

# Countywide Water Coordination Committee

## MINUTES MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2017

Chair Pine called the meeting to order at 7:38 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 September 20, 2017 meeting.**

*Motion: Chair Pine moved to approve the September 20, 2017 minutes as presented; member Gauthier seconded; Motion carried unanimously.*

### **3. Update and discussion on “Water Summit” planning.**

Chair Pine updated the committee on the current planning process for organizing a “Water Summit” planned for Spring 2018, the main objective of which is to raise awareness among local elected officials and agency staff about the breadth of water-related infrastructure projects occurring around the county and the level of collaboration necessary to make these projects successful. This will lay the groundwork for future collaboration.

- Date – March 31, 2018
- Location – Cañada College
- Plenary speaker (tentative) – Congresswoman Jackie Speier
- Keynote speaker (confirmed) – Grant Davis – Director of California Department of Water Resources
- Duration – 8:30 a.m. to noon or 12:30, including plenary/keynote, County overview, panel discussion of projects, project breakouts and final panel on integration and funding

Members discussed what other counties/regions in California are doing to address water integration and possible borrow from. Also discussed the format and breakout session design. Members also raised the question about which local projects to highlight, and agreed the summit should be truly countywide, including the coastside, Foster City levee project, among many others. Members inquired about the relevancy of SB 231 in creating new or raising existing stormwater fees, as well as the possibility of a Tax Increment Financing District or other local financing tools to bridge the water infrastructure funding gap. The members agreed to the need for a countywide governance and financing structure like the model of the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

### **4. Receive a presentation on the SAFER Bay Project (San Fransiquito Creek Joint Power Authority).**

Len Materman from San Francisquito Creek Joint Power Authority presented the SAFER Bay Project, which is a flood protection project addressing 11 miles of Bay shoreline at risk to sea level rise in two

counties and three adjacent cities (East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Palo Alto). The SAFER Bay project may use a combination of levees, floodwalls and natural infrastructure (horizontal levees) to protect against sea level rise along Highway 101 up to 9’ above today’s high tide water level. The project will remove properties from the current FEMA floodplain and sea level at 9’ above high tide, and will also upgrade the Bay Trail to provide better community access. A key feature of the proposed SAFER Bay Project is the use of marsh restoration via horizontal levees as a primary means of flood protection.

A significant aspect of this project is the implicit complexity of multiple jurisdictions, regulatory agencies, private businesses and funding sources. There are challenges of private property encroachment and permitting, which are made somewhat easier by the San Fransiquito Creek JPA. Identifiable elements of success include the coordination of the three cities through the JPA, dedicated staff at the JPA who can commit significant time to the project, and funding from the Santa Clara Valley Water District and other participating agencies and stakeholders (mostly local agencies). Ongoing challenges include approval of the use of horizontal levees for flood protection (or other alternatives such as a hydrostatic floodwall) and insufficient funding from responsible parties, including the Federal Government and private stakeholders. The project team is also investigating other funding options such as a new finance district bond, a regional tax through the Bay Restoration Authority, aggregate private flood insurance through the Community Rating System, and a cap and trade market for carbon.

**5. Review and approval of the 2018 SMCWCC Meeting Calendar.**

Members reviewed and approved the following 2018 SMCWCC calendar (note: no formal motion for approval was made).

Meetings will be held in the City of San Mateo, City Hall, Conference Room C located at **330 W 20th**

<b>Wednesday at 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM</b>
Jan 17
Feb 21
Apr 18
May 16
July 18
Sept 19
Nov 21

**6. Member comments and announcements (information item).**

None.

**7. Adjournment.**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 am. Next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2018.