

DRAFT
MINUTES
Flood Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 22, 2009 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Oceano Community Services District Meeting Room

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

Committee members present: Gary Kobara (Chair), Stan Ikeda, Charlie Lackie, Tom Zehnder, Will Deschenes. Agency/Organization representatives: Jill Ogren and Nola Engelskirger/SLO County Public Works; Vern Dahl/OCSD; Julie Thomas/CSLRCD; Steph Wald/CCSE.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Announcements

Steph Wald invited the group to CCSE's fund-raiser Harvest Hoedown, to be held September 26.

IV. Review and approval of minutes

Minutes from the July 21 meeting were approved as written, with two small typographical corrections.

V. Status reports on Waterway Management Program and EIR: 30% plan for levee raises and sediment removal projects

- Jill distributed copies of the conceptual engineering plans for Alternatives 3A and 3C (originally described in the 2006 "Arroyo Grande Creek Erosion, Sedimentation and Flooding Alternatives Study" prepared by Swanson Hydrology & Geomorphology), including vegetation management, sediment removal and levee raise. These plans are being used as the basis for the EIR being prepared which is necessary to obtain required agency permits. The plans indicate "worst case scenario" or greatest degree of disturbance – the final, implemented plans may involve less disturbance.
- The County is wrapping up the draft EIR and draft Waterway Management Program (WMP).
- The engineering plans and the WMP will be part of an appendix for the EIR.
- The anticipated schedule was to release a draft EIR in October, if possible.
- Goal is to have the EIR certified by the Board of Supervisors in March 2010.
- After the EIR is final and certified, the County can seek permits for either the Alt 3A or 3C project, whichever is most likely to be funded.
- The sediment and vegetation management option does not include raising the levees; channel capacity is increased solely through sediment removal and vegetation management. These two components are cornerstones of channel maintenance.
- Alternative 3A involves raising the levee height by 1 foot to 3 feet (depending on location and need), in combination with sediment and vegetation management.
 - Alternative 3A will provide protection for the 10-year storm with 2 feet of freeboard. It incorporates keeping the north levee 3" higher than the south levee,

so an overtopping event would preferentially flood farmland rather than residential areas.

- Alt 3A doesn't require raising any of the bridges crossing the creek in Zone 1/1A.
- There are issues with encroachments, but not as many as with Alt 3C.
- Proposing to keep existing agricultural access roads, but not planning to enhance them.
- Alternative 3C involves raising the levee by 3 feet to 6 feet and raising the UPRR bridge. The 22nd Street bridge doesn't need to be raised.

The group discussed various aspects of the plans, and proposed mitigations, and similar projects that have been implemented elsewhere, such as in the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Steph reminded the group of the availability of the Arroyo Grande Watershed Memorandum of Understanding as a tool that could be used to benefit Zone 1/1A by informing and involving all of the watershed's primary stakeholders and agencies. This could potentially lead to upstream projects benefitting flood protection in Zone 1/1A, improved funding opportunities, etc.

Jill said that at the next meeting, she would like to do another review of the plans, or there could be a special meeting held. The County is interested in any and all feedback from interested parties, in particular from Zone 1/1A landowners and residents. Jill said that the Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee isn't required to take any action on the EIR, but the County would like feedback from the committee, and it would be nice to have something in writing from the Advisory Committee supporting the EIR. Close of comment period on the EIR is expected to be in the beginning of January 2010, with the target date to take the EIR to the Board of Supervisors in March 2010.

Re whether the target is to implement Alternative 3A or 3C, Jill said it would depend on available funding; if grants and/or loans are available on reasonable terms, Alternative 3C might be a possibility.

VI. Vegetation Management 2009 – Progress Report

Julie reported that vegetation management work had been completed by California Conservation Corps crews throughout Zone 1/1A, with the exception of a few small areas that needed to be skipped due to presence of red-legged frogs. These areas will be re-surveyed for RLF's later in October, and if the frogs are gone, and funding still remains in the budget, vegetation pruning will be completed in those areas.

VII. Open Forum (Questions/Suggestions for next agenda)

Discussion of the draft EIR, and any further questions about proposed plans/alternatives for the Waterway Management Program, will be on the next agenda.

VIII. Set Date for Next Meeting.

The next two meetings were scheduled for November 17 and January 19.

IX. Adjourn.

CSLRCD: Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service

OCSD: Ocean Community Services District

CCSE: Central Coast Salmon Enhancement

Zone 1/1A website: <http://www.coastalrcd.org/Zone1-1A.html> or go to <http://www.coastalrcd.org/>