

NBWA
Watershed Council Meeting Summary
November 20, 2013 – 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Novato Sanitary District

I. Introductions.

- * Introductions began at 4:07 p.m. and Harry Seraydarian, NBWA Executive Director, reviewed the agenda.

Council Member News

- * Sonoma Valley Groundwater Program has issued 5 year report-decline in groundwater level with some salinity intrusion; promoting recycled water and groundwater banking.
- * Watershed Forum held in San Rafael on November 17-35 people representing 9 watersheds. Mitch Avalon spoke about Contra Costa approach to structuring a watershed group.

II. Richardson Bay and Sea Level Rise

Roger Leventhal, Marin County Public Works presented a PowerPoint entitled, “Sea Level Rise Adaptation in Richardson Bay.” He first provided an overview of his presentation and then presented a map of Marin County focusing on the Richardson Bay area with a 55” sea level rise line. He noted that the area would be heavily impacted due to buildings and roads at low elevations and the steep watersheds draining to the bay. He further noted that the area currently floods during “King Tides” and provided pictures and maps of Mill Valley and Coyote Creek showing flooding for 16” and 55” levels. Roger then described the Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) process and noted that Marin will focus on adaptation strategies and implementation options. He presented the Shoreline Study Goal which is to provide the education and engineering basis for adaptation planning (options with constraints, approximate cost ranges, anticipated impacts, permit issues, and using triggers rather than timelines, preparing for grants). Roger emphasized this effort would not have final recommendations or ranking, just concept levels. Roger then presented major adaptation strategies in the categories of Protect, Managed Retreat, and Accommodate. Roger provided Sea Level Rise scenarios from different sources and then the recommended values for 2030 (10”), 2050 (20”), and 2100 (59”) and how they would be presented using FEMA elevations. Roger referenced the Sea Level Rise Viewer Tool developed by Point Blue Conservation Science and studies to evaluate the benefits of natural systems for flood control and also described the natural sediment process. Roger introduced the concept of engineered sediment placement which may be a future pilot project at Bothin/Novato Marsh. Roger displayed some pictures of areas using dredge material such as Montezuma and Sonoma Baylands (comparison 1996-2006). Roger presented the Aramburu Island Beach Demonstration Project built in 2011-2012. He noted the 2007 Cosco-Busan Oil Spill eventually led to funding for the project. Roger presented a number of preconstruction pictures and explained the construction process using wood micro-groins, oyster shell hash, gravels and sand. He also showed beach profile changes and the increase in bird counts. Roger mentioned some approaches in Europe and Asia with the emphasis on hard engineering and eminent domain as compared to emphasizing habitat in the U.S. Roger then spoke about the idea of a Limit of Coastal Flood Protection (LCFP) and presented a number of alignment alternatives for different areas of Richardson Bay. He also presented costs for different approaches like new levees, raised upgraded levees, new seawall, and restored marsh. Roger provided some insights into options for Mill Valley and presented some approaches in other parts of the U.S. Roger provided the following “Takeaways”: 1) Comprehensive adaptation planning best hope to avoid costly permitting issues; 2) Triggers instead of timelines: develop designs for chronic flooding now, plan for SLR, develop post-disaster plan; and 3) Engineering can support future policies and agreements but community planning process is key. Roger ended with a few entertaining slides on adaptation. The Council Members had a number of questions: Will you look at hard-scape impacts on natural conditions? (Will look at impacts and pros and cons.) What about upstream flooding when you put in a tide gate? (May have to pump or pursue distributed storage upstream.) Would tide gates be less of a problem than sea walls? (Tide gates can cause water quality problems depending on upstream sources.) Won’t we have to retreat periodically even with the soft approach? (Can raise marshes by adding sediment but at some point go to manage retreat.) Did they consider sea level rise with Hamilton levees? (No, some time btw 2050-2100 will hit levee top.) Can you raise Hamilton levee? (Yes, but may have to eliminate bike trail.)

III. BAIRWMP Update

Harry Seraydarian presented a PowerPoint beginning with the major changes in the 2013 Plan Update: goals revised from six to five and objectives revised from 35 to five; projects were ranked and put into tiers; chapters on Land Use and Climate Change added; policies on Integration and Climate Change Adaptation included; example of a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (Sonoma County); and an acknowledgement of sub-regions. The Final Plan was available for regional review on October 1 at <http://bairwmp.org/docs/2013-bairwm-plan-update/2013-finalplan/final-bairwmp-2013>. Harry noted that the Coordinating Committee approved the Plan on October 28, 2013. Harry described the draft DWR Guidance used to review plan submissions that was released in September and noted that the Bay Area sent comments on the draft

Review Process. Harry summarized the adoption process for the 2013 Plan and noted that entities receiving funding in Round 1 must adopt the Plan by May 11, 2014. Harry then moved on to summarizing the September announcement by DWR on the recommendations for Round 2 funding and highlighted the Bay Area approval for the \$20 million requested. Harry described the projects in the Round 2 Bay Area submittal and emphasized the North Bay projects. Harry reviewed the DWR scoring process and compared the Bay Area submittal to the averages for all submittals. He focused on the Workplan element and noted we could have done better but that having 19 projects was a challenge (only 4 of 34 submittals had 13 or more projects). Harry also examined Benefit/Cost Analysis and although the Bay Area performed better than average on this component, two other submittals of 13 or more scored higher. Harry compared project ratios for the Bay Area to the North Coast submittals and concluded that having a single dominant project with a very high ratio benefitted the North Coast and was the basis for their higher score. Harry then reviewed the recently announced 1-E Final Awards and drew attention to the Bay Area and North Bay projects. Harry explained the proposed process for Round 3 funding estimated at \$73 million for the Bay Area. He first provided background on the approaches to Prop 50 and Rounds 1 and 2 of Prop 84. Harry then outlined the Round 3 Approach with its three Phases: Phase 1: Determine regional needs and priorities; Phase 2: Project selection; and Phase 3: Project application to DWR. Harry also set out the tentative schedule and milestones for each phase. He discussed the questions sent to the Functional Areas on Phase 1 which focused on Climate Change and priorities and then provided a chart summarizing the input. Harry described the draft guidance for “Regional Projects” and the factors and criteria that will be used to evaluate Regional Projects. He emphasized that “Regional” Projects would have a due date of March 31, 2014 and would be evaluated before Phase 2 project selection. Guidance for Phase 2 project submittals, which will include regional and sub-regional projects, will be issued in spring 2014 with a likely due date for Step 1 submittal in June 2014. Harry concluded with a description of next steps for Round 3 and the specific steps for the North Bay, which will include a Joint Technical Committee Workshop in late January/early February 2014 for North Bay project proponents.

IV. NBWA 2014 Conference Update

Harry Seraydarian presented a PowerPoint to inform the Council that the date for the conference has been set for April 11, 2014 and a contract has been signed with StoneTree Golf Club in Novato. The theme is Water Resource Management: What, Where and How. Keynotes are Jared Huffman, Felicia Marcus-SWRCB, and Mark Cowin-DWR. Harry also presented the speakers and topics for 3 panels – Water Supply Innovations; Integrated Projects; and Funding. Harry indicated we will raise ticket prices for the first time in years to \$95 (\$85 early before January 31, 2014) and Watershed Council Members at \$50.

V. Wrap Up.

* Will hold another Watershed Council Meeting early in 2014

Possible topics:

- BAIRWMP – Round 3 Funding
- Ecosystem Services-Earth Economics

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Participants:

Bob Bundy, Corte Madera Flood Board
Chris Choo, Marin County Dept. of Public Works
Nona Dennis, Marin Conservation League
Tom Gandesbery, State Coastal Conservancy
Sue Lattanzio, Friends of Novato Creek
Roger Leventhal, Marin County Flood Control
Watershed Group
Liz Lewis, Marin County Dept. of Public Works
Liz Lotz, Marin County Flood Control
Watershed Group

Kate Powers, Volunteer GWC
Elizabeth Preim-Rohtla, NBWA Staff
Laurette Rogers, Point Blue Conservation Science/STRAW
Tito Sasaki, North Bay Agricultural Alliance
Judy Schriebman, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District
Gretchen Schubeck, Daily Acts
Harry Seraydarian, NBWA Executive Director
Susan Stompe, Marin Conservation League
Hally Swan, Southern Sonoma County RCD