FLOOD CONTROL ZONE No. 7 – SANTA VENETIA

Flood Control Zone 7 (Zone 7) is a special district that was established in 1962 to construct and maintain the critical infrastructure, including levees, pump stations and storm drains, that reduces flooding and flood-related property damage in Santa Venetia. Zone 7 is supported by locally controlled funding.

Recently, Zone 7 worked with the Gallinas Watershed Program and its other partners to produce focused studies within the watershed to seek solutions for reducing flood risk, increasing local re-use of sediments, restoring habitat, and increasing resiliency to sea level rise.

Local flood facilities require annual maintenance and periodic upgrades to remain effective and to protect residents’ property from flooding. Levees protect the community from high bay and creek levels.

Five permanent stormwater pump stations have been constructed throughout the community to pump water over the levees, and three portable pumps are stationed in the neighborhood.

And, three large bypass drains intercept water from neighboring hillside development. These drains allow stormwater to bypass local street drains, ushering it directly to the creek.

Zone 7 Webpage: [http://marinwatersheds.org/creeks-watersheds/gallinas-creek](http://marinwatersheds.org/creeks-watersheds/gallinas-creek)

ZONE FUNDING

Since its inception, Zone 7 has relied on locally-generated, locally-controlled sources of funding.

The Zone nets about $200K annually from regular *ad valorem* property taxes. In past years, the Zone has also received approximately $200K in ERAF (Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund) mitigation contributions.

For 21 of the past 34 years, the Zone has also collected parcel taxes approved by voters. However, the last voter-approved measure ended in 2007.

Zone 7 has enough funding to cover minimal maintenance to flood protection infrastructure through 2017. After that, reserves are expended and the existing facilities are at risk.

Local funding is needed in order to attract grant funds.

ZONE 7 ADVISORY BOARD

A 5-member Advisory Board, appointed by the Board of Supervisors, reviews all flood control projects and the proposed annual zone budget, and advises the Board of Supervisors of their findings.

The Advisory Board meets annually in Spring, at which time additional meeting dates for the calendar year are set. If there is no business to be conducted, meetings may be cancelled. Special meetings may be called if needed. Please contact Gerhard Epke at (415) 473-6562 if you would like to be notified of Zone meetings.
ZONE 7 PROJECTS

Zone 7, established to construct and maintain the critical infrastructure that reduces flooding and flood-related property damage, works to:

- Maintain 17 pumps at 5 permanent and 3 portable pump stations
- Maintain pump station motors and generators
- Maintain timber reinforced berms on 1.6 miles of levee
- Inspect and treat levees for rodent infestations and other levee stability issues
- Prune/remove vegetation and remove trash from Castro, Mabry, and Estancia ditches to improve conveyance during storms
- Inspect and maintain bypass pipes, the large stormdrain pipes that carry hillside water directly to Gallinas Creek

FEMA COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

Marin County joined FEMA’s Community Rating System (CRS) in 2016, which has reduced flood insurance premiums by 15% for residents in unincorporated Marin County. For more information, contact Beb Skye at (415) 473-4284.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

To learn more about Zone 7, please visit: http://marinwatersheds.org/creeks-watersheds/gallinas-creek

To learn about Advisory Board meetings, to sign up for the notification list, or for any other questions, please contact:
Gerhard Epke
(415) 473-6562
gepke@marincounty.org

Zone 7 Webpage: http://marinwatersheds.org/creeks-watersheds/gallinas-creek