



**Zone 2A – Petaluma River Watershed  
Flood Protection Zone Advisory Committee Meeting  
April 4, 2024**

**Meeting Minutes**

**General notes:** This was a regular meeting of the Flood Protection Zone 2A Advisory Committee (Committee). The meeting was held in-person at the City of Petaluma’s Public Works and Utilities Office at 202 North McDowell Boulevard, Petaluma, CA 94954. Chair John Fitzgerald facilitated the meeting and Candace Messner recorded minutes.

Public notice of the meeting and the meeting agenda were posted at the following locations and dates:

- Sonoma County Clerk-Recorder on March 27, 2024,
- Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Clerk of the Board on March 27, 2024,
- Sonoma Water’s website on March 28, 2024,
- Press Democrat newspaper on March 30, 2024.

Notice of the meeting was also posted on Sonoma Water’s social media on March 30, 2024 including Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor, and X (formally Twitter).

**Attendees:**

- Committee: Craig Jacobsen, Emma Mann, John Fitzgerald (Chair), Mike Healy (City of Petaluma), and Paul Efron.
- City of Petaluma: Gina Benedetti-Petnic, Oriana Hart, and Pamela Tuft.
- Sonoma Water: Aaron Fulton, Candace Messner, Carlos Diaz, Chase Takajo, and Sasha Ponomareva.
- Sherwood Engineers: Sebastian Bertsch
- Penngrove Area Plan Advisory Committee: Rick Savel.
- Public: Karin Gjording.

**Absent Committee Members:** Bob Martin.

**Agenda:**

1. **Opening/Introductions.** Chair Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Attendees self-introduced. The Committee quorum was present.
2. **Public Comment on Agenda Items.** None.
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes.** The Committee approved the minutes of the December 14, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted.

#### **4. Current Project Updates and Comments by Sonoma Water and Committee.**

- Carlos Diaz and Chase Takajo gave an update for the Washington Creek Bank Repair Project and described the advancing failure of the channel's concrete liner and retaining wall near the intersection of E. Washington Street and S. McDowell Boulevard in Petaluma. The steps Sonoma Water was taking to expedite a short term repair while continuing to pursue a long-term fix for the Washington Creek flood channel were described. A brief discussion followed the update. The City of Petaluma expressed interest in collaborating with Sonoma Water on a long-term fix.
- Aaron Fulton gave an update for the Upper Petaluma River Flood Control Project. The process, metrics, and recent findings of an evaluation of land parcels as potential locations for flood detention basins were described. Project challenges, including limited suitable areas, environmental constraints, and willing landowners were noted. Next steps include a cost-benefit analysis of identified suitable areas. A brief discussion followed the update.
- The Committee was given an opportunity to give comments on other flood projects or issues. No comments were stated.

**5. Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) Update.** Chase Takajo presented a summary of the SMP sediment and vegetation management projects, and trash cleanup, conducted in 2023. Current SMP permitting efforts and tasks, which included the preparation of a Cultural Resources Management Plan, were also described. A brief discussion followed the presentation. The presentation slides are on file.

**6. Countywide Flood Risk Management Assessment.** Sasha Ponomareva presented an overview of the project, which will identify gaps in flood risk services across Sonoma County and develop recommendations for a more comprehensive and integrated countywide flood management and adaptation strategy. The project goals, participating agencies, funding sources, findings to date, next steps, and schedule were described. A brief discussion followed the presentation. The presentation slides are on file.

**7. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items.** Rick Savel requested the City of Petaluma's latest presentation materials for their updated flood and sea level rise modeling and mapping project, and Sonoma Water's draft report for the Countywide Flood Risk Management Assessment, when available.

**8. Closing Comments, Next Meeting, and Adjourn.** The next regular meeting is planned for summer 2024 (date to be determined). Chair Fitzgerald adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.