



# County of San Diego

## FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMISSION

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### MINUTES

#### COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMISSION THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2003

- Commissioners Present:** Harriet Acton, Mary Allison, Joe Gerry, Hadley Johnson, Mike Sholders, Kent Trimble, and Kenneth Wood
- Commissioners Absent:** None
- Staff Present:** Cid Tesoro and Jiljean Walther
- Guests:** Dennis Bowling, Brian Laird, and Roberta Cronquist, all from Rick Engineering

The regular meeting of the San Diego County Flood Control District Advisory Commission was called to order by Chairman Joe Gerry at 9:33 a.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2003, at the Department of Public Works, County Operations Center, Building 2, Room 156.

#### 1. Minutes of September 4 , 2003 Meeting

**ACTION:** Commissioner Acton moved to approve the Minutes; Commissioner Sholders seconded; Motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Allison stepped out of the room to return a few minutes later. Commissioner Trimble had not arrived as yet.

#### 2. Expenditure and Status Report

Cid Tesoro stated that the recent firestorm burned out the arundo in some areas and saved a tremendous amount of resources; however, these burned-out sections still need to be sprayed. There were 38 ALERT stations within the burn area and none were burned out due to the fires. There were five flood control facilities directly affected by the fires; all were minor and effort is now being made for erosion control.

Commissioner Allison distributed “Chaparral burns like gasoline ...”<sup>1</sup>.

Mr. Tesoro stated that Flood Control has contracted GeoSyntec Consultants to look at all the burn areas in the unincorporated part of the county, who will develop a strategy plan for dealing with all the erosion areas. In order to receive federal reimbursement, the County must go through this assessment process to bring the Natural Resource Conservation Services on board, which in turn, must file the paperwork to acquire funding for the projects. They have scoured the county and have developed three major areas of concern, which the County has begun the work of constructing check dams, hydro-mulching, rip-rap placement, and other erosion control measures. This all must be done in coordination with the Federal Government or there will be no reimbursement.

Mr. Tesoro also stated that the County has reduced the amount of re-seeding. Plants have adapted to the fire environment here in Southern California and the fires actually help the seeds reactivate in some cases.

FC3020 – Waterway Maintenance – Mr. Tesoro stated that the Board of Supervisors allocated funds from other sources, not from Flood Control, to accomplish the hydro-mulching, check dams, etc.

Mr. Tesoro stated that he is the Project Manager for the Erosion Control projects and is closely over-seeing the disbursement of funds.

FC4090 – Woodside Avenue – Mr. Tesoro stated that the County is still waiting to hear back from the Prop 13 Grant – Bron Property Detention Basin Grant that was submitted. The consultant has completed the first draft of the study and revisions need to be made.

FC4103 – Special Projects – Mr. Tesoro explained that this category is set aside for those unanticipated projects that arise during the year.

FC4117 – Design and Procedure Manual – Mr. Tesoro stated that the committee is a week behind in submitting the final draft outline. This category was contracted for 41%, but it has not been used as yet; only \$5,000 has been spent. Mr. Tesoro stated that he would acquire further information regarding the amount of the contract and how much has been spent, and advise in the next meeting.

### **3. Floodplain Encroachment Study**

Dennis Bowling, Brian Laird and Roberta Cronquist of Rick Engineering gave a detailed presentation on the ongoing Floodplain Encroachment Study. They distributed “San Luis Rey River Pilot Project San Diego Floodplain Encroachment Study”<sup>2</sup> and a letter addressed to Kerri Porterfield at FEMA<sup>3</sup>.

This project is a study to determine where illegal and potential encroachments are in the floodplains.

There were 553 encroachments found along the San Luis Rey River within the study area. 111 were omitted as non-problematic. With about 400 encroachments in the floodplain, some were eliminated by a field visit. By using County Assessor's information, more encroachments were eliminated because they were established before FEMA mapped the area (156). 75 were removed based on multi encroachments being on the same parcel. This left 122 encroachments. Then the flood insurance studies were requested from FEMA to look at the data to see if some encroachments were included. This project cost is approximately \$20,000.

It was determined that FEMA needs to revise their maps.

Mr. Tesoro stated that once the FEMA map information is acquired, letters will be sent to those property owners who have an illegal encroachment on their property.

Mr. Tesoro stated that he would report what FEMA's decision is and what County Counsel's decision is concerning liability of informing people that they area in a floodplain.

The other potential project locations are Escondido Creek, San Dieguito, San Diego River, Sweetwater, Otay, and Cottonwood Creek.

#### **4. Projects' Presentation and Matrix**

Chairman Gerry stated that this item is postponed until next meeting.

#### **5. FEMA Maps**

Mr. Tesoro stated that he would like to write a letter to FEMA including an illustration as to where the FEMA maps need revision. This could save affected homeowners a significant amount of dollars spent on flood insurance. However, the cost of preparing map revisions is too costly for the County to solely undertake. He elaborated by stating that Flood Control made map revisions on a condo unit in El Cajon, will translate to a saving thousands of dollars on flood insurance.

Mr. Tesoro stated that he would acquire input from County Counsel regarding the liability of moving lines and property out of the current floodplain. He will bring information back to the next Commission meeting.

It was further discussed that perhaps an appearance by County Counsel at a Commission meeting would be appropriate to obtain their view regarding the encroachment procedure.

#### **6. Arundo Demonstration**

Mr. Tesoro stated that he proposed going forward with the work in Lakeside, using the California Conservation Corps, rather than waiting for a demonstration. It was agreed that Mr. Tesoro would go begin the work.

## 7. Other Business

1. Commissioner Wood stated that there were over 200 acres in Ramona that burned from two fires. A company in San Marcos will be collecting seeds from the burned acreage, which seeds occur only after there has been a fire.
2. Commissioner Sholders inquired as to the impact the fires had on the Master Plan.

Mr. Tesoro answered that FEMA has contracted URS Corporation to map out all FEMA floodways and any additional floodways the County requested. The County has given them a list of 20 streams and creeks in addition to the major rivers, with results due this week.

3. Commissioner Sholders stated that he is on the selection committee for the engineering consultants for Chollas Creek. The Chollas Creek Project is of major concern. The City of San Diego is going to award a \$1.4 million contract for the design to tear out all concrete channels in Chollas Creek and replant to pristine condition, which he considers an insult to engineering.

Commissioner Trimble stated that Chollas Creek is one of the dirtiest, biggest polluters dumping into the bay. The City intends to use the natural vegetation as a cost-effective, screening filter.

Mr. Tesoro stated that he would investigate the situation and send that information to the Commissioners.

4. Commissioner Allison stated that a grant application called "Flood Control Habitat Restoration and Recharge on the San Diego River" has been proposed. The Flood Control Commission was not approached regarding this grant application. The entire grant is for \$4,136,000, with Lakeside Conservancy to receive 10-12% (roughly \$400,000). It proposes that all the backfill be taken out that Calmat/Vulcan has put in and restoring it to wetlands - it will destroy all restoration that Lakeside has received to this point. There is also \$600,000 allocated to repair Hanson Bank on the River.

Commissioner Trimble stated that this is a private grant application and the County could deny the permit.

Chairman Gerry explained that there is a group that will write letters of opposition to the tentative map because it represents development, once a tentative map is filed at the Counties of California.

Commissioner Allison will let the Commission know when she receives notice that the grant has been approved.

5. Commissioner Wood commented that in the September Minutes, the Santa Fe Fire District is interested in having another bridge installed across the river, which could serve Whispering Palms.

Chairman Gerry adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

**The next meeting will be Thursday, March 4, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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CHANDRA WALLAR, Secretary  
San Diego County Flood Control  
District Advisory Commission

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JOE GERRY, Chairman  
San Diego County Flood Control  
District Advisory Commission

1. Chaparral burns like gasoline ...
2. San Luis Rey River Pilot Project San Diego Floodplain Encroachment Study
3. Correspondence addressed to Ms. Kerry Porterfield from Cid Tesoro

Minutes prepared by Jiljean Walther