

Countywide Water Coordination Committee

MINUTES MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

Chair Pine called the meeting to order at 7:40 am at the San Mateo City Hall.

Attendance sheet is attached.

1. Public Comments on items not on the agenda.

None.

2. Approval of minutes from the August 16, 2017 meeting.

Motion: Member Vaterlaus moved to approve the August 16, 2017 minutes as presented; member Addiego seconded; Motion carried unanimously.

3. Receive a presentation on the Bay Front Canal project (information item).

Public Works staff presented the Bay Front Canal Flood Resilience Project. The project, which is a regionally collaborative effort including the Bay Front Canal and the Atherton channel and several jurisdictions within the watershed, will be designed to mitigate flooding in a North Fair Oaks community and surrounding areas, as well as supplement the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project with fresh water during high flows. Potential improvements throughout the watershed include updating the 5th Ave. and Chrysler pump stations, improving the Bay Front Canal channel, upgrades to tide gates and diversion to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, and stormwater capture from the Atherton Channel via a subsurface detention basin at Holbrook-Palmer Park. The County has already issued an RFP and selected a consultant team for the design phase of the diversion project to the salt ponds.

Staff explained the multi-jurisdictional approach for funding the design, permitting and easement phases of the project, including an MOU among the partnering agencies to fund the design phase. Staff specified that there will be a need for funding the construction phase, as well as an agreement for long-term operations and maintenance. For the design phase, partnering agencies will be apportioned costs based on flow contributions to the Bay Front Canal, which were adjusted after the Town of Woodside decided to opt out of the project. Staff emphasized the importance of the County in taking the lead and demonstrating to the other partnering entities that this would be a mutually beneficial, multi-benefit project.

Committee members explored potential construction funding options for this project, including pending and potential grants being sought by the County, support for easements from Cargill and Caltrans, the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant, SB 5 (parks and water bond), Stanford and more. Staff recommended looking at collecting localized flood data in the County to support funding efforts.

4. Receive a presentation on sea level rise phase II workplan (information item).

County Office of Sustainability staff presented the framework for Phase II of the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment, which will have an emphasis on “mainstreaming” climate adaptation through updating County plans and policies and providing technical assistance to cities and towns in the county. The technical assistance to local jurisdictions could include a menu of options for selecting cost-effective and locally desirable adaptation strategies, designing policy toolkits and templates for updating local planning and zoning codes to incorporate sea level rise adaptation strategies and supporting cities in compliance with SB 379, which requires local agencies to update the safety element of hazard mitigation plans to address climate adaptation and resiliency.

In order to effectively deliver these tools and resources and communicate with local officials and staff, the Office of Sustainability will be developing a clearing house of climate resiliency data and information, which will be available online, in addition to rolling out a full communications strategy. Staff and committee members recognized the need to establish shared goals early on among relevant stakeholders (agency staff, elected officials, the general public), and to harness the momentum coming out of the vulnerability assessment.

5. Discussion on “Water Summit” Planning

C/CAG staff and committee members discussed the plan for hosting a “Water Summit” sometime in spring 2018, using the discussion notes for the committee’s work plan from August 10, 2017 as a guide. Committee members discussed:

- “Water Summit” topics
 - Committee agreed all of the proposed topics from the discussion notes (i.e. flood insurance issues, flood resilience projects, sea level rise resiliency efforts, stormwater MRP requirements, groundwater, water reuse, water supply, funding options, etc.) would be great to focus on in individual break-out sessions
- Timing
 - Committee agreed to a half-day program sometime between February and April 2018
- Planning and logistics
 - Potentially 300- 400 people attending at a large venue (possibly College of San Mateo)
 - Need to consider timing especially if booked at a college (spring break occurs the last week of March)
 - Could align with Natural Disaster Preparedness Month activities or Community Rating System program participation for flood insurance premium reductions
 - Need to create a planning team (could include several staff from C/CAG, OSS, Water Coordination Committee) with a designated planning lead

6. Member comments and announcements (information item).

None.

7. Adjournment.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am. Next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2017.

Countywide Water Coordination Committee Attendance					
Committee Member	Agency	5/17/2017	6/14/2017	8/16/2017	9/20/2017
Dave Pine (Chair)	County of San Mateo	X	X	X	X
Lisa Gauthier (Vice Chair)	East Palo Alto	X	X		
Sue Vaterlaus	Pacifica	X	X	X	X
Diane Papan	San Mateo	X	X	X	X
Mark Addiego	South San Francisco	X	X	X	X
Others in attendance (August 16, 2017):					
Sandy Wong	C/CAG				
Matt Fabry	C/CAG				
Reid Bogert	C/CAG				
Michael Barber	County Board of Supervisors (District 1)				
Danielle Lee	San Mateo County (Office of Sustainability)				
Jasneet Sharma	San Mateo County (Office of Sustainability)				
Erika Powell	San Mateo County (Flood Resilience Program)				
Maggie Osbahr	San Mateo County (Flood Resilience Program)				
Brian Perkins	Office of Congresswoman Speier				
Len Materman	San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority				