

Alameda Creek Watershed Council
Meeting Summary of August 26, 2010

DRAFT FOR REVIEW

The Alameda Creek Watershed Council (Council) met on August 26, 2010 from 12:20-1:10 pm at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Avenue in Hayward. Attendees: Rich Cimino, Ohlone Audubon Society; Pamela Lung, City of Livermore; Elke Rank, Zone 7 Water Agency; Dale Hopkins and Leslie Perry, Regional Water Quality Control Board; Amy Evans Alameda County Resource Conservation District; Ralph Johnson, Emmanuel Da Costa, and Sharon Gosselin, Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (ACFC&WCD); Ruth Askevold, Bronwen Stanford, and Lester McKee, SFEI; Austin Payne and Steve Carroll, Ducks Unlimited; Jeremy Lowe, PWA; Erik Pearson, City of Hayward; Michael Anderson, Assistant General Manager, EBRPD; and Fred Jarvis, ACFC&WCD consultant.

I. Updates Provided

1. Heard that the Council's Annual Conference will be held on October 28 at the library in Castro Valley.
2. The Council's 2nd Annual Photo Contest is underway with entries due by September 15.
3. The Council will host a creek cleanup at the Council's adopted spot along Alameda Creek on September 25th which is Coastal Cleanup Day.
4. The Department of Conservation has watershed coordinator grant funding available, and an application submittal for the Alameda Creek watershed is being proposed by Zone 7 and Urban Creeks Council.

II. Eden Landing Restoration Project

Erik Pearson provided an overview of the project conducted to initiate planning for rising sea levels along the shoreline from San Leandro Creek to Highway 92. The Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency, a JPA, hired Phillip Williams and Associates (PWA) to conduct a preliminary study of the effects of sea level rise on wetlands, infrastructure, and flood protection. The report is titled "Preliminary Study of the Effect of Sea Level Rise on the Resources of the Hayward Shoreline"

http://www.ebparks.org/files/HASPA_Seal_Level_Rise_Study_Report_v15B.pdf. Jeremy Lowe provided information from the PWA study:

1. The Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency (HSPA) controls the shoreline property north of Highway 92 to San Leandro Blvd.
2. There may be an estimated 16 inches in sea level rise by 2050 and a 55 inch rise by 2100. One will have to deal with sea level rise regardless of the success of future carbon dioxide/green house gas emission controls. This level of rise will put most of the shoreline under water. There is a lot of valuable wetland habitat and infrastructure that is vulnerable to rising sea levels. The study area includes two wastewater treatment plants, the East Bay Dischargers Authority's treated wastewater pipeline, and PG&E's towers, among other facilities.
3. The groundwater level beneath three landfills will also rise.
4. Under natural conditions a rise in sea level would result in a wetland moving landward, but in developed areas, the wetland would be squeezed out. One of the values of retaining a shoreline wetland is to dissipate wave energy prior to it reaching an inland levee that protects developed areas.

5. HSPA is interested in how to adapt to the sea level rise. One needs an adaptable shoreline that can accommodate different amounts of sea level rise that will occur over time.
6. Some of the preliminary study ideas were discussed. One option would be to hold the line by constructing higher levees at the wetland edge with armoring added to the base of the levee's toe to prevent erosion. Another option would be to move levees landward. The further landward a levee would be moved the less height it would have to have; moving levees landward has a disadvantage of giving away a lot of space.
7. Some of the opportunities that could be used are to use the sediment that is trapped in channels and marinas to raise wetland levels; use the treated wastewater from the EBDA pipeline to create brackish/freshwater marshes that could be more efficient in accreting sediment than the tidal marshes.
8. Next steps include developing a master plan to assess how much time there is to make decisions, develop an adaptation strategy, and identify interim management.

III. Field Trip Held Following the Council Meeting

Eden Landing Ecological Reserve. Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District staff provided transportation to the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve to observe the restoration projects being constructed there. The tour was hosted by Austin Payne and Steve Carroll, Ducks Unlimited staff that are managing the restoration project for the Department of Fish and Game, and John Krause from the Department of Fish and Game.