

## **Alhambra Watershed Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 7, 2022**

**6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Live ZOOM Meeting**

### **I. Introductions:**

1. Mitch Avalon -
2. Chris Lim - Executive Director CCRCD
3. Bob Peoples - Associate Director RCD
4. Doug Burgess - Local resident
5. Robin Mitchell - Mt. View Sanitary District
6. Tori Seher - National Resource Specialist NPS
7. Igor Skaredoff - RCD, Friends Alhambra Creek, Watershed Council
8. Elaine Jackson - Friends of Alhambra Creek

### **II. Announcements:**

- RWQCB approved municipal regional permit, cities and county
  - MRP 3.0, third iteration of this stormwater permit
  - Go over changes in a different meeting
  - Some new provisions

### **III. Reports:**

#### **Friends of Alhambra Creek - Elaine**

- Tour lower Walnut Creek Pacheco marsh restoration area July 7th with Paul at 10:00am
- Alhambra Hills Open Space
- Jeff has a sketch/rendering of mural - go to city council meetings with different groups
- Martinez Beaver Festival - June 25th

#### **NPS - Tori**

- Booth at Beaver Festival
- Question: Update on progress of planning going on? -Igor
  - Still discussing alternatives within the park - mostly talking about trail systems and different recreational uses
  - Two meetings scheduled for next week to continue discussion
- What is the next step? -Mitch
  - Picking preferred method and release to the public for review

#### **RCD - Chris**

- New hire Watershed Coordinator: Victoria Woolfolk
- Question: When there is a new coordinator, there seems to be a loss in the shuffle, but we can't find some old files. Maybe we pass over this library list and pass it over? -Doug
  - Lisa was working on this
  - Will get Victoria to continue the task

- Igor: Council probably has some things RCD does not have - good if council members can find those things and hand it over. Has spreadsheet, can maybe be cross-referenced.

### **Mt. View Sanitary District**

- Removing some non-native trees from facilities this week
- Start installing mural on biotower - Working with Tim at Illuminaries
- 100 year celebration next year - will start seeing save the dates for May 20, 2023

### **IV. Meeting topic:**

#### **Lower Alhambra Creek Watershed Management Plan**

- Overview: City violated the RWQCB 401 certification requirements - RWQCB and city agreed to do a vegetation plan because there were plants planted by citizens that maintenance crews tore out, etc.. The plan includes the sediment management plan. Alhambra council is written into the plan to help review.
- Plan objectives:
  - Guide future flood management measures
  - Streamline future maintenance activities and permits
  - Coordinate and inform maintenance and enhancement activities
    - Enhancement typically performed by non-profit, council, Friends Alhambra Creek, etc.
    - Maintenance typically by maintenance crews - needs training for maintenance crews and oversight
  - Provide community-based oversight
- Role Alhambra Watershed Council
  - Items to review now:
    - Lower Alhambra Creek Watershed Management Plan
    - Cross sections
    - Restoration concept plan
    - Training workshop - city crews and county flood control crews
  - Items to review in the future:
    - Review maintenance plans as needed - need to agree on exactly role in reviewing those plans
    - Review sediment removal plans as needed
    - Every three years review:
      - Assess maintenance and management activities
      - Report findings of the assessment analysis to city
      - Provide recommendations to city for Plan changes
- Review Process
  - Does the Plan meet the stated objectives?
  - Does the Plan meet the requirements in the Regional Board letter?
  - Does the Plan address Alhambra Watershed Council comments and concerns?
- Plan components: Possibility to divide the plan into sections for folks to review
  - Sediment Removal Plan

- Planting Plan
- Vegetation Management Plan
- Comments:
  - Tall order - need to confirm council's role in the plan, cannot approve plan
  - The plan calls to remove large woody debris as it is an impediment to stream flow, but woody debris is useful in a lot of ways. The plan needs to acknowledge the stream as a natural habitat/ecosystem health rather than just a conduit to water. -Igor
  - If you want to provide habitat to salmon, etc. would need the complexity such as the woody debris -Bob
  - Balance to this because the city needs to assess whether the debris needs to be removed for flood prevention vs. ecosystem -Mitch
  - Language in the plan concerning the landowners having a responsibility to remove debris -Igor
  - Landowners may need to be included in the plan -Bob
  - No oversight of landowners - Mitch
  - Needs to be some connection between the city and the property owners so the spirit, the intent, and the requirements to the plan are met -Mitch
  - Pragmatic permitting plan for stock ponds: RCD negotiated with various regulators. The landowner would do the modification to the stock pond but the RCD would oversee to make sure it followed the regulations. This could work for this situation so that each individual landowner is not negotiating.
    - RCD helps the owners of the stock ponds compile the applications and does the legwork for the owners
    - Involvement, not just advise -Bob
  - Part of concern: amount of sediment. There is discussion of the importance of beavers to the city. Assuming that beavers are native up into the watershed, the idea of re-establishing beaver populations could be very useful if implemented into the plan. Beaver ponds will trap sediment and there will be a reduction in sediment in the lower sections of the creek. This reduces the need for removing sediment. Examples of other benefits: create flood retention areas, trap sediment, enhance groundwater recharge (longer flow in the creek over the season), create wetlands, wetlands are natural fire breaks and refuge for wildlife. Potential adverse effects need to be addressed to see the feasibility of this. Getting in knowledgeable biologists familiar with beavers to see if beavers were there before and if there are sites that beavers may be attracted to, is an opportunity to address several of the issues the plan tries to deal with. Nature-based solution. Would be above the plan area. -Bob
  - Vegetation section error: 3.4.6 Seeding: Refers to table, but there is no seeding in table. Need to change the reference to the table. Include "known local genetic origin". -Elaine
  - Training schedule/outline - Anne offering the organization she is with as the source of the trainers (CUSP). Audiences are the maintenance crews for the city,

but should also emphasize on the supervisory folks as they will be there longer than the day workers. -Igor

- Previous meeting - Lisa received email from a public citizen asking to protect the trees in the watershed. Possibility to include a paragraph concerning the importance of the trees in the watershed, not just riparian ways. -Mitch

#### **V. July meeting: (July 5th)**

- Focus on the actual plan. The proposed training dates are in September.
- Friends of Alhambra: Take a deep dive into this (Next meeting: June 21st)
- Each person will review entire plan and come back next meeting
- Put redline version of the plan on the RCD website, or google docs
- If we could put all the comments on google docs, that would be ideal

#### **VI. Final Comments:**

- Stormwater permit discussion taking out credits for doing the cleanups, we could not so organizations could not sponsor, did that finally happen? -Bob
  - Will be eliminated June 30, 2025: credits for creek and other cleanups for source control (plastic bags, polystyrene, foodware) and direct discharge control plans (holistic tool of dealing with trash in creeks and homeless discharge into creek waters)