



Minutes

FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 1A – Laguna - Mark West Watershed **ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING** December 6, 2016 ~ 2:00 PM.

ATTENDEES:

Ted Crump, Member	Michael Thompson, SCWA
Arthur Deicke, Member	Jon Niehaus, SCWA
Paul Lockwood, Member	Susan Haydon, SCWA
Rita Miller, City of Santa Rosa	Kent Gylfe, SCWA
Henry Mikus, City of Sebastopol	Chase Takajo, SCWA
Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park	Kara Kelly, SCWA
Garrett Broughton, Town of Windsor	

1. OPENING/INTRODUCTIONS

Susan Haydon, SCWA, facilitated meeting. Susan Haydon welcomed new Advisory Committee member, Paul Lockwood. Paul was born and raised in Santa Rosa and is an employee with the County Juvenile Justice Department. All participants were self-introduced. Susan Haydon acknowledged public noticing of the meeting in the Press Democrat, SCWA website, Water Agency and County offices.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT- None

3. CURRENT PROJECTS

Water Agency staff provided status updates on current projects with committee discussion held.

A. Santa Rosa Creek Modeling: Water Agency is working with its consultants, ESA Associates, to perform hydrologic modeling on Santa Rosa Creek to plan and inform future designs for facilities and operations.

B. Copeland Creek Detention-Recharge: Current project work is focused on evaluation of the geotechnical and hydrologic conditions of the site as part of developing the Basis of Design. This multi-benefit flood reduction and habitat enhancement project involves several components including geotechnical investigations, design, environmental compliance, and habitat enhancement along Copeland Creek in the Southern Laguna watershed. One of the deliverables for DWR state grant funded project is a design for a proposed stormwater detention basin(s) at 90% level. Water Agency is coordinating with partner, City of Rohnert Park, to determine feasibility and develop design concepts that could provide benefits of flood protection and manage sediment. Through a development agreement between City of Rohnert Park and University District LLC, the City is required to provide flood protection for

new homes. Consultants are evaluating alternative designs and feasibility to achieve 100-yr flood protection objectives and consider size of basin. The design is anticipated to be completed by spring 2018.

- C. E Street Fish Ladder on SR Creek:** The upstream end of the fish ladder has settled and it no longer works per original design. Current recommendation is to remove and replace ladder with simpler flow control structure that extends less into the pool upstream of the bridge. Next step is to complete design in order to apply for permits and seek funding for improved ladder for fish passage. At present, SCWA is taking lead on insuring regular inspections occur. Water Agency maintenance crews continue to clear debris from structure to keep it as passable to fish as possible. Current plan is to pursue outside funding (e.g., grants) in order to pay for structure improvements.
- D. Laguna Channel Restoration:** Mike Thompson described the agreement to retain the Freshwater Trust at \$50,000 for nutrient trading credits with their verified metric system. The goal is to have flows diverted into smaller channels to reduce mosquitos and to expand the Stream Maintenance work into these channels for hand removal of invasive ludwigia. A TMDL with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board will be adopted in the future and this project will provide for Cities to comply with this new regulatory program. The water quality credits will likely have a negotiable timeframe depending on the lifespan of the environmental benefits.
- E. Russian River Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP):** An overview of the Plan development was presented by Susan Haydon. Summer 2016, Russian River Watershed Association received \$500,000 Prop 1 grant award from State Water Resources Control Board to prepare SWRP addressing stormwater management for the Russian River watershed. City of Ukiah (fiscal agent) is just beginning process of developing agreement with state and sub-agreements with partners. Agreements are anticipated to be executed in January or February 2018. Goal is to develop a compliant plan identifying multiple-benefit stormwater management projects prioritized by agreed upon metrics. Projects must be identified subject to state guidelines and be included in the Plan in order to be eligible for to seek future state grant funds for implementation. Cities of Santa Rosa, Windsor, Cotati, Rohnert Park, and Sebastopol are named as collaborating entities in the grant, in addition to the Water Agency, Permit Sonoma, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and Regional Parks. The Water Agency is leading the preparation of a focused assessment of the Laguna- Mark West watershed which includes conducting a field investigation to determine recharge potential.
- F. Vortex Tube and Conduit Repair:** The Santa Rosa Creek vortex tube provides the flow restriction necessary to divert high flows to Spring Lake, which anchors the flood protection system. These are key infrastructure elements, part of the Central Sonoma Watershed Project which is considered the heart of the Agency's flood protection system protecting Santa Rosa and environs. The vortex tube was inspected and is in need of resurfacing due to erosion from sediment. The Santa Rosa Creek conduit was also inspected and found to be eroding due to sediment. Future work proposed would include repair of the concrete lining of the floor of the southern box of the Santa Rosa Creek double box culvert, located within the city limits.

4. STREAM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Jon Niehaus, Water Agency Stream Maintenance Program Coordinator, presented work performed this past season and work projected for next year, with slide presentation posted on Agency website.

He also gave update on Natural Channels Program developed for Flood Zones 2A (Petaluma) and 3A (Sonoma Creek) with references to potential applicability to Zone 1A. Recent permitting strides were made for renewal with North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for stream maintenance work with potential for future work envisioned to be permitted similarly in natural channels within the Laguna-Mark West watershed. This work would likely be limited to bioengineering vegetation management techniques such as: willow walls/wattles, vegetation thinning and limbing, and installation of native plants. Committee discussion held on various issues including sediment management, debris management and encampments, private property, and mosquito abatement.

5. FISCAL YEAR 17-18 BUDGET

Susan Haydon gave an overview of Zone 1A budget and noted that the Agency's approach is to maintain balance between revenues and expenditures. The Water Agency has worked diligently over past several years to strike such a balance. Michael Thompson explained the Agency's strategy to maintain a robust and effective Stream Maintenance Program for flood conveyance and sediment management and to move away from capital project funding unless it is needed for infrastructure or facility repair or enhancement. The funding source that was previously available for disbursement to individual cities no longer exists. There was discussion on the budget process and recommendation to include more information on actual expenditures. Each year the committee is presented with a spreadsheet that portrays actuals in prior year, the published, approved current fiscal year budget and the recommended budget for next fiscal year.

The Zone 1A recommended budget for FY 17-18 was approved by the Committee as presented. A motion to approve the budget was made by Arthur Deicke with a second by Henry Mikus.

6. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mike Thompson suggested to arrange a Flood Zone 1A field trip to visit projects and discuss current issues and funding needs. Future field trip date TBD. Arthur Diecke made request to avoid scheduling future committee meetings at same time of Board of Supervisor hearings.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

8. NEXT MEETING

Annual meeting to be held same time. Date to be announced.