

**SONOMA VALLEY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING JULY 23, 2014
SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT, COMMUNITY ROOM
175 FIRST STREET WEST, SONOMA
6:30 p.m.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Cynthia Wood, Pat Pulvirenti, Jack Ding, Greg Carr, Ken Brown, Bruce Green, Tom Martin, Dick Fogg, Ditty Vella, Angela White

EXCUSED: Sean Bellach, Kirsten Lindquist, Rochelle Campana

1. **Call To Order: 6:30 p.m.**
2. **Minutes Approved of June 25, 2014 Meeting**
3. **Public Comment: None**

Mr. Green apologized for the way he treated the representative of AT&T at the last meeting – it was all personal and he should have been more objective. Chair Ding said that he had expressed his personal opinion as well.

4. **Presentation: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**
Presenter: Sonoma County Water Agency

Presentation:

Kent Gylfe, Principal Engineer of the Water Agency, accompanied by Curran Price, Engineer II, and Brad Sherwood, Program Specialist, said that they were presenting on behalf of Sonoma Valley Sanitation District to discuss what the district is doing to assess risks associated with the Valley's sewer system and risks associated with natural hazards. In order to minimize the adverse effects, the district has initiated a natural hazard reliability assessment to evaluate effects on district infrastructure and its operations.

Mr. Gylfe mentioned recent world events - disasters in Japan and New Zealand, and what the devastating effects can have on communities and utilities serving communities. He explained what the infrastructure and operations are and what the planning effort is, and said Curran Price will explain work that has been completed and preliminary findings. He showed a slide of the Santa Rosa courthouse that sustained severe damage during the 1906 earthquake and although the epicenter was in San Francisco, the effects reached Sonoma County.

The Sanitation District serves 11,400 parcels from Glen Ellen in the north to the treatment plant in Schellville to the south. The plant is on 8th St. East and serves the City and other incorporated areas: El Verano, BHS, Fetters, Agua Caliente, Eldridge, Glen Ellen, plus Temelec and Vineburg, and a few parcels in Schellville. The original treatment plant began operations in 1954. There are three primary elements to the infrastructure of the district:

1. Sewer collection system: gravity-fed network of pipelines following terrain of the ground, sewer trunk line follows along Sonoma Creek; in Glen Ellen, a couple of zones are served by local sub-stations pumped into the system.
2. Treatment plant and facilities: activated sludge plant, remove trash and debris from wastewater, grit removal, aeration basins where biological treatment occurs, clarifiers where settling occurs, filtration element where disinfection occurs, equalization basins for temporary storage of raw sewage, numerous pumping facilities at the site, sludge handling.
3. Reclamation system and discharge end: five storage reservoirs, also provide recycled water for Napa Salt Marsh for environmental restoration purposes.

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan:

1. Identify natural hazards of concern for the area

2. Identify district's vulnerabilities to hazards
3. Appropriate mitigation actions, strategies, goals to increase sanitation system resiliency to natural hazards.

The LHMP is used as a planning document but is also required to seek funding through FEMA and administered through California Office of Emergency Services (OES). The Water Agency has been successful in securing 10 million dollars in FEMA grant funding. SVCSD has been awarded 75 thousand to develop LHMP.

Curran Price continued with the presentation and identified natural hazards to this area: earthquakes, flooding fire, and landslides. Tornadoes and hurricanes are low risk vs. earthquakes and flooding.

Flooding: several risks to district – heavy storms mean more water in collection system at treatment plant. Wet weather vs dry weather: heavy rains mean more water flows, streams and riverbanks erode, debris collects and sewers get exposed and can break if hit by floating log. There are 60 stream crossings in the Valley.

Earthquakes: 2008 forecast of 31% likelihood of 6.7 magnitude earthquake in 30 years along Rogers Creek, part of the Hayward Fault line. This is close to Sonoma Valley and goes up to Santa Rosa. If 7.1 magnitude occurred along Rogers Creek, Sonoma Valley would suffer substantial damage. The 1906 earthquake leveled many buildings in downtown Santa Rosa.

How would an earthquake affect the Sanitation district? Christchurch, New Zealand experienced two earthquakes: 7.1 in 2010 and 6.3 in 2011. They had significant damage at the treatment plant - sewers and lift stations had flotation from liquefaction. 31% of collection system had to be repaired or replaced and because of breaks and leaks, silt and sand entered and washed down to the treatment plant. 400,000 tons of silt and sand had to be removed and there were 1 ½ ft. wide cracks at some storage reservoirs that had to be shut down. Raw sewage was dumped into streams and rivers and five weeks after the earthquake, 10 million gallons of raw sewage leaked from the collection system per day. Portable toilets had to be deployed throughout the city for sanitation purposes. Collection system repairs took 3-10x longer than water pipes. Usually water pipes are 3-4 ft deep but in Sonoma Valley, they are 35 ft deep so would take extra time to dig down and make repairs.

The New Zealand and Japan earthquakes presented liquefaction issues. High liquefaction areas are near creeks and rivers where there is saturated soil, sand, gravel and clay. Sonoma Creek is a high liquefaction area. During an earthquake, there is differential settlement, lateral spread or slipping. If there is a 7.0 along Rogers Creek, there would likely be 26 breaks or leaks along the collection system.

Mitigation actions to protect the collection system from local hazard vulnerabilities: anchor/retrofit equipment, replace the collection system, emergency response equipment, replace creek crossings, and stabilize creek banks.

Schedule:

Summer 2014 – identify vulnerabilities and mitigation actions

Fall 2014 – publish draft LHMP

Winter 2014 – incorporate elements into LHMP, seek SVCSD board approval of plan, and submit to Cal OES for approval

Commissioner questions:

Mr. Green: What percentage of properties have their own septic system?

Kent Gylfe: We cover urbanized areas in the Valley other than Kenwood – don't have that number.

Mr. Green: If there is no natural disaster and septic systems fail, can they connect to the sanitation district?

Kent Gylfe: There are conditions for annexations or outside service areas.

Mr. Green: In an emergency, a large percentage of septic systems can fail, Do you have the capacity to take on properties?

Kent Gylfe: For properties adjacent to district facilities, for remote locations, easier to do on-site fixes.

Mr. Green: If someone's septic system fails in a natural disaster, can they stay on the property or must they vacate?

Mr. Carr: That's a public health issue. There's a time frame for the district to go and check. Some places will be closed down, some operational on temporary basis. You did not cover flooding, is that not a priority for the district?

Curran Price: We touched on the subject – higher flows at the treatment plant, possible erosion, logs coming downstream.

Mr. Carr: Has the treatment plant flooded out?

Kent Gylfe: No. In the '05/'06 flood, it did not flood.

Curran Price: The equalization ponds will temporarily store water.

Ms. Vella: Why the uptick in flow when it rains? Doesn't it go to the treatment plant?

Kent Gylfe: During storms, we get an increase in INI – inflow and infiltration into the system. It's a 50 year old system with deficiencies, cracks and leaks. When groundwater comes up, water seeps into the system. Some properties are incorrectly connected to the system so we'll get roof runoff. INI has gone down to 20, though.

Mr. Fogg: Do you use flexible pipes?

Curran Price: Yes. In Japan, they use earthquake resistant pipes. HDPE are also very resilient to earthquakes but very expensive.

Mr. Fogg: Are either in use in Sonoma Valley?

Curran Price: Used to some extent in Valley, but it's not more expensive than PVC.

Kent Gylfe: One of the actions proposed is to utilize HDPE. It's a bit more expensive but a viable alternative.

Chair Ding: Is there a link or webpage?

Curran Price: We will be publishing LHMP in the fall. We have a blurb on our webpage but no document yet.

Brad Sherwood: Sonomacountywater.org. Your district has a webpage with links on various projects and tour dates. One is planned this fall so you should take a tour.

Public questions and comments:

None

5. Report on Site Visit to 150 Adobe Way, Sonoma

Report as written by attendees and distributed to Commission members follows:

June 20, 2014 Site Visit 150 Adobe Way

Attended by:
SVCAC Commissioners Lindquist, Ding, Brown and Campana
Grygoriy Ladigin from Mork Ulnes Architects
Owner/Applicant
PRMD Planner, KarinTheriaut,

Purpose of Visit: Administrative Design Review - property is located within a Scenic Landscape unit. As it is in the foothills off of Hwy12, it is very likely partially or totally visible within the Valley.

Project Design is Modern, with green technologies - passive solar and heating. Finishes are rusted metal and concrete designed to blend into existing countryside. approximate living space of 2,000 sq. ft.

a new well and septic system will be installed, as well as a driveway conforming to current fire standards and a few retaining walls.

In general, with project was met favorably by the Commissioners, with the following caveats.

- 1) some confusion regarding whether or not structure conforms to height restrictions: building is taller, but sunk below grade. PRMD will clarify.
- 2) site map shows 2 building envelopes, and a second house plus a granny unit could ultimately be built on the site. further development on the site in the future remains a possibility, but as it has already been subdivided, it is beyond our scope.
- 3) there was also discussion of the 2 partially completed houses on the corner of Hwy 12 and Moon Mountain.

The Commissioners and applicant, both felt the presence of this abandoned construction site undermined our current and future influence on design reviews. We felt a little stupid reviewing this architecturally intelligent project for any possible impact on the view shed, while blue tarps flapped in the wind, and barbed wire fencing created a clearly visual blight just off of Scenic Highway 12.

6. Consideration of Items for Future Agenda:

Ms. Pulvirenti: Did the Moon Mountain project ever come before the Commission?

Pat Gilardi: That project was two homes; it was approved with no design review and met all of County's policies. It's being torn down because the original construction firm did not do a good job. It will go through design review this time and the County will resolve this issue.

Mr. Brown: A group at the Farmer's Market last night talked about the issue.

Mr. Green: Why was the other presentation removed from the agenda?

Pat Gilardi: The traffic report was not ready. They will continue at a later date.

7. Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 p.m.