



Flood Control District of Maricopa County

Flood Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes April 22, 2020

Board Members Present: Dewayne Justice, Chairman; Richard Schaner, Vice Chairman; Gregg Monger, Secretary, Hemant Patel, Ray Dovalina, and Kyle Tilghman

Staff Members Present: Michael Fulton, Director; Wayne Peck, General Counsel; Angie Flick, Chief Administrator; Sandra Mack-Miller; Acting Clerk of the Board

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Justice called the meeting of the Flood Control Advisory Board (FCAB) to order at 2:03 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

2) APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2020 MEETING

It was moved by Mr. Patel and seconded by Mr. Monger to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously, and the minutes were approved.

3) ACTION ITEM – FY 2021 - FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET REQUEST

Presented by Angie Flick, Chief Administrator

ACTION: Staff recommends that the Flood Control Advisory Board endorse and recommend the District's proposed FY 2021- FY 2025 Capital and Major Maintenance Program Budget (Fund 990 Flood Control Capital Fund), subject to adjustments made to reflect Board of Directors policy determinations.

Ms. Flick gave an overview of the major projects included in the capital budget submission to the Budget Office in mid-March before the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these projects were presented to the Flood Control Advisory Board as informational items several months ago.

Hidden Valley Basin Acquisition. This project consists of two basins and storm drains located in the southwestern part of the Phoenix area. Advance acquisition of the basin sites will be completed in FY 20, and were included in the FY 20 and FY 21 budgets.

McMicken Dam Rehabilitation, Phases 1 and 2. Phase 1 of the project is the new emergency principal spillway and outlet, and Phase 2 is the design of the appurtenant

structure relating to the spillway and outlet. Construction for both phases will occur in FY 21.

Design for McMicken Dam Outlet Channel. Phase 2 will be completed in FY 20. Phase 2 construction will start in June 2020 and continue into FY 21.

Flood Control District Director Michael Fulton stated that he has been contacted by the offices of Congresswoman Lesko, and Senators Sinema and McSally regarding infrastructure projects that might be part of a federal infrastructure stimulus bill. The McMicken Dam Rehabilitation has been identified as such a project. Mr. Fulton has encouraged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete a study they were required to do under the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 or 2020, or inform the District why the project was no longer of federal interest.

East Maricopa Floodway – Low Flow Channel. This project adds 2.4 miles of concrete low flow channel and access nodes to the earthen channel which will help with maintenance and water conveyance. The channel is under construction and anticipated to be complete in FY 21.

Mandan Street Drainage Improvements. This 1400 foot long channel is protecting 17 homes that have been subjected to repetitive flooding. The project is currently in the design phase. After design, the Notice to Proceed with construction should be issued in FY 20, with construction completed in FY 21.

27th Avenue and Olney Story Drain and Basin Project. This is a joint project between the City of Phoenix and the Flood Control District. Phase 1, the 23rd Avenue Basins, have been completed. Phase 2 of the project is the 27th Avenue Storm Drain. Design of the Storm Drain is anticipated to be completed by the end of FY 20, with construction to start in early FY 21.

Oak Street Basin and Storm Drain. Project plans and specifications for this project were completed in 2010, and are currently under revision. A Notice to Proceed with construction will be issued in late summer with project completion in FY 21. The majority of flood protection will be provided to Unincorporated Maricopa County, so the project is being funded 100% by the Flood Control District.

Sun City Channel Reconstruction – Olive Avenue from 103rd to 99th Avenues. This project is a reconstruction of the channel replacing 1,500 feet of the gunite channel and adding an access ramp to the system. Completion of the plans and specifications will be in FY 20. Construction is anticipated to start in early FY 21. This project is being done in Unincorporated Maricopa County and is funded 100% by the District.

White Tanks FRS #4 – Principal Outlet Storm Drain. This principal outlet storm drain is three miles of 72 to 90 inch diameter pipe which conveys drain-down flows to White Tanks FRS #3 and #4, and into the Loop 303 Outfall Channel. Construction has started and the project will be completed in FY 21.

Rawhide Wash Flood Hazard Mitigation. This project consists of new floodwalls and improving existing floodwalls and levees to contain a 100-year flood flow. Designs are expected to be completed in FY 20. CMAR (Construction Manager at Risk) project delivery will be used for construction, which will begin in FY 21.

Vineyard Road and Powerline FRS Rehabilitation. Designs for Phases 2 and 3 of the Vineyard Road project will be completed in FY 21. We are working with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to obtain funding for construction. In that same area, design of the Powerline FRS and channel will be completed in FY 21, along with dam decommissioning pending Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) approval.

Buckeye FRS No. 1 Rehabilitation Project. The District is excited to work with NRCS on this project. Phase 2B design is anticipated to be completed in FY 20, and we are working with NRCS to get all documentation and funding in place so we can begin construction in FY 21. NRCS is contributing \$11M to the project.

Mr. Fulton stated that funding for this project was programmed so waiting for intergovernmental agreements would not delay proceeding with the project. NRCS is committed to funding and the plan is to proceed as planned in FY 21.

Cave Butte Dam Modification – Auxiliary Outlet Tunnel. Mr. Steve Brown presented information to the Board several months ago on improvements to the Cave Buttes structures. Tunneling at the site has started. It is anticipated that construction will be completed at the end of FY 21. This project is funded 100% by the District.

Mr. Fulton stated that as with the other federal projects, a Phase 2 for Cave Buttes could include installation of drainage features. During past events, leakage was noticed on Cave Buttes. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been asked to participate, and this could be an opportunity to repair seepage issues observed as far back as 2002.

Ms. Flick concluded the overview of traditional CIP projects. She then highlighted the following four Operations and Maintenance Major Maintenance Projects slated to start in FY 21:

- 1) East Maricopa Floodway – Replacement of joints and concrete repair along 1.2 miles of channel.
- 2) Guadalupe FRS Principal Outlet – Temporary intake structure to ensure operation until rehabilitation design is complete.
- 3) Agua Fria River at Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Drain Low Flow Notch – Work is needed to reduce the vector concerns by controlling nuisance flows, and reduce maintenance of levee access roads.
- 4) Salt River Levee Toe Road – Vegetation thinning along the levee toe and maintenance/emergency access to the river bottom.

Ms. Flick then moved on to discuss the Capital Projects Fund 990 by Appropriation, which compared FY 20 and FY 21. The Flood Control Capital budget shows a small increase in FY 21. The Small Projects Assistance budget will be funding eight projects next year and

has a small reserve built in as well. The Floodprone Property Assistance Program has not been funded by the District in several years. However, with renewed attention to the program the District wanted to have funds set aside for the program in the next year in case it was utilized. The major maintenance budget was the next line item and covers the last four projects that Ms. Flick discussed as well as funding for fencing, railing and other things. The last line item was Facilities Capital requests. The facility that O&M has been working in in the West Valley belongs to MCDOT and they are going to be doing something different with the building. The District is exploring the possibility of creating a new West yard that is closer to our facilities.

Ms. Flick then shared the Capital Project Funds 990 by Expenditure Type. The budget is broken down into different phases which include design, land, construction, labor, and project reserve. The project reserve line item has been removed for FY 21.

Ms. Flick went on to share a graph of the District's combined fund balance showing FY 17 – FY 25 which has grown from FY 17 through FY20 and will likely continue to grow through FY 21. However with the planned projects in capital programming, major maintenance, and other programs, it is anticipated to reduce in FY 22 – FY 25.

Ms. Flick asked if there were any questions from the Board. Board member Mr. Patel asked if we had had any indicators from our partner agencies/cities in terms of any adjustments that they feel are going to be necessary with all of the changes in the general economy that have happened in the last few weeks. Mr. Fulton replied that he would be addressing this in his comments later on but it was very real to expect that some of our project partners would be changing their plans as their budgets are super dynamic right now. He mentioned that the City of Phoenix and a few others were discussing how to make major adjustments in the short term. Mr. Fulton pointed out that the budget for the District was prepared on March 16 and he is sure that it will be subject to some change or examination by our own Board. He mentioned that one of the other big variables is when the state legislature comes back into session in June or July, they are going to be looking at budget as well and as we observed in the 2008 downturn that sometimes the state budget shortfalls were shared with the counties and cities. Those are all big variables. We are going to have to be ready to adjust. Mr. Fulton suspects that some of the District's partners will be delaying their plans. We are preparing to ask them that question in our Fiscal Year 2021 solicitation for CIP that is going out in May.

Board member Mr. Dovalina asked if we foresaw the possibility of some of the construction costs going down. Mr. Fulton responded that we can look for timing opportunities such as cheaper labor or materials. However, there could also be supply disruptions that make materials more expensive. Mr. Fulton said that things can be very volatile and there is really no way to know what will happen.

Chairman Justice asked if there were any further questions and there were none.

STAFF RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTION: That the Flood Control Advisory Board endorse and recommend the District's proposed FY 2021 – FY 2025 Capital and

Major Maintenance Program Budget (Fund 990 Flood Control Capital Fund, subject to adjustments made to reflect Board of Directors policy determinations.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Dovalina and seconded by Mr. Patel to approve the FY2021 – FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program Budget request. The motion carried unanimously, and the Capital Improvement Program Budget was approved.

4) COMMENTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Fulton gave an overview of the adjustments that have been made for FCD staff to conduct business during the COVID-19 outbreak. Mr. Fulton stated that the staff and contractors are staying healthy and work remains steady. A great number of staff are teleworking. Field operations, operations and maintenance, and the contractors are moving forward on projects. Though it is still early, the same number of permit applications of all types are still being processed.

Mr. Fulton stated that one of the operational impacts that has been experienced is not being able to hold FCD public meeting and informational sessions which has typically been a component of our studies.. As opposed to the cities, the District acquires most of its revenue from a secondary property tax. While the District is not immune to downturns, it is muted response compared to cities that rely on sales tax. He mentioned that it is likely that some projects may be delayed as cities take a hard look at their capital projects.

Mr. Fulton stated that a solicitation is being prepared to send out to the project partners and inquiring if there are any new projects, asking to reaffirm their commit to projects already approved and also asking if they are interested in hazard mitigation studies or floodplain delineations or re-delineations. The solicitation letter will be coming out in May 2020.

Mr. Fulton mentioned that the District was reviewing the Capital Improvement Program evaluation. A survey was sent was sent out about three months ago to cities partners. This will be an information item at a future meeting.

5) SUMMARY OF RECENT ACTIONS BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Presented by Michael Fulton:

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

On March 25, 2020, the BOD approved five actions items. Two items were pointed out that were part of the review that was given by Ms. Flick.

F-2 Amendment to IGA with City of Phoenix and City of Scottsdale for Rawhide Wash Flood Hazard Mitigation Project. This was an administrative change.

F-4. Easement, Right-Of-Way, and Relocation Assistance Documents. For Hidden Valley Basins – (Resolution #FCD 2018R006) – DS.

6) OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Board member Mr. Patel pointed out to Mr. Fulton that capital funds are available to use if needed.

There were no comments by members of the public.

Chairman Justice stated that the meeting was adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.