

FLOOD ZONE 5 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2007

STAFF REPORT

The following is a staff report for the items listed on the Agenda for Flood Zone #5 Advisory Board (AB) meeting held on October 17, 2007:

Item 1. Approval of Minutes: May 30, 2007

Action by Board: Advisory Board members will review meeting minutes from the May 30, 2007 meeting, make corrections, and approve minutes as corrected.

Item 2. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda

Comments will be heard for items not on the agenda.

Item 3. Zone Funding

Board will discuss funding modes and opportunities for future Zone projects. Staff will present grant funding opportunity database kept by the District.

Item 4. Sediment Removal in Easkoot Creek

The District has developed a plan to remove sediment from creek sections adjacent to the following three (3) road crossings:

- Calle del Pinos
- Calle del Pradero
- Calle del Onda

Creek crossings with Arenal Ave., Calle del Sierra, and Calle del Arroyo were originally considered but ultimately omitted for the following reasons:

- Arenal Ave. – channel bed composition good, with little aggradation and channel morphology intact.
- Calle del Sierra – concerns with fish relocation.
- Calle del Arroyo – concerns with fish relocation.

Requests for environmental authorization, including those related to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), have been prepared and submitted to the appropriate agencies and organizations.

Sediment removal activities are scheduled for late October, 2007 pending the receipt of comments that would necessitate termination of said plans. A crossing included in the plan might be omitted due to concerns with fish relocation that are apparent at the time of sediment removal.

Sediment removal activities for years 2008, 2009, and 2010 will require similar authorizations and agreements. To this effect, the District has sought a three year agreement with the

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California Department of Fish and Game, for which it has received verbal confirmation of approval. CEQA requirements will be satisfied under the Initial Study as prepared for the current effort.

The District has also developed a multi-year plan for the completion of regular stream channel surveys. This action is being undertaken in response to regulatory agency requests to justify sediment removal activities in the creek by demonstrating their effectiveness.

Item 5. Easkoot Creek Bypass

The bypass is being proposed to accommodate creek overflow through National Park Service (NPS) lands and into the Pacific Ocean, mainly crossing an existing parking lot serving Stinson Beach Park. District staff submitted a letter to the NPS in which they sought a refined understanding of the process and criteria against which project proposals and designs will be reviewed. The NPS responded by outlining the process and criteria, which included concerns with the protection of the steelhead trout and the impact a bypass would have on visitor services at the park.

In response, District staff consulted with a fisheries biologist, conducted an initial site visit, and received appraisal level observations. Staff will continue to refine the project description in an effort to secure a professional services contract with a fish passage design engineer. Their design recommendations will then be included in a final report which will be presented to the NPS for further review.

Item 6. Zone Map

As requested at the May 30, 2007 meeting, staff will present a map defining maintenance responsibilities and activities in the Zone.

Item 7. Engineer's Report (an update on various items within the zone)

- a) Annual Creek Vegetation Management Program: vegetation removal was carried out per the Annual Creek Vegetation Management Program in early-October.
- b) FEMA/OES Grant Status: The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), in collaboration with the District, previously determined that the following three properties were eligible for further consideration from FEMA as recipients of Hazard Mitigation Grants:

16 CALLE DEL PINOS
19 CALLE DEL PINOS
21 CALLE DEL ARROYO

Update: The State Office of Emergency Services (OES) notified the District that areas of San Rafael (i.e., Santa Venetia), Mill Valley, and Stinson Beach were not submitted to FEMA, but have been placed on a waiting list as all funds have been committed.

- c) Bolinas Lagoon: Staff attended a September 19, 2007 meeting held to discuss the

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Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Marin County Parks & Open Space District, is developing a Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) to define restoration projects that are likely to receive sufficient support and demonstrate implementation potential. Most restoration ideas focus on the accumulation of sediment within the lagoon and the effects the sediment has on the ecosystem.

Current consensus is that sediment contributions to the lagoon from Easkoot Creek are not significant compared with other sources (e.g., the ocean and Pine Gulch Creek). Therefore, restoration plans are unlikely to include projects directly involving activities within Easkoot Creek. Staff will confirm the prevalence of this judgment with those groups developing the LPP, as well as secure any reports and/or studies justifying the opinion. The District will seek potential funding opportunities in collaboration with the LPP effort for projects within the Easkoot Creek watershed, including sediment studies.

- d) Community Stakeholder Involvement: Staff solicited contacts from select groups and organizations for their participation in a technical advisory committee. Contacts were secured at the Stinson Beach Disaster Counsel, Friends of Easkoot Creek, and the Seadrift Association. The District will continue to solicit those groups from which it has yet to receive a contact.
- e) Calle del Arroyo Improvements: County Roads completed road resurfacing and removed accumulated sediment and debris from several drainage facilities within the road right-of-way.
- f) Changes to FEMA Flood Elevations: Changes to base flood elevations occurred in 2005, and forthcoming changes to elevations within the county have been indicated in recent correspondence from FEMA. Should a property owner have a particular question related to their specific property, they are encouraged to contact FEMA directly or seek assistance from the Public Works Land Development Engineering staff.
- g) Community Outreach: Requests were received for staff to distribute materials outlining the responsibilities of homeowners as they relate to creek maintenance, care, and construction permitting. The *Creek Care Guide* was provided via postal mail to several community organizations and groups, including local real estate offices.

Item 8. Schedule Next Meeting

Action by Board: Advisory Board members will set a date for the next meeting.