



Flood Control District of Maricopa County

Flood Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes for January 24, 2018

Board Members Present: Gregg Monger, Chairman; DeWayne Justice, Secretary; Richard Schaner; Bob Larchick, Ray Dovalina

Staff Members Present: William Wiley, Chief Engineer/General Manager; Wayne Peck, General Counsel; Chris Hall, Deputy Director; Patti Thoenke, Executive Assistant/FCAB Clerk of the Board

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Monger called the meeting of the Flood Control Advisory Board (FCAB) to order at 2:01 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24, 2018.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) APPROVE THE MINUTES OF October 25, 2017

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Schaner and seconded by Mr. Larchick to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously and the minutes were approved.

4) ACTION ITEM - RAWHIDE WASH FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION RESOLUTION

Presented by Theresa Pinto, Project Manager

STAFF RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTION: Endorse and recommend to the Board the adoption of Resolution FCD 2018R005 for the Rawhide Wash Flood Hazard Mitigation.

Ms. Pinto covered the staff recommendation which would authorize the following for the project: budget and expend funding; procure related engineering design and construction services; acquire rights of entry, property, and easements; and negotiate and prepare intergovernmental agreements required to implement the project.

The background, goals, features, and next steps of the project were covered in detail during the presentation. The 95-square mile study identified a need for a regional solution for the Rawhide Wash flood hazard and floodplain. The area covers territory in both cities of Phoenix and Scottsdale.

The Rawhide wash is dangerous because of the high flows and the 100-year peak discharge is almost 10 thousand cfs. That is the same as the average daily flow of the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. It is also an active alluvial fan. There are over 800 houses and buildings in the floodplain and most are near the area with uncertain flow paths.

The goals of the project are: reduce the flood hazard and revise the floodplain from an alluvial fan to a riverine floodplain.

Results of the public outreach done in developing the project goals identified that the public understands the issues and that there is support for the recommended alternative.

The boundaries of the project were covered, along with the new levee and flood walls that are proposed. The costs and benefits of the project were provided in both estimated dollar amounts, floodplain reduction, benefits to both existing and future residents and developments.

The current ongoing activities of the project include wall testing and investigation, developing an IGA, starting the design, and continuing public outreach through HOA meetings and community stakeholder involvement.

Mr. Schaner had a question regarding reduced sheet flow and whether there would be an increase in velocity and flow to the outlets. Ms. Pinto responded that that concern was being addressed. Mr. Wiley expanded on the current hazard of the alluvial fan.

Mr. Monger asked about more details on the public reactions that have been gathered during the HOA meetings. Mr. Wiley further clarified about the pinch points that are affected and the challenges that have been encountered during the investigation phase. Mr. Dovalina also identified the work that is being done by several participants in the infrastructure of the project.

Based on a question about the breakdown of expenses by Mr. Justice, Ms. Pinto identified what entities are paying what percentage of the costs.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Schaner and seconded by Mr. Justice to endorse the Rawhide Wash Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

5) **ACTION ITEM - LAVEEN AREA DRAINAGE MASTER STUDY/PLAN UPDATE RESOLUTION**

Presented by Afshin Ahouraiyan, Project Manager

The update on the Laveen ADMPU was provided since the previous presentation of this project to the committee was as an informational item. The plan would address the existing flood problems within the Laveen area watershed. The study covers 37 square miles in southwest Phoenix with various pockets of Maricopa County. It is both urban and rural in nature.

The recommended plan discussed five areas that need help. Each area was shown with existing conditions and with a recommended solution. The recommended plans for areas 1 and 4 would provide protection for a 10-year storm event while areas 2, 3 and 5 would be for a 100-year storm event.

Mr. Schaner asked if there had been any discussions about recharge benefits. Mr. Ahouraiyan indicated that the proposed basins could provide for recharge opportunity, but the planning study had not looked at that. However when the plans are moved to the design phase this could be looked at to see if recharge was a feasible possibility.

Chairman Monger wanted to know if there is impact on the current SRP canal systems and whether there has been any collaboration with SRP. Mr. Ahouraiyan discussed that the assumptions made were that the canals were not taking any flood waters off of the roads because they would be at maximum capacity. These assumptions were based on discussions with SRP during previous studies.

Mr. Justice asked about the basin sites along the 202 freeway where two of the recommended solutions are proposing to take the flows. It was discussed that there was extensive coordination going on with the freeway expansion and this project.

Mr. Ahouraiyan discussed the coordination that has been done to find more partners for the project based on a question posed by Mr. Dovalina.

Mr. Larchick asked if there was currently anything in the CIP. Mr. Ahouraiyan stated that recommended plans for areas 4 and 5 were submitted to the CIP in the past and this study confirmed the need for the projects, however, with modified drainage elements. No funding had been negotiated for these projects. Kim Belt, CIP Program Manager, spoke about the current CIP budget and what is being anticipated. Mr. Ahouraiyan also mentioned that future IGAs on these projects will be presented to the FCAB once the funding and terms of the IGAs have been negotiated.

STAFF RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTION: Endorse and recommend the Board adopt Resolution FCD 2018R006 for the Laveen Area Drainage Master Study/Plan Update.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Justice and seconded by Mr. Schaner to approve the Laveen Drainage plan. The motion carried unanimously.

6) FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATORY OUTLOOK

Presented by Kelli Sertich, Policy, Planning, and Coordination Branch Manager

PURPOSE: Information and discussion item only. No formal action is required.

Ms. Sertich presented the update on the regulatory activities that impact the FCD. NFIP expired and Congress extended it multiple times. How there has been no formal reauthorization or reform on the program. Other funding bills were highlighted that could affect FCD.

The 2017 State Legislation was recapped. Bills up for legislation in 2018 were covered.

Floodplain regulations updates which had been presented to the FCAB in previous meetings were adopted by the Board of Directors on 1/17/18. The FCAB was commended for its participation in this accomplishment.

7) EL RIO VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN PILOT PROJECT

Presented by Theresa Pinto, Project Manager

PURPOSE: Information and discussion item only. No formal action is required.

The background of the El Rio project was presented by Ms. Pinto, along with the goals of the pilot project. The schedule of the pilot project and the methodology being used were reviewed, as well as the next steps.

Mr. Monger asked about the root depth of the tamarisk and what happens with their seeds. Ms. Pinto reviewed the equipment being used and how root balls are being removed and used to restrict off road traffic at the site. Tamarisk seed regrowth will be watched during the project.

The types and use of herbicide sprays being employed to control regrowth was explained. The products being used are all aquatically approved.

Mr. Wiley reminded the board members this project is being done with a grant from the Gila River Indian Community. He also provided information about what is available to those in the El Rio area who want to work on their own properties. Mr. Wiley refers them to the website and El Rio flyer.

The Flood Control District owns approximately 18 percent of the 7,000-plus acre El Rio Project area, but its property is scattered. Forty percent of that land in the area is privately owned and 30 percent owned by the federal government.

Wayne Peck explained that the district is not legally authorized to do projects with private land owners based on a question from Mr. Justice. The Gila River Indian Community has a plant ecologist who participates with the project.

8) COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND GENERAL MANAGER

Presented by William Wiley, P.E., Chief Engineer and General Manager

PURPOSE: Information and discussion item only. No formal action is required.

Mr. Wiley discussed that the FCD Durango Complex is to be weaned off of irrigation in the future. Photos were shown of some of the improvements already being done, which focus on desert plants. This will reduce maintenance costs for tree and bush trimming and the sprinkler systems as well.

The White Tanks No. 4 dam won a national Associated General Contractors Partnering Excellence Award for 2018.

FCD is preparing a list of projects that may meet some of the categories for a future infrastructure bill that Ms. Sertich talked about. If money becomes available in those categories, FCD will be prepared to submit projects for funding.

Mr. Wiley discussed a program in California called Flood MAR (Managed Aquifer Recharge). This relates to what Mr. Schaner brought up about using the basins in the Laveen area for recharge. FCD is looking at that program to see if we can leverage our resources to help save flood water which pass through our infrastructure. The Flood MAR concept may be part of a national drought bill introduced by California. Regardless, the overall concept is something for FCD to pay attention to as it builds new flood structures.

Mr. Wiley's last day at the FCD is March 1, 2018. There has been no candidate selected as yet for his replacement, but a recruiter has been employed to assist in the process. He has agreed to come back and help train the new hire. Chris Hall, deputy director, will be running next month's FCAB meeting.

The Floodplain regulations in the board's books will be updated at the next meeting.

9) SUMMARY OF RECENT ACTIONS BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Presented by Chris Hall, Deputy Director

PURPOSE: Information and discussion item only. No formal action is required.

Several meetings have taken place by the Board of Directors since the October 2017 FCAB meeting. Specifically: The Gila River Indian Community grants were approved. Our annual IGA with U.S. Geological Survey was approved to collect and share storm gauge data. Multiple agreements, IGAs, and contracts were adopted, including: City of Phoenix Mandan Street drainage improvements; City of Mesa 63rd/Broadway drainage improvements; agreement with Maricopa County Municipal Water Conservation District #1 for the McMicken Dam Outlet Channel; authorization of a study for Cudia City wash around Paradise Valley; authorization of post-design work for White Tanks No. 4 Flood Retarding Structure.

10) OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

PURPOSE: Information and discussion item only. No formal action is required.

Patti Trites, Homeowner and HOA President in the Laveen area of Southern Hills, spoke about flooding that she and others in the neighborhood have experienced in their homes. These are ongoing flood problems. She was the only homeowner who purchased FEMA flood insurance and it paid out for the flooding she has experienced. No others in the neighborhood have flood insurance. The residents clean out the culverts themselves because of all the water that comes from the tributaries. FCD put a rain gauge up in the area so rainfall can now be measured. Timing and funding are critical for this area. Her specific area represents about \$700,000 in real estate taxes as a new community. The building of South Mountain is going on and land value is increasing. Ms. Trites supports the recommendations in the Laveen ADMS as presented by Mr. Ahouriyen. The neighborhood would like to get this resolved expeditiously.

Mr. Schaner recommended a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Schaner moved that the meeting dismiss and Mr. Justice seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.