

Countywide Water Coordination Committee

MINUTES MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2019

Chair Pine called the meeting to order at 7:38 am at the San Mateo City Plaza, Public Works Office, War Room, Suite 320.

Attendance sheet is attached.

1. Public Comments on items not on the agenda.

None.

2. Approval of minutes from the January 18, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Member Papan moved to approve the January 18, 2019 minutes as presented; Seconded by Member Vaterlaus; Motion carried 6-0.

3. Receive debrief of the Jan 29, 2019 San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Note – this item was unintentionally covered after Item 4.

Chair Pine provided a recap of the Jan 29, 2019 San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meeting. The Board of Supervisors unanimously endorsed the proposal, and Chair Pine noted the members of the Board were very supportive. It was also noted that the resolution of endorsement included a commitment by the County to fund its portion of the startup costs of the new district for the first three years.

4. Receive update and provide direction on city engagement efforts and next steps for launching the Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency Agency.

Larry Paterson provided an update on recent activities to engage the town/city councils on the Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency Agency (FLSRRA) proposal. Mr. Patterson distributed a schedule of upcoming City Council meetings, which is also available on the proposal website – www.resilientsanmateo.org. Mr. Patterson provided a debrief of the first council meeting held on Feb 6 with the Town of Atherton. Town Council members were generally supportive, but expressed concern about representation of small cities on the new Board of Directors, as well as how the district's authorities as defined in the new legislation may impact jurisdictions and new zones that may be formed, especially with respect to existing projects and improvements along the Bayshore. Other questions included, how would maintenance responsibilities for new projects intersect with existing maintenance responsibilities and processes. Finally, it was noted that the status of endorsement by each city/town would be posted on the proposal website for reference. Committee members inquired about the possibility of jurisdictions not endorsing the proposal. Chair Pine emphasized the hope for “all in,” and suggested that if by chance a city/town does not endorse, then the funding commitment from the non-endorsing agency would be spread across the other participating entities.

5. Receive update and provide direction on draft legislation for modifying the San Mateo County Flood Control District Act.

County Counsel staff, Paul Okada, provided an update on the process for developing draft legislation for modifying the existing 1959 San Mateo County Flood Control District Act. County Counsel has reviewed the existing legislation and shared a draft revised legislation addressing recommended modifications to relevant clauses. Mr. Okada reviewed the revised code and highlighted three areas of discussion for the Committee to consider and provide input:

1) Governance issues

- County Council suggested including the existing Board of Supervisors governance provision and the new governance structure in a subsequent provision, with a statement that the original governance structure will be suspended and of no effect unless or until the subsequent provision is repealed as set forth in the new code. The intention being that if the legislation takes longer than expected to establish the new district, the existing Board of Supervisors would maintain its powers and if the modified district were to revert back to the pre-existing flood control district, then there would be a mechanism in the legislation to support that process.
- County Council recommends a staggered term for the new Board of Directors, with four-year terms. The initial directors from the “at large,” “north,” “central” and “south” regions plus the “at large” Board of Supervisors appointee would serve two years. Committee members agreed the status of the Board of Supervisors representing the new district should be made public online.
- Committee members discussed the appropriate approach to transition between the functions of the existing flood control district and the new entity. Members agreed that a model similar to how Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) was formed may be strategic at the outset, including hiring an executive director via the interim Advisory Board, electing the new Board of Directors and then having the executive director hire staff.

2) Taxes, bonds, fees

- Committee members discussed the importance of not interfering with existing pre-Prop 13 taxing and bonding authorities under the current San Mateo Flood Control District. It was noted that these revenue powers fund the countywide stormwater program in addition to funding flood projects in the current subzones authorized under the San Mateo Flood Control District Act, and it was emphasized that changes to the legislation should not interfere with these powers, but there should be some flexibility in how new subzones may be formed and what revenue powers could be applicable.

3) Evaluation of revenue sources

- Committee members reiterated sensitivity among state representatives about additional revenue measures proposed by a modified legislation to create the new district. It was stated that the legislation would outline potential revenue sources and powers to enact them, but not propose any specific revenue strategies. A complete evaluation of revenue sources is planned under the development of an investment plan for the new district.

County Council will continue revising the draft legislation and send an updated redline version to the Committee and executive team members from the SAT. The draft legislation will be submitted to the appropriate legislative committee for introducing bills under the 2019 session by February 22, 2019.

6. Adjournment.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:09 am. Next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2019.