

Report from Director Sarah Palmer, August 11, 2017

On Thursday August 10, 2017 from 4:30 - 6:30 PM at Castlewood Country Club there was a meeting concerning Arroyo de la Laguna erosion. Homeowners from Foothill Rd., several county people and a representative from Eric Swalwell's office attended. Representing Zone 7 were Carol Mahoney, Osborn Soltei, and Directors John Greci, Sarah Palmer, and Angela Ramirez Holmes.

After being introduced by Supervisor Miley, Carol Mahoney held the hot seat for most of the 2 hour meeting, describing Zone 7's actions regarding the erosion issues as well as the issues of permitting and design. One hurdle that we had to meet was that no plastics could be incorporated into our designs which demanded redesign of some of our remediation attempts. We got an update on the Verona property progress as well as addressing how this fit into the SMMP. A brief history lesson from one of the audience members pointed out that studies done in the "70s highlighted this area as a future problem in flooding and erosion. (Somehow this was never considered in the permitting of the development of the area between Foothill Rd. and the Arroyo). Homeowner Scott Alcaide of Foothill Rd. voiced his concern that his property was not being given the same priority as other property on Foothill. He felt that his property was equally in jeopardy. He wanted it to be put on the Zone 7 board agenda. He felt that the board had promised to take care of him. It was pointed out that at the board meeting we did express concern and would direct staff to look into what could be done. No actual promises of specific action could be or were made. Questions were also raised by Mr. Alcaide about when DWR released water from Del Valle dam around the time of the erosion event. Carol Mahoney said that according to her data, no water was released during the erosion event. Mr. Alcaide insisted that according to public data that he looked up that water was being released during the erosion event due to potential flooding of a park sewage facility. Carol said her data did not agree with this but that she would be sure to check again..

Carol provided updates on our nearest estimates of when work could be completed, noting that our main deadline on this season's work affected work in the streambed itself. Much of the work above the streambed had a more flexible work schedule that could extend past the October official start of rainy season.