Attachment

Pajaro Levee

The Pajaro River Federal Flood Control Project was built in 1949 by the United States Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") and is maintained jointly by the Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District - Zone 7 ("Zone 7") and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency ("MCWRA").

As the local sponsors of the Pajaro River Federal Flood Control Project, MCWRA and Zone 7 are responsible for maintaining the levee. Zone 7 commissioned a hydraulic capacity analysis which determined that the current conditions of the levee channel do not meet the capacity requirements set out in the 1949 Operations and Maintenance Manual. This has led to the development of a stream maintenance program toward reducing channel roughness to improve channel capacity for the facility. However, due to sedimentation and growth, river channel flow capacities are reduced from original design levels.

The Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency ("PRFMA") was formed under the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, Government Code section 6500 *et seq*., pursuant to a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement ("JPA Agreement") dated July 21, 2021. PRFMA was formed in order to coordinate, finance, acquire, construct, improve, operate or maintain flood management infrastructure on the Pajaro River in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. Its Member Agencies are County of Santa Cruz, Zone 7, County of Monterey, City of Watsonville and MCWRA. The PRFMA is the lead local agency to work with USACE in continuing the Pajaro River Federal Flood Control Project, which is currently maintained jointly by Zone 7 and MCWRA. An agreement to transition the Operations, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement and Rehabilitation to PRFMA will be brought to the MCWRA Board of Supervisors in the next few months.

A survey of the Pajaro River Levee indicates that a portion of the levee crest on the Monterey County side is lower than the Santa Cruz County side. In response, installation of a temporary Muscle Wall for the high priority areas was identified as a temporary measure within this reach of the levee. MCWRA, working with PRFMA, secured Muscle Wall from the California Department of Water Resources ("DWR"). The Board of Supervisors authorized forgiveness of the loan of $950,000 previously issued for Pajaro Levee Project, to be used for Muscle Wall.

Storm Event Response

In late December 2022, a significant series of winter storm was forecasted for the Central Coast that included high wind advisories, high surf, and multiple atmospheric river events. Estimated rainfall totals predicted riverine flooding for most waterways as well as localized flooding due to excessive flows into local drainage systems.

On January 4, 2023, Monterey County's County Administrative Officer issued a Proclamation of a Local Emergency related to the Winter Storm and Atmospheric River Event that started on December 26, 2022 causing damage to public infrastructure and private property

throughout Monterey County including, the Carmel River, Carmel River Lagoon, Salinas River and Salinas River Lagoon and the Pajaro River, thereby causing conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property nearby. Additionally, the Monterey County Operational Area (EOC) was activated, the National Weather Service issued numerous Flash Flood Watches and Warnings. Monterey County issued numerous Evacuation Warnings and Orders in response to the related advisories.

MCWRA supported the EOC activation by providing real-time rainfall and stream flow information to County departments, state, and federal agencies for emergency operation decision-making. The National Weather Service participated in the EOC by providing real-time updates on projected flows in the Pajaro River, Salinas River, and other rivers. MCWRA also provided EOC Operations support through resource requests, community flood fighting materials, and providing up to date reports on flood control operations related to MCWRA facilities. MCWRA staff also performed activities in the field related to debris clean-up, facility operation and maintenance, monitoring and patrolling of various waterways, and other activities to aid in the reduction of flooding for the communities.

MCWRA began active 24 hour/day flood fighting on January 2, 2023, which included guidance and materials from DWR, contractors, and staff. At the Pajaro Levee, on the Monterey County side, a floodwall was installed in the lowest section of the Levee, and on the upstream end of the Levee, approximately 3,000 feet in length. Other materials were stockpiled nearby to address issues as they arose during high flow events in the leveed channel. In addition, Pajaro Levee repairs were initiated to keep the site accessible during the steady rain events.

The Pajaro Levee reinforcement activities performed by MCWRA and their contractors were critical in maintaining function of the Pajaro Levee along Monterey County side. Erosion related to high water in the Pajaro River can be very damaging and required immediate action to prevent further damage from occurring. Swift action prevented additional or irreversible damage and kept the integrity of the Levee intact. These temporary improvements will remain in place through the remainder of the winter season. Near and longer-term improvements by MCWRA are currently being implemented in coordination with PRFMA, DWR and the USACE.

PRFMA will assume management of the Levee, and future major reconstruction of the facility by the USACE.