

MARIN COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FLOOD CONTROL ZONE FIVE

STATUS REPORT – SEPTEMBER 1, 2006

Zone Five now has its own website: <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/pw/main/zone5.cfm>

The last meeting of the Flood Control Zone Five Advisory Board was held on Saturday, June 10, 2006, at the Stinson Beach Community Center from 10 am till noon. At that meeting the Advisory Board, enthusiastically supported by those in attendance, reiterated its commitment to what was formally called “Plan C” but which has been rechristened the ***Flood Mitigation and Control Plan for Flood Control Zone Five***. This Plan includes the following elements:

- Construct an Overflow By-Pass directly to the Ocean through the south parking lot of the Park (behind the Park Side Café).
- Work with the County Public Works Dept. to raise Calle del Arroyo above flood level.
- Use Zone funds to do studies and environmental assessments to help residents with permitting should they want to raise their homes or improve their road crossings.
- Continue to enforce the County Floodplain Management Ordinance requiring that new and substantially improved structures be built or raised above the flood level.
- Annually remove sediment at road crossings.

While we will be moving ahead with all of these items we have so far accomplished the following:

Overflow By-Pass to Ocean

We have made a formal request to the National Park Service to open discussions on reinstating the overflow channel from the Creek to the Ocean but the first meeting has not yet been scheduled. As discussed at the June 10 Zone meeting, this will be a long process and patience will be required but we have at least set the ball in motion.

Structure Raising

The Zone Five Advisory Board directed staff to see what might be done regarding the problems property owners are having when they apply to raise their houses above the flood when those houses are within 100 feet of the Creek. Because Easkoot Creek is a perennial stream it is subject to the Stream Conservation Area (SCA) policies of the Countywide Plan. All development proposals for parcels within an SCA, including a proposal to raise or even remove a structure, are subject to these policies and permit applicants are required to submit adequate information to determine whether or not their proposal is in accordance with the SCA policies.

Accordingly, Flood Control has met and will meet again with the Community Development Agency pursuant to the idea that we (Flood Control) can play a role in addressing the SCA issues on an area-wide basis thereby saving all affected home owners the time, hassle and money addressing these issues individually. Flood Control and CDA will be meeting again soon to work out the details.

We have also initiated the process to include Zone Five in a grant program available through the State Hazard Mitigation Program. This is a multi-phased process and takes time to work through but, if we are successful, it could make grants available to pay for up to 75% of the cost of raising a structure. We have passed the initial phase successfully and are about to embark on the second phase of applying. To this end, letters will be sent to property owners of all parcels within a Special Flood Hazard Area in the next few weeks asking if they want to participate and, if so, to reply as soon as possible. Virtually all parcels between Highway 1 and the Ocean are in a Special Flood Hazard Area. This next phase is on a short time track so it is important to reply right away if you want to participate.

Sediment Removal

Sediment will be removed at the road crossings in late September/early October when the flow in the creek is lowest. The work will be done by the County Road Crew and is expected to take two to three days at most. All appropriate Best Management Practices will be taken including the relocation of any fish in the work area.

We are also pursuing a longer term permit to do this work annually. Such a permit will require some environmental review and public hearing so we will be developing and processing this over the winter so as to have the long term permit in place by next fall.