



## Minutes

### FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 1A – Laguna - Mark West Watershed ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING- 404 Aviation Blvd., SCWA offices December 8, 2015 ~ 10:00 A.M.

#### Attendees:

Ted Crump, 4<sup>th</sup> District member  
Arthur Deicke, 5<sup>th</sup> District member  
Craig Scott, member, City of Cotati  
Rita Miller, member, City of Santa Rosa  
Jim Smith, member, Town of Windsor  
Dr. Wendy Trowbridge, Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation

Michael Thompson, SCWA  
Jon Niehaus, SCWA  
Susan Haydon, SCWA  
Kent Gylfe, SCWA  
Chase Takajo, SCWA

#### 1. OPENING/INTRODUCTIONS

Susan Haydon, SCWA, facilitated meeting. All participants were introduced. Susan Haydon welcomed new Advisory Committee member, Arthur Deicke, appointed to represent the 5<sup>th</sup> District. Mr. Deicke is owner of a Environmental Pollution Solutions, a stormwater management firm, located in Santa Rosa. Susan Haydon acknowledged public noticing of the meeting.

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT- none

#### 3. CURRENT PROJECTS

Discussion held regarding status of current projects with progress updates provided by Water Agency staff. Hewett Street project: A lot line adjustment is currently being processed for a parcel on Hewett Street to differentiate Santa Rosa creek corridor from residential land use. Work continues, no new budget allocation. Planning is underway for future use of site with possible use for community benefit by non-profit.

Santa Rosa Creek modeling: Data collection and surveys were completed summer of 2015 covering over 30 miles of flood control channels. Updated hydrology has been completed by Environmental Science Associates (ESA) with current work focused on completing hydraulic analysis. Water Agency has been sharing all draft products with City of Santa Rosa for review and input. There is a plan to build off of this effort to update the FEMA maps for Santa Rosa Creek. Hydrologic analysis is expected to be complete in Spring 2016. E Street Fish Ladder on SR Creek: 30% designs have been developed for E Street fish ladder extension. The upstream end has settled and it no longer works per original design. Current recommendation is to remove and replace ladder with simpler flow control structure that extended 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, Shawn Chase, SCWA, is taking lead on insuring regular inspections occur and Water Agency maintenance crews keep up with clearing the debris from structure to keep it as passable to fish as possible. Current plan is to pursue outside funding (e.g., grant) in order to pay for structure improvements.

Copeland Creek Detention-Recharge: Current project work is focused primarily on the geotechnical evaluation as part of developing the Basis of Design. The multi-benefit flood reduction and habitat enhancement project involves geotechnical investigations, design, CEQA, permitting and habitat enhancement along Copeland Creek in the Southern Laguna watershed. The primary deliverable for the DWR grant funded project is design for stormwater detention basin(s) at 90% level. Draft Technical Memos are in hand from Water Agency consultant, GHD. These Tech Memos form the Basis of Design report. Recent site evaluations show low groundwater recharge potential at site. Water Agency is coordinating closely with partner, City of Rohnert Park, to evaluate feasible basin concepts and designs to provide 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. For size of basin, may not be able to achieve 100-yr flood protection and team is evaluating modified objectives and feasibility of design options. Project is funded in part through DWR, Prop 84 funding which includes the following elements: sediment management, habitat enhancement and public access trail connecting Copeland Creek to Crane Creek Regional Park.

FCDC status and update: Due to increased subdivision drainage review, project remains in internal review mode. Staff availability will increase and reviewable draft for first tier review will go out to cities and county in spring. There are several review cycles: 1) internal, 2) city/county, 3) engineering community, and 4) public review before finalized.

#### **4. STREAM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

Jon Niehaus, SCWA 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 and permitting strides made for renewal with North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for stream maintenance work and the future work that is envisioned to be allowed in natural channels. This work would likely be limited to bioengineering techniques such as: willow walls/wattles, vegetation thinning and limbing, and installation of native plants.

#### **5. LOWER LAGUNA FLOOD CONTROL AND RESTORATION**

Increased focused attention is on the Laguna for many reasons including flood alleviation, sediment management, trash and debris management, wildlife and fisheries habitat, water quality and new water quality trading incentives, and co-existence of many land use types in this important watershed. Over the last several years, many landowners, resource agencies and organizations have been collaborating on addressing issues with the goal to develop long term strategies and plans to manage the watershed for multiple benefits including flood control, water quality improvement and habitat restoration. Dr. Wendy Trowbridge, Director of Restoration and conservation Science Programs, gave an informative presentation featuring: flood history, biology of flooding, causes of flooding, trash and debris removal efforts, and current thoughts on floodplain management for multiple benefits. Discussion held regarding sediment management and interest in conservation approaches by project partners including affected landowners.

#### **6. Fiscal Year 16-17 BUDGET**

Mike Thompson gave 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.

Two budget appropriations were proposed by Water Agency for next fiscal year: \$80,000 for additional funds towards modeling for Santa Rosa Creek and \$100,000 for preparation of a Stormwater Resources Plan for Russian River watershed with focus on Laguna-Mark West Watershed. Plan will be compliant with Prop.1,

State Guidelines and when compliant plan is adopted, watershed partners would be eligible to seek future Prop 1 funds for implementation in Round 2. The Water Agency and their partners are interested in seeking state funds to develop a compliant plan, partnering with State, local county agencies and NGO partners. A grant solicitation from the State water Board for Round 1 planning funds is expected soon and partners will commence preparation of a grant application.

The Zone 1A budget for FY 16-17 was recommended by the Committee as presented with a motion by Arthur Deicke, second by Rita Miller.

## **7. REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Mike Thompson queried the Committee on their interest in future participation and collaboration with Water Agency on identifying specific stream maintenance work which could be eligible to be performed by Water Agency under new permit (authorizing limited vegetation management activities in modified or natural channels). MT noted that Brush Creek, could serve as an example stream and candidate for additional work under a future potential new permit. Regulators prefer one entity and after many years of demonstrating sensitivity to habitat and adherence to permit requirements in stream maintenance activities, the Water Agency has built the trust needed to conduct this expanded work. All city representatives in attendance noted their interest in meeting to discuss further. Rita Miller inquired about potential long term considerations and whether this type of opportunity may be open to conducting stream maintenance work on private property. Jon Niehaus responded affirmatively, noting that the concept is to increase coverage of maintenance activities within the flood control zone and provide increased effectiveness of sediment and vegetation management. This could ultimately affect municipalities by decreasing their maintenance duties and costs.

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

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