

Marin County Watershed Program

Overview

The purpose of the watershed program is to provide a framework to integrate flood protection and environmental restoration with public and private partners to protect and enhance Marin County's watersheds.

Program Description

The Board of Supervisors authorized the Department of Public Works to begin implementation of a County-wide watershed program on May 13, 2008. Staffing for this program is provided through the Flood Control and Water Resources division. Information about the watershed program and Marin's watersheds is provided through www.marinwatersheds.org.

The planning process will evaluate short and long term needs and integrate those needs with environmental restoration opportunities where it makes sense to do so. Technical studies and/or master plans will be developed to outline the appropriate timing and sequencing of project implementation at the watershed scale. It is anticipated that after individual master plans and technical studies are completed a ballot measure would be considered for these communities to generate funds to construct the identified improvements.

Program Watersheds

Work is proceeding in the following watersheds:

1. **Southern Marin** (includes multiple watersheds within *Mill Valley, Tam Valley, Marin City, Bel Aire and Tiburon*)
2. **Miller Creek/Gallinas Creek** (*Lucas Valley and lower Las Gallinas Creek*)
3. **Novato Creek** and its major tributary creeks (*Novato and unincorporated Marin*)
4. **Easkoot Creek** (*Stinson Beach*)

Community Outreach and Participation Process

The watershed program includes extensive community outreach and public participation and is modeled after the stakeholder outreach process developed for the Ross Valley Watershed Program. Each watershed planning area has three levels of committees to guide their planning process:

Policy advisory committee

This committee provides input on program direction and community interest. This group of elected officials is comprised of the District County Supervisor and two city council members, two Flood Zone Advisory Board members and two elected officials from the Boards of the participating agencies.

Operations and finance committee

Staff from each participating District, the city manager, and the Marin County Public Works director will use these meetings to evaluate progress and prioritize funding strategies.

Technical work group

This group is comprised of local watershed experts and technical staff of participating agencies such as the municipal public works and planning staff, water and sanitary districts, and other

agencies like the National Park Service, Open Space, research and science organizations and local watershed groups. This group will coordinate their review of watershed products with Federal, State regulatory staff who will provide input on issues and needs, review program deliverables and provide input on watershed priorities. This group will also coordinate input from local business and homeowners groups within their respective watersheds. This group will meet regularly to provide input and technical support to the study process.

Community Outreach

Public meetings will be scheduled as needed to present the process and technical findings to the community. These meetings would be hosted by the Policy Advisory Committee. Reports and studies are posted at www.marinwatersheds.org.