Tribal Council of Marin
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
Homeowners Association (Marin City)
Marin City Community Development Corporation
Marin City Climate Resilience & Health Justice
One Tam
Sausalito Marin City School District
Upper Watershed Homeowners

### Invited but did not Attend Task Force Meeting #3:

Task Force Members Affiliation
County Office of Emergency Management
Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
Floating Homes Association
Gateway Shopping Center / Gerrity Group
Golden Gate Village Resident Council
Hannah Project
Historic Golden Gate Village Resident Council
Hope Housing
Isoji Building Community from Within
Kappas Marina
Marin City Community Services District
Marin City Health and Wellness
Marin City Ministerial Alliance
Marin City People's Plan
Marin County Administrator's Office / Office of Equity
Marin County Health and Human Services
Marin Housing Authority
Performing Stars
Waldo Point Harbor

Agency Attendees Affiliation
Marin County Department of Public Works
Marin County Flood Control District
Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP)
Sausalito Marin City Sanitary District
United States Army Corps of Engineers

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Elected Representatives & Office Staff	District
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
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 and Introductions

The facilitator, Susan Harden, welcomed the Task Force members to the third Task Force Meeting. She then introduced the technical team working on the project, including herself and the following:

- Felix Meneau, Project Manager, County of Marin
- Robin Lee, Project Manager, Schaaf & Wheeler
- Patti Ransdell, Project Manager, Circlepoint
- June Farmer, Community Coordinator, Marin City Resident

She reiterated that the Task Force Meetings are a supplement to the community feedback and input the County is already receiving. They are an opportunity to dive more deeply into technical content. She then highlighted the list of Task Force Members invited to the meeting, and the Advisory Agencies supporting the project. Finally, 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



### II. Upper Watershed Recap

Schaaf & Wheeler's Project Manager, Robin Lee, then reviewed the project timeline and noted that roughly half of the project timeline has passed, given the project end date in Summer 2024. She reminded the Task Force that this plan has been divided in two components: the upper watershed and the lower watershed, which is most directly impacted by tides.

She reiterated the three issue areas and improvement concepts in the upper watershed as described at [Task Force Meeting 2 on August 1, 2023](#).

She noted that many of the proposed solutions required collaboration with other agencies, including Marin Housing / Historic Golden Gate Village, Caltrans, and Golden Gate National Recreation and that coordination with these agencies has already begun.

She then presented an issue map that identifies the primary areas of focus based on feedback from the first community meeting and previous input from the Task Force. The three main issue areas are the Drake/Donahue intersection, the Drake/Phillips Drive intersection, and the Marin City stormwater pond at the bottom of the watershed. CCTV inspection was conducted to see inside of pipes and gain a better sense of existing conditions.

### III. Lower Watershed Ongoing Work

County of Marin's Project Manager, Felix Meneau, then shared about the four ongoing flood risk reduction projects, the Caltrans second culvert effort, and a potential environmental pond dredge. These efforts are in progress and being facilitated by the County and Caltrans to support stormwater management in the lower watershed.

*The ongoing County managed and funded flood risk reduction projects include:*

#### 1. Portable Pump Station at Donahue

Located at Drake/Donahue intersection, up to two mobile pumps will be provided as a temporary solution to intake stormwater during a flooding event. These will remain in place for up to three years until the permanent pump station is installed.

#### 2. Permanent Pump Station & Drainage Improvements

This permanent pump station will replace the aforementioned temporary pump station at the Drake/Donahue intersection. It is scoped to pump 50 cubic feet per second. The water will be taken in and pushed to a discharge structure leading to the culvert that goes under US 101 and alleviating flooding in Marin City.

#### 3. Installation of Permanent Floodwall

A permanent flood wall will replace the muscle wall that's currently in place on Caltrans' property.

#### 4. Potential Trash Capture Device



Marin County Public Works Stormwater Program is implementing new trash capture devices throughout the County and is considering a site in Marin City.

*In addition, the County has received funding for the following project but the project is on hold at this time:*

**5. Marin City Pond Environmental Dredge**

This environmental dredging project will remove affected sediment in the existing pond. Funding for this project is available through a state earmarked administered by the Transportation Authority of Marin.

**6. Lower Watershed Efforts by Others**

**a. Caltrans Secondary Culvert across US 101**

The Project Initiation Document was developed by Caltrans in March 2023 in order to install a second culvert across United States Route (US) 101 to reduce flood occurrences in Marin City. In addition, the project will address sediment issues at the existing culvert.

**b. United States Army Corps of Engineers – Additional Modeling**

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) received a request through the Marin City Community Services District to do an additional study to resolve flooding at the Drake/Donahue intersection. Pending funding approval in early 2024, the County is planning to coordinate closely with the USACE to implement this study.

It is to be noted that stormwater pipe maintenance is also ongoing and 360 feet of pipe under Donahue near US 101 has been cleared so far.

The County has also met with Caltrans and the Marin City Housing Authority to coordinate additional stormwater management planning near US 101 and looks forward to the continued partnership.

#### IV. Lower Watershed

Schaaf & Wheeler's Project Manager, Robin Lee, discussed what has been previously studied, highlighting the 2018 Drainage Study as the primary report. She noted that this report was focused on the lower watershed, while the current Marin City Stormwater Plan focuses on both the upper and lower watershed areas. The 2018 Drainage Study recommended the following project concepts:

##### *Funded:*

1. Pond pump station for 50cfs, upsize shopping center pipe and floodwall
2. Additional US 101 Culvert – Caltrans is looking into this project

##### *Not Yet Funded (not in order of preference):*

1. US 101 Culvert Inlet Flap Gate
2. Desilt & Lower Basin 5.5-feet & Lower US 101 Culvert Inlet
3. Detention Basin (not at the ball field)
4. Detention Basin Pump (not at the ball field)
5. Bypass (Full or Partial with or without pump)

She described the Marin City watershed through the two principal drainages – Phillips Drive Pipe and Drake Pipe. The watershed is divided into these two principal drainage areas, with slightly more area draining to the pipe in Phillips Drive. The Drake pipe drains to the pond and the Phillips Drive pipe connects to the culvert that drains the pond, but is not directly connected into the pond. The watershed divide is about where the baseball field is located in the middle of the watershed. Because of this location, it is not a suitable location to provide detention for the Drake pipe as it is higher in elevation and would require pumping to get water into a detention facility there.

She described the parameters used to assess the efficacy and resilience of certain projects, then presented improvement concepts. The initial hydraulic and hydrologic model inputs used to evaluate improvement concepts included an assumed 10-year 24-hour storm event and a Mean higher high water (MHHW) tide level in Richardson Bay, which is elevation 6-ft in NAVD 88 (approximately a 6-foot tide level).

Based on the elevation of the tide, the water is unable to drain from the pond, leading to flooding at Drake and Donahue. Robin then presented long term and near-term improvement concepts that can positively impact stormwater management in Marin City:

##### *Long Term (not in order of preference)*

1. Partial Bypass by gravity OR
2. Full Bypass with Detention and a Pump Station



3. Detention
4. Additional pond improvements – dredging, sluice gate operations, 2<sup>nd</sup> culvert configurations

*Near Term (not in order of preference)*

1. Create a Safe Surface Stormwater Release through Ridgeway Apartment Complex (between Phillips Drive and Donahue Street)
2. Clean Stormwater Pipes (notify owners of pipe inspection results)
3. Install a Flap Gate on existing US 101 Culvert
4. Install a Raised Pedestrian Pathway AND/OR
5. Create an Alternate Route when Flooded
6. Refine the Sluice Gate Operations

The facilitator, Susan Harden, then sought input from the Task Force about prioritization of the improvement concepts. The following input was provided:

- There is interest in receiving more time to absorb these concepts and make decisions about which are the best fit for the community. The project team noted that this is the first opportunity to hear about these concepts, but there will be opportunities over the next few months to continue to provide input. The project team reiterated that they would like to hear input from many community members.
- There is interest in hearing feedback from a greater number of Marin City community members. The project team welcomed insights for how to hear back from the community and noted that these options will be discussed during the community meeting in January 2024.
- There is interest in better understanding the functionality of the sluice gate as a mechanism to support stormwater management in Marin City. The project team indicated that to thoroughly understand how the sluice gate might best be used to manage flooding in Marin City, an iterative modeling approach would be necessary.
- There is curiosity about how the sediment gets redistributed as a result of pumping, and how this might impact floating homes in the bay.
- There was curiosity about whether the raised sidewalk was permanent or temporary. The project team noted that this would be a temporary solution.
- There is an interest in providing community members with reassurance that permanent projects are coming while these temporary projects are further considered.
- There is curiosity about the impact of raising the street at Donahue/US 101, as model results suggest that the water could negatively impact access on portions of Drake. It was noted that this could impact a significant number of people, as well as emergency services, while also assisting Donahue to remain open to traffic for the rest of the community.
- There is curiosity about the pros and cons of the bypass study and the Caltrans detention pump.





### V. Scoring/Importance Criteria

To determine priorities for the concept improvements that are simple, defensible, and allow for community input, Schaaf & Wheeler's Project Manager, Robin Lee, shared options for how the Task Force might assess pros and cons for the concepts. The following initial criteria were proposed:

1. Reduction of flooded structure/dwelling unit
2. Improves ingress/egress
3. Constructability
4. Effectiveness of flood management
5. Resilience to climate change
6. Minimization of environmental impacts
7. Potential connection with green infrastructure

These criteria were shared with the Task Force via email prior to the meeting and this meeting was the first opportunity to provide input on the potential criteria. Task Force members would have additional opportunities to provide feedback on the criteria following the meeting. In early November, an email will be sent with proposed criteria and feedback will be collected through the end of November. The final list of criteria will be presented in early December and will be used to score projects at the Community Meeting in January 2024.

The facilitator, Susan Harden, then sought input from the Task Force regarding the criteria. The following feedback was provided:

- Consider adding "community health benefits," with indicators like air quality, water filtration purity, and green stormwater infrastructure plantings
- Consider adding "job training opportunities," with indicators like opportunities to develop jobs locally, contribute to the local economy, and offer training for maintenance. It would be great if the local community could be trained and have jobs providing maintenance.
- Need to better understand "resilience" criteria
- Need to better understand "climate change impacts" criteria
- Consider adding "noise"

### VI. Community Engagement

Community Coordinator and Marin City resident, June Farmer, then discussed the outreach work completed to date, which includes the first and second Task Force meeting, the first community meeting, attendance at five community pop-up events (i.e. Marin City Sausalito Wellness Day and Resident Council Meeting) and fieldwork. She also noted that they would continue to attend upcoming community events like the Marin City People's Plan Healing Festival. Additionally, the project team has held meetings with Seniors at the Sunshine Club. The meeting summaries from past Task Force and Community Meeting events are available [online](#).

Task Force Members recommended additional outreach to gather feedback on the improvement concepts. There is an interest in altering the times of the Task Force meetings and reaching out to schools and other groups to seek additional feedback. The project team is exploring how they might seek more in-depth feedback from Task Force and community members, including a tool to provide constructive feedback and developing additional flyers.

### VII. Upcoming Meetings

To close the meeting, the facilitator thanked all Task Force members for their participation and shared that the schedule for upcoming meetings includes the next Community Meeting in late January 2024 and the next Task Force Meeting in February 2024.

### Presentation

If you could not attend the meeting and have questions about the presentation please reach out to [MarinCityStormwaterPlan@MarinCounty.org](mailto: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](mailto:MarinCityStormwaterPlan@MarinCounty.org). Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon request.