

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 1/1A ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Meeting Location: Sheriff's South Patrol Station, 1681 Front Street Oceano, CA

Meeting Agenda

1.	Welcome & Introductions	Gary Kobara, Chairman
2.	Announcements	All
3.	Review and Approval of Past Minutes: <i>Tuesday, April 25, 2023</i>	Advisory Committee
4.	Receive Update on Storm Response Efforts	County Staff
5.	Receive Update/Presentation on the Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Restoration Project	County Staff
6.	Response to Question Regarding Operating Lopez Reservoir for Flood Control Purposes	County Staff
7.	Receive Update on Annual Workplan Efforts	County Staff
8.	Public Comment	All
9.	Open Forum (Questions/Suggestions for Next Agenda)	All
10.	Adjourn	All

Meeting agendas and attachments can be viewed at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone1-1a>

Contact: County Public Works Dept, Rm 206, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Email: publicworks@co.slo.ca.us

Phone: 805-781-5252

AMERICAN DISABILITY ACT (ADA) ACCOMMODATIONS:

All possible accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, so they may participate in the meeting. Persons who require accommodations for any audio, visual or other disability are encouraged to request such accommodation 48 hours in advance of the meeting by contacting Joey Steil at (805) 781-4076.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide recommendations to the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control District regarding appropriate actions to provide flood protection for the properties within the boundaries of Flood Control Zones 1 and 1A.

**San Luis Obispo County
Flood Control and Water Conservation District**

Flood Control Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 25th, 2023 – 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Meeting Location: Sheriff’s South Patrol Station, 1681 Front Street Oceano, CA

Meeting Minutes

	<p>Welcome and Introductions beginning at 1500</p> <p>Members in attendance: Gary Kobarra, Charlie Lackie, Dianna Lackie, Victoria Cardoza, Greg Cobb</p> <p>Others in attendance: Nathan Claud, Brandon Zuniga, Courtney Howard, Alejandra Cielo, Joey Steil, Francesca Devlin (Public Works), Karen White, Charles Varney, Mike Silva, Jeremy Ghent (Community Members)</p>	Gary Kobara, Chairman
1)	<p>Announcements</p>	All
2)	<p>Review and approval of Past Minutes:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Tuesday, December 13, 2022</i></p> <p>Motion to approve: Charlie Lackie Seconded by: Gary Kobara Approved by: Approved by all present members</p>	Advisory Committee
3)	<p>County Presentation of Storm Season Timeline and Action Items Presented by Nathan Claud and Brandon Zuniga Questions: Charles Varney: What is the cost for emergency repairs? County: Approximately \$1.7 million has been spent so far.</p> <p>Gary Kobara: Is there a way to open the mouth of the creek before a storm? Is there a permanent agreement that we can open it at will when necessary for flood protection? County: Staff describes how the District was sued and the barriers with getting approvals required for manual breaching of the sandbar. The storm flows have removed most of it for now.</p> <p>Jeremy Ghent: Does the Flood Control Easement allow the channel to go all the way to the ocean? County: While the easement goes to the ocean, actions allowed are still limited and barriers to implementing a manual breaching program remain.</p> <p>Gary Kobara: We need to get rid of the bend and give it a straight away and this is not working. We just want it to flow and get rid of the sand dunes. We do not want to be flooded again. County: Approvals for that type of project are required at the state and federal levels.</p>	County Staff

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- Excerpt from Bylaws endorsed by Steering Committee, June 2001

Vickie Cardoza: In 2001 there were no trees. In 2006 it was completely forested.
 Jeremy Ghent: It was 1998 when we had our last clean cut
 County: Staff describes the change in environmental regulations that led to changes in maintenance.
 Vickie Cardoza: It was built for flood control, not habitat, in 2001 we lost flood control capabilities and has become habitat. The crossbars hold up the flow of water.
 County: Staff describes flood capacity restoration efforts.

Charles Varney: Is it feasible to raise the levee?
 County: Staff describes the project to raise the levee a foot in 2020-2022 and physical and regulatory barriers to doing more.

Vickie Cardoza: Is there a debris removal timeline?
 County: It is part of the first phase of repair efforts scheduled for August or September

Community member: What would we have done if Lopez had spilled sooner? How can we fix this?
 Discussion ensues regarding the added impacts from Lopez spilling.

Jeremy Ghent: With decreased channel capacity, is Zone 3 going to take more action to maintain a buffer? With a full lake currently, how will we deal with storms next year?
 County: Staff indicates that the reservoir was not built for flood control operations and offers to provide an update regarding this concept at the next meeting.

Jeremy Ghent: As far as piping goes: for better pest control, can we get rid of the squirrels? Is the Water Resources division taking over the meadow creek project?
 County: Staff describes the barriers to pest control, indicates that Environmental Division staff is leading the Meadow Creek study, and offers to provide a detailed update at the next meeting.

Karen White: Is any of the work from 2020-2022 still remaining?
 County: Staff describes work to remove sediment to get back to 2020-2022 conditions. 3 log structures have been damaged during the storm and 1 log structure was damaged during repairs. They are required habitat structures and are currently impacted with sediment.

Charles Varney: How does an agency that does not pay for the upkeep of the project have rights to dictate what happens on the project?
 County: Staff describes the role of regulatory agencies.

Vickie Cardoza: Are there current plans to fix Silver Spur Road and Creek Road? Can we get these roads levelled?
 County: Staff notes the emergency response impacts and will make plans to address them.

Vickie Cardoza: Where do we plan on starting to clean up sediment and debris?
 County: The downstream reach seems to be where the most sediment has been deposited and the goal is for all logistics and work to be completed by October. Staff describes needs in Los Berros Channel

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	<p>and the intent to start where it's dry to deal with fewer logistics and avoiding increasing turbidity. Vickie Cardoza: Are we going to change the flap gates? They do not open. County: Staff discusses the alternatives being considered for flap gates.</p> <p>Community Member: With the creek flowing straight out in a developed channel, as it dries up, will the dunes once again divert it? County: It depends on the winds and flows over the next few years.</p> <p>Community Member: Do spawning steelhead trump work efforts? County: Staff discusses regulatory compliance efforts.</p> <p>Community Member: Are there any future plans to build flood control into Lopez Lake? County: Staff will provide an update at the next meeting. Jeremy Ghent: Suggests to start releasing the extra 60cfs to stop the overtopping sooner and get the channel cleared out so that work can begin sooner.</p>	
4)	Public Comment	All
5)	Open Forum (Questions / Suggestions for next agenda)	All
6)	Adjourn at 1620	All

Contact: County Public Works Dept, Rm 206, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
Phone: 805-781-5252 **Website:** www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works and follow the links to Committees & Programs, Flood Control Zones, Zone 1/1A

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- Excerpt from Bylaws endorsed by Steering Committee, June 2001

TO: Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee

FROM: Water Resources Division Staff

DATE: June 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Item 4: Receive Update on Storm Response Efforts

Storm Response Projects

District staff and its consultants are finalizing plans and specifications for restoring the channel design capacity and the permanent repair of the damaged sections of levee prior to the next rainy season, proposed in two phased projects:

- *Phase 1 - Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Emergency Capacity Restoration*
 - Consists of removal of up to 25,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment and storm deposited debris that has decreased the capacity of the channel, particularly downstream of the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge.
- *Phase 2 - Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Emergency Levee Rehabilitation*
 - Consists of levee repairs from damages caused by overtopping and seepage, including installation of turf reinforcement mat on the landside slopes of the south levee to restore as-built conditions and installation of hydraulic barriers in various portions of the compromised levee to protect against seepage and prevent further erosion.

Staff continues to coordinate with FEMA regarding reimbursement for temporary and permanent repair work, including the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Programs, to better protect facilities, life, and property as a part of repair. Under the programs discussed above, projects require bid advertisement and procurement in accordance with the County's Purchasing Policy to ensure the best opportunity for reimbursement of storm damage repair costs by FEMA. Therefore, construction is anticipated to occur later this summer/fall after the bidding process.

Potential Hazard Mitigation Projects

Staff submitted a Notice of Interest for the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program (HMGP) for advance assistance grant funding to evaluate alternatives for flood easements and/or other off-creek flood protection measures. California Office of Emergency staff determined that the project was eligible under the HMGP and staff was invited to submit a full application by the HMGP's August 4, 2023 deadline. Note that this program is very impacted and competitive due to the extent of storm impacts throughout California, and a different grant funding program may need to be pursued in the future for this effort.

Staff also submitted a Letter of Interest to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) requesting funding via the Emergency Watershed Protection program. Voluntary purchase and

removal of a vulnerable home from the flood plain appears to be an eligible project and NRCS staff is currently completing a damage survey report as a first step in the program process.

TO: Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee

FROM: Utilities Division Staff

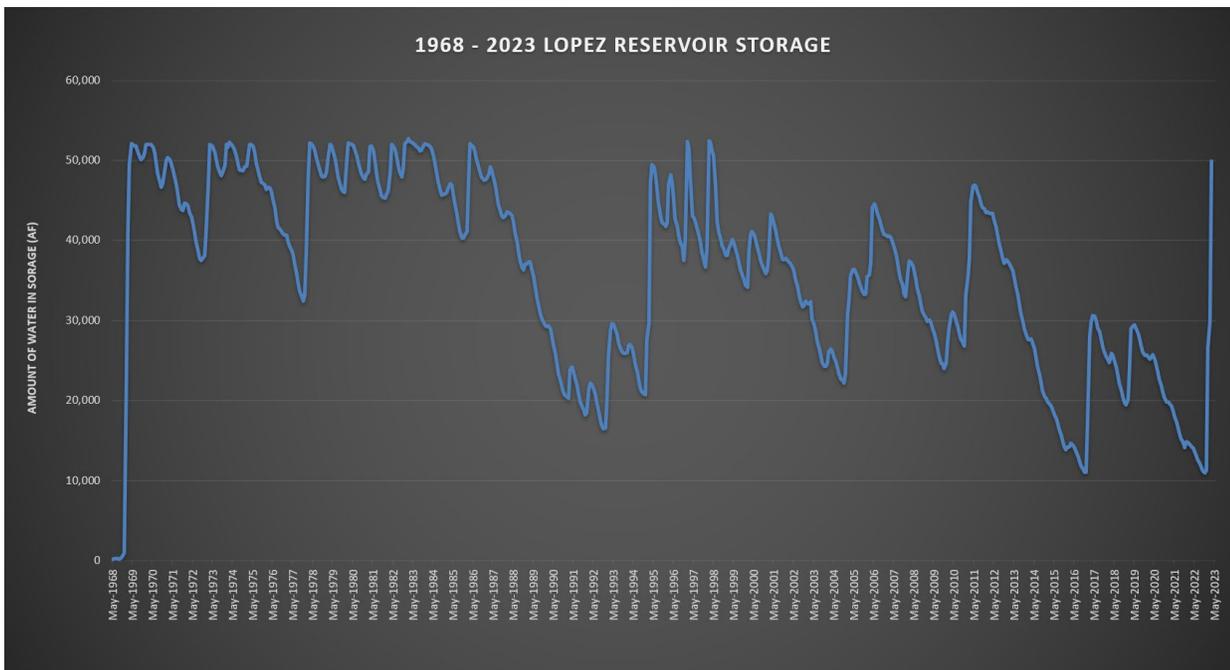
DATE: June 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Item 6: Response to Question Regarding Operating Lopez Reservoir for Flood Control Purposes

The following discussion is in response to requests from local agencies to consider flood control releases out of Lopez Reservoir in anticipation of the upcoming 2023/24 winter season. These requests come at a time when historic flooding occurred in the winter of 2022/23 which filled the reservoir to over 100%. Current weather forecasts are suggesting an El Nino winter going into 2024.

Historically the reservoir has not been operated as a flood control reservoir. The infrastructure at the outlet control building was sized for environmental releases and maintenance/emergency releases. It consists of two 10-inch jet valves and one 42-inch knife gate valve that are capable of 10cfs each and approximately 50 to 100cfs respectively. The 42-inch valve was part of the seismic remediation in 2005 which included relocating the infrastructure. Due to the transition between the original cement mortar lined pipe and the epoxy coated pipe extension, the allowable outflow of 50 to 100cfs is estimated to prevent the mortar lining from being damaged. The 42-inch valve has never been operated further than 20% open.

The reservoir has spilled 19 times in its history and the maximum capacity ever recorded was ~52,000 to 53,000AF (107% FULL). This equates to a spill of ~6,300cfs which was seen in multiple years in the past.



Currently the reservoir is still spilling at approximately 5cfs and should stop in the next few weeks. Downstream releases are at 6.73cfs for June and will be maintained through September. The reservoir will likely be around 43,000 AF (87% Full) by the end of the year assuming historical agency deliveries, downstream releases, and no rain.

In the late 90's, the District released water at 100cfs (200AF per day) for multiple months to lower the reservoir for the seismic remediation project that was completed in 2005. Due to this artificial lowering of the reservoir, it took 20 years for the reservoir to recover. It is evident that even in years where it has spilled, releasing more water beyond the safe yield (8730 AF/year) will detrimentally affect the reservoirs' ability to recover.

TO: Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee

FROM: Water Resources and Environmental Division Staff

DATE: June 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Item 7: Receive Update on Annual Workplan Efforts

Vegetation Management

Vegetation management during this period will consist of weed abatement using hand crews. The primary goal during this period is to weed whip targeted weed species to prevent viable seed production to the extent possible. This approach was selected over goat grazing because it offers flexibility in timing, to mow weeds down prior to seeds becoming fully developed. Hand crews will make multiple passes as needed to prevent regrowth and flowering of targeted weeds. Additionally, new occurrences of invasive plants such as castor bean seedlings will be removed using hand tools.

Infrastructure Maintenance

Work to evaluate the condition of the drainage infrastructure in the creek will be completed as part of this summer's work. All flap gates and drainage infrastructure will be cleared out prior to the start of the rainy season.

Emergency Response Planning

Work to review the emergency response plan and make any necessary updates to contact information, communication processes, alert triggers or other plan elements is anticipated to begin later this summer. The effort will also involve considering the timing of completing the emergency capacity restoration and levee rehabilitation projects and the status of Lopez Reservoir levels and operations. For example, there may need to be different triggers for storm events before and after the projects are finished. Staff will evaluate what measures can be taken to reinforce areas of overtopping, particularly to the north, given the added impact of Lopez spilling.