

SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY



FLOOD CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE **Meeting Announcement**

DATE: Thursday, January 22, 2009

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Solano Irrigation District Board of Directors Room
508 Elmira Road
Vacaville

AGENDA

1. Introductions and Public Comment
2. Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2008 Meeting
3. Approval of Minutes of December 4, 2008 Meeting
4. Presentation – FLL League students – Flood Prevention – Laura Peters
5. Committee Vacancies – Two positions open
6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2009
7. Lagunitas Detention Basin – Response to questions from last meeting – Gary Cullen, Vacaville
8. Gibson Canyon Creek Study – Results of detention basin modeling
9. Small Grant Projects: Staff Update
10. Medium Sized Projects: Staff Update
11. Flood Control Grant Opportunities
12. Future meeting items
13. Set meeting dates for 2009

January 22	April 23	October 22
February 26	June 25	December 3
March 26	August 27	

If you have any questions contact David Okita at (707) 455-1103

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SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FLOOD CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES: October 23, 2008

Introductions and Public Comment: Chairman Rolf Ohlemutz called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes of August 28, 2008: The minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Vacancy: Staff reported that there is one vacancy on the Flood Control Advisory Committee. Members whose terms expire at the end of 2008 should notify staff if they want to be reappointed.

Small Grant Projects – Amy King, Solano Resource Conservation District: Amy King from the Solano Resource Conservation District (RCD) presented a summary of the small grant projects that she is working on. For Spurs Trail, this project is being finish by Alex Rabidoux with the Solano County Water Agency (SCWA), since the project is close to completion. For the Bill McInnes project, Amy is helping the landowner reduce the impacts of a beaver dam in Green Valley Creek. The project does not qualify as a small grant project, but Amy is working to develop some low tech solutions to help the landowner. For the Wally Pearce project, Amy is working with the landowner to submit a small grant project that will help to reduce flooding in the McCune Creek watershed. For the Dick Pelton project, Mr. Pelton has contacted a multitude of agencies which include SCWA, the Solano Irrigation District (SID), and the Solano RCD to fix his flooding problem. Amy is working with Mr. Pelton to come up with a small grant project. The remaining small grant projects are waiting for additional follow up.

Medium Sized Projects: David Okita presented a summary of the medium sized projects. A total of 7 applications have been approved for the Sweeney Creek Home Raising Program. For Gibson Canyon Creek the modeling is still underway. Additional work is also being done to optimize the size and cost of the detention basins. For the Suisun and LedgeWood Creek studies, more sophisticated modeling is going to be done using Solano County LiDar data. The SCWA is still waiting for completion of the LiDar data from Solano County. For the Dixon Regional drainage, the Dixon Watershed Authority is working on an application to request funding from the Water Agency for their Eastside Drainage Project.

Delta Visions – Flood Management Impacts to Solano County: David Okita presented an overview of the important Delta issues that are going on and their potential impact to Solano County. The first major issue dealt with flood control. After Hurricane Katrina, federal agencies have become more concerned about flooding and ensuring that there is adequate flood protection, specifically dealing with levees. For urban areas such as Sacramento, Natomas, and Stockton levees need to be upgraded for 200-year flood protection before additional development is allowed. In Solano County the Delta and the Yolo Bypass are the areas that contain levees; however the levees are all in rural areas with the exception of Rio Vista. No policy has addressed the level of protection required for rural levees. An additional concern for Solano County levees is that the increased requirements in urban levees in areas such as Yuba City and Sacramento could increase the amount of flood waters conveyed into the Yolo Bypass and the Delta, raising the water surface elevations, and putting further strains on Solano County levees. The state is currently looking at a new Central Valley Flood Control Plan which will need to address any downstream impacts.

The other important issue taking place in the Delta is with water supply. Over the last few years there has been a major decline in the Delta Smelt, Longfin Smelt, and other fish species in the Delta. This decline has led to legal orders to reduce the amount of water pumped out of the Delta and delivered to the San Joaquin Valley, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Southern California. The true cause for the decline in the smelt populations is still unclear. To improve water supply and minimize the pumping impact to fish, an Isolated Canal Facility (i.e. Peripheral Canal) is being proposed. There is substantial political push for this project, as over 26 million people depend on drinking water from the Delta, as well as millions of acres of farmland. In order for the Isolated Facility to be built, the regulatory agencies will be requiring substantial areas of mitigation. Entities such as the Trust for Public Lands, US Bureau of Reclamation, Westlands Water District, and others have purchased large tracts of land in the Yolo Bypass and Delta region of Solano County for potential mitigation. The restoration and habitat improvement of these lands will directly impact water quality and pumping operations at the North Bay Aqueduct (NBA), which is a main source of drinking water for Napa and Solano Counties. Additionally, Reclamation District 2068 could be negatively impacted as well by improvements in Smelt habitat. The other major part of Solano County that could be impacted by mitigation is the Suisun Marsh. Several plans have proposed between 9,000 – 25,000 acres of restored habitat in the Suisun Marsh.

Committee member Del Berg commented about who is required to provide 200-year flood protection. David responded that the flood control bill indicated that the cities of Sacramento, Stockton, and areas like Natomas are the ones required to have 200-year flood protection for any future development. David also indicated that at a meeting he attended, there was discussion that the City of Fairfield would be required to provide 200-year flood protection in some areas. David was not clear about the reasoning for this, and will be following up. Committee member Paul Lum suggested that a 6-month update on the Delta issues is warranted.

Public Comment: Mrs. Sievers from the Allendale area, voiced concern about a small grant project that was done in 1989. Mrs. Sievers requested that the Committee address her flooding concerns. David Okita informed the Committee that the Water Agency looked at addressing the regional flooding issues in the McCune Creek Watershed where Mrs. Sievers is from. The Agency proposed the formation of an assessment district to fund the flood control improvements for McCune Creek. Landowners in this area were not interested in the project, and expressed this to the SCWA Board of Directors. Since a majority of landowners were not interested in this project, the Board instructed the Water Agency to focus on other flood control issues.

Future Meeting Topics: David Okita will be requesting the City of Vacaville to give an update of their regional detention storage projects. The Solano County Water Agency will also present an update of the flood hazard warning program at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Flood Control Advisory Committee will be Thursday, December 4, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Solano Irrigation District.

Committee Members Attending:

Delbert Berg	Ron Campbell
Rolf Ohlemutz	Charles Karnopp
Paul Lum	Terry Riddle
Jim Daniels	Mike O'Conner

Committee Members Absent:

Steve Chappell	Gus Silva
Mark Holdener	Laura Peters

SCWA Staff:

David Okita	Alex Rabidoux
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SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FLOOD CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES: December 4, 2008

Introductions and Public Comment: Chairman Rolf Ohlemutz called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm absent a quorum. Mrs. Sievers from the McCune Creek watershed commented about the need for an outside manager for flood control. Chairman Rolf Ohlemutz commented that this was not the right forum for addressing this issue, as this Committee is only an Advisory Committee.

Approval of Minutes of August 28, 2008: The minutes were not approved, because a quorum was not reached.

Committee Vacancy: Staff reported that there are still two vacancies on the Flood Control Advisory Committee.

Vacaville Detention Basins Progress Update – Gary Cullen, Vacaville: Gary Cullen from the City of Vacaville gave a progress update on the City of Vacaville Detention Basins. Historically the City of Vacaville has experienced severe flooding, with 12 flooding related disasters since 1963. Since 1986 there have been 6 federal flood declarations. The last major flood event in Vacaville was the December 31, 2005 storm event which was only a 5-year storm event for Vacaville, yet there were significant flood impacts to the City. Mr. Cullen pointed out that the FEMA rainfall intensities may be under estimated by 40%. One of the biggest challenges the City faces is that there is limited channel capacity. During the December 2005 storm, the channels were at full capacity before they entered the City Limits. After the Dec. 2005 storm, West-Yost & Associates was hired by SCWA and Vacaville to come up with a list of recommendations that would provide the most realistic flood control benefit for the City of Vacaville. The main recommendation was the installation of detention basins on the upstream tributaries to the Ulatis System. The total project cost was estimated to be \$47-69 million. To help facilitate the project, the Solano County Water Agency approved \$3.5 million in funding to the City of Vacaville.

To date the City has bought 50-ac of land for the Ulatis Basin project. The City has also applied for 3 grants for this project. For the Ulatis/Florence Drive Basin the City has purchased 8-ac of land, and the pre-design is underway. For the Alamo Basin 75-ac has been purchased and environmental studies are taking place before the design can be done. The City has received a grant for this project. For the Encinosa Basin, the City has finished construction of 3 basins with a combined storage of 200 ac-ft. Mr. Cullen

pointed out that during flooding the Encinosa Basins might not appear to be full because there will be 4 ft of freeboard. For the Laguna Basin the City is in active discussion with landowners / developers to purchase the land. Mr. Cullen also explained that the biggest cost with these basins is exporting the fill material during construction.

The City will be continuing to apply for grants and funding for the design and construction of the detention basins. Mr. Cullen pointed out that Vacaville's projects have been very competitive because of high benefit-cost ratios. For the Alamo and Ulatis Basin projects, the benefit-cost ratios were 2.6 and 2.4 respectively.

Lagunitas Basin Flood Performance – Delbert Berg, Long-time Lagoon Valley landowner: Committee member and long-time Lagoon Valley landowner Del Berg gave a presentation and model display of the City of Vacaville's Lagunitas Detention Basin. Mr. Berg explained that during the 2002 and 2005 flood events, the Basin never filled up to the appropriate level. Mr. Berg explained and showed with his model that the current hydrology of Lagunitas Creek prevents the creek from fully utilizing the Lagunitas Basin during high flows. To correct this, Del recommended excavating an additional section of the Lagunitas Basin inlet, on the north-west side. Additionally, Del pointed out that in 2005 a piece of rip-rap material blocked the flapgate at the Basin's outlet, preventing the Basin from fully draining in a timely manner. Gary Cullen will investigate the Basin and report back to staff.

Small Grant Projects: Alex Rabidoux presented a brief overview of the small grant projects. The biggest change was the completion of the Spurs Trail small grant project. The remaining small grant projects are waiting for additional follow up.

Medium Sized Projects: David Okita presented a summary of the medium sized projects. No new projects been submitted for the Sweeney Creek Home Raising Program. For Gibson Canyon Creek the study report is being completed. For Ledgewood Creek, the key property of interest for the flood control project is for sale. Discussions are underway. For the Suisun Creek study, the Agency is still waiting for the Solano County LiDar data. The North Connector project is also currently being worked on. For the Dixon Regional drainage, the Dixon Watershed Authority is working on an application to request funding from the Water Agency.

SCWA Flood Hazard Warning Program: David Okita presented an overview of the SCWA Flood Hazard Warning Program. On the Agency's website the weather forecast is updated weekly, daily, and hourly as needed. The website also links to real-time rainfall, lake levels, and creek stages for stations around Solano County. Committee member Steve Chappell recommended looking at the website at another Flood Committee meeting after a storm event has occurred.

Bay Area Flood Control Grant Opportunities: David explained that historically the Water Agency does not go after federal or state grant money for flood control. However, the recent state bonds that have passed include a large amount of money for water, wastewater, and flood control issues. In order to apply for state funds, the applicant must have an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan in place. The Agency does have a plan, but the state has upgraded the requirements. The state grants also divide money up by region. Solano County is split by two regions, the San Francisco Bay Area and the Sacramento River drainage. For the San Francisco Bay Area, 9 counties (including Solano County) have a plan in place and are currently working on how to divide up the potential grant funds. Solano County is grouped with Napa, Solano, Sonoma, and Marin Counties which have substantial geographical areas but smaller populations than the other Bay Area counties. The Water Agency will need to work with other local agencies to see what Solano County projects would be applicable. For the Sacramento River drainage, there is substantially less organization amongst all of the applicable counties. The Water Agency is currently working with Yolo, Solano, Lake, and Napa Counties to apply as a regional partnership for the grants.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Flood Control Advisory Committee will be Thursday, January 22, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Solano Irrigation District.

Committee Members Attending:

Delbert Berg	Steve Chappell
Rolf Ohlemutz	Charles Karnopp
Paul Lum	Terry Riddle
Mike O'Conner	

Committee Members Absent:

Mark Holdener	Laura Peters
Ron Campbell	Jim Daniels

SCWA Staff:

David Okita	Alex Rabidoux
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FLOOD CONTROL – FY 2007/2008 SMALL GRANT PROJECTS

January 22, 2009

NAME	LOCATION	WATERSHED	TOTAL PROJECT COST			PAID OUT (SCWA)	STATUS
			Owner Cost-Share	SCWA Cost-Share	Total		
Louise Fong	Spurs Trail Fairfield, CA	Jameson Can. Ck.	\$6,754	\$27,014	\$33,768	\$25,000	COMPLETED: Construction began October 8 – 15. The project is complete.
James Lewis	2825 Gates Cny. Vacaville, CA	Alamo Ck.	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	PENDING: Site visit conducted. Landowner is submitting a design proposal for approval.
Bill McInnes	401 Via Palo Linda Fairfield, CA	Green Valley Ck.	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	DECLINED: The project does not directly deal with flooding. However, the SRCD helped landowner to contact a local engineer to help with this project.
Wally Pearce	4586 Campos Rd Winters, CA	McCune Ck.	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	PENDING: The SRCD worked with landowner; small grant app submitted.
Georgia Simpson	6956 Bucktown Ln Vacaville, CA	Ulatis Ck.	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	PENDING: Not likely to submit an application, but this site is on a list of creek clean-out projects that SRCD is working on funding.
Khalil Jaber	1630 Jeni Ln Fairfield, CA	Green Valley Ck.	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	COMPLETED: The SRCD assisted landowner with beaver dam problem.
Richard Pelton	7407 Leisure Town Rd. Vacaville, CA	Gibson Canyon Ck.	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	PENDING: The SRCD is working on submitting this project.
Tracy Rush	101 Siebe Dr Fairfield, CA	Hennessey Creek	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	PENDING: The SRCD is working with the landowner to submit a proposal.
Totals:			\$6,754	\$27,014	\$33,768	\$25,000	

Amount Remaining in Small Grant Budget: \$25,000

MEDIUM SIZED FLOOD PROJECT STATUS REPORT

January 22, 2009

This is a status report for each of the active medium sized flood projects currently being undertaken by the Solano County Water Agency.

PROJECT	STATUS SUMMARY
SWEENEY CREEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCWA Home Raising Program. SCWA processing applications – Six \$25,000 payments made in FY 2007-2008. One for FY 2008-2009 - Continuing to accept applications- none pending
GIBSON CANYON CREEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining feasibility of using abandoned Vacaville sewage ponds as detention basins. • Report shows feasible project – meeting with Stakeholders
LEDGEWOOD CREEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work completed of preliminary evaluation of open space / detention pond storage – not promising. • Project on hold for coordination with Suisun Creek Study • Key property is now for sale – meeting with landowner planned.
DIXON REGIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed Study completed August 2001 • SCWA commits to \$200,000 for “Three Mile Connection” in 2004. • Dixon Watershed Authority requests funding for Eastside Drain Project in 2007 – application being developed.
SUISUN CREEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study underway for consideration of multi-use detention basin to be done in conjunction with North Connector Road Project. • Possible detention basin - property interests not interested – looking for other sites • In January Board approved contract amendment to analyze other potential location. • Work waiting for County Lidar data – major delays