

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
August 15, 2013  
Location: RCD Office**

Directors present: Barbara Kossy, TJ Glauthier, Dave Holland, Jim Reynolds

Staff present: RCD – Kellyx Nelson, Irina Kogan, Alex Beakes  
NRCS – Jim Howard

Guests: Martha Poyatos (LAFCO), Leonard Woren (Granada Sanitary District), Lisa Ketcham (Midcoast Community Council), Gael Erickson (Granada Sanitary District)

**1 Call to Order**

- Glauthier called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

**2 Introduction of Guests and Staff**

- All staff and guests introduced themselves.

**3 Public Comment**

- No public comments were made.

**4 Approval of Agenda**

- Glauthier asked to pull the financial statements from the Agenda.
- Glauthier motioned to approve the agenda as amended, Reynolds seconded. Revised agenda was unanimously approved.

**5 Consent Agenda**

**5.1** June 20, 2013 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes

~~**5.2** June 2013 Draft Financial Statement~~

~~**5.3** July 2013 Draft Financial Statement~~

- Glauthier moved to approve the consent agenda, Kossy seconded. Consent agenda was approved unanimously.

**6 Discussion Items**

**6.1 Granada Sanitary District (GSD) Application for Reorganization** – Martha Poyatos, Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

Because RCD and GSD have overlapping spheres of influence, LAFCo must notify RCD of GSD's application for reorganization. The proposal is for GSD to expand their district to be able to provide additional services including parks and recreation.

Nelson asked about potential effects on RCD revenues if future parcels are acquired by GSD and removed from RCD tax rolls. GSD would be redrawing their boundaries to include some rural areas. The RCD would be interested in future possible effects on revenue and plans to offset any reduction in revenue. Later if GSD controls parks and sewers they may request to expand boundaries more.

Nelson asked about potential conflicts between future park lands and current or potential future farm activities, such as spraying of pesticides near trails, trespass and theft on farms, and some of the other issues we have seen come up on the coast pertaining to public trails and open spaces adjacent to agriculture, as well as the potential use of eminent domain of agricultural land.

Woren said that GSD would not take ag lands to be turned into parks but that there has not been specific discussion about spraying or not.

Nelson asked if there is the potential to limit the expansion of agriculture, e.g. land could not be put into future production because a trail or park might be within the "spray zone".

Holland asked if ag will have priority over trails, etc.

It was mentioned that mapping the area in more detail would be useful in determining possible future ag land including nurseries, grazing, as well as row crops.

Looking at a map, Nelson indicated 3 farms within the boundary without including potential future ag.

Nelson asked whether the parks would be funded through existing revenues or whether it was anticipated that GSD would come back asking for additional revenues for the new responsibilities.

Woren stated that GSD receives \$450,000/ year in property tax revenue. They can use some of their funds in parks, and/or raise service fee for the sewers. The motivation is to create parks in GSD.

Poyatos stated that LAFCo is able to consider the ag issues.

Nelson recommended that if they acquire park lands that they consider contracting with the RCD to manage resources, as the RCD is the special district with that expertise.

GSD will hold a town hall meeting that has not yet been scheduled. Nelson requested that the invitation be emailed to her and she will forward to RCD directors.

Glauthier stated that it would be good to have some sort of preconceived conditions ahead of time before the town hall meeting because discussing RCD issues at the town hall meeting might not be as effective. If it were to be approved by the RCD then it would need to be approved at the next Board meeting. Nelson agreed.

Glauthier asked if that schedule works out for other people. Nelson and Holland agreed.

Leonard stated that if there are parcels that reduce revenue to RCD that they could then continue to receive the funds from GSD.

Poyatos suggested this issue should be addressed specifically. Woren will meet with GSD's General Manager about it.

Holland asked if there is a plan for the development over the years for the recreation dollars, and how they will be fully implemented. Is there a specific plan for the use of the funds? Woren stated that it is currently not planned out. Poyatos stated that there is a 5 year plan in application. Holland stated that this has to go out before the public. It's hard for them to see the advantage without a more specific picture. They need approval, but that people need to know what they are providing to get approval.

**ACTION ITEM: RCD will prepare comments before GSD comment period closes, on October 21<sup>st</sup>.**

## **6.2 Presentation on Plant Community Conservation – RCD & NRCS Staff**

Beakes, Howard, and Nelson gave the attached presentation (Attachment A) and participated in a discussion about RCD projects and programs to manage or eradicate invasive weeds and encourage native plant communities. There was also discussion of permitting barriers and strategies pertaining to weed removal.

## **6.3 Executive Director Report – Kellyx Nelson**

- Chelsea Moller (RCD staff) is being trained in the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) to evaluate wetlands. Issel is working towards becoming an approved biological monitor. This keeps our costs low, and hopefully will translate into revenue earning services that we can provide.
- The RCD was awarded the contract with San Mateo County to provide Agricultural Ombudsman services! We are hiring Brett Melone for this 2- year pilot. Funding is in the amount of \$120,000.
- We held our annual Local Work Group meeting. Agency partners and stakeholders attended to express their resource priorities for NRCS programs. Nelson was impressed with their participation and involvement.
- RCD cosponsored Big Old Barn (BOB) talks at Pie Ranch, with the local history of organic farming etc.
- Pescadero Flooding project agreement is almost signed. The consultants have already begun work. First public meeting takes place at the end of September or early October. There are no funds left for RCD staff time for administration and coordination of the project.
- Nelson went to the Farm Bureau Board meeting this month. She said that she would like a director to come to the RCD at some point to help maintain the partnership.
- IWRP funds are dwindling. We were not awarded the \$4M grant from NOAA. The focus on the remaining funds is going to be on stream flow and habitat complexity in San Gregorio and Pescadero watersheds.
- There is a property in Pescadero for sale that may have the potential for floodplain restoration, conjunctive water use, enhancing instream flows, riparian habitat restoration, and conjunctive agricultural water use. It was brought to our attention by Trout Unlimited. The RCD is enabled by law to own property. Nelson did not

want to pursue analysis of the opportunities for the property if the Board seemed overwhelmingly concerned or opposed. Directors indicated their interest in completing more analysis.

- Nelson showed photos of current construction to remove the Bonde weir. There is a joint media meeting with the EPA on Sept 5<sup>th</sup> to which directors are invited.
- Next week we should be starting construction on the Cloverdale pond restoration project. We will issue a joint press release with the landowner, Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). The project is to improve seven ponds on the property for the recovery of threatened and endangered species while maintaining or enhancing agricultural opportunities on a working landscape.
- There will be a joint meeting of the Advisory Councils of two National Marine Sanctuaries: Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay. The Ag Water Quality Alliance of the Central Coast is based out of the Monterey Sanctuary and significant conservation dollars come through this partnership to the lands that drain into the Sanctuary. Some are interested in changing the borders so that the northern end of the Monterey Sanctuary become part of the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary. If that happens, we want to make sure that valuable water quality conservation dollars are not lost in San Mateo County because we would no longer be part of the Monterey Sanctuary and its established partnerships. The meeting will be in HMB at the Yacht Club on 8/21/2013 and it would be helpful for directors to make public comment about the value of our partnership with the Monterey Sanctuary.
- Nelson provided an update on the RCD's cash flow needs. The highest demand month is about \$12,000 to fund payroll.
- The RCD was awarded funds via the USFWS Coastal Program to work on wetlands restoration and enhancement on agricultural lands in the Ano Nuevo area.
- Kogan presented an update of the Fitzgerald Pollution Reduction project, and asked the Board to spread the word about the resources being offered. There are funds to work with landowners to do various practices that help protect and improve water quality. Projects can include planting natives, rainwater catchment, drainage improvements, etc. We are looking for landowners in Moss Beach and Montara. Kogan passed out the sustainable gardening fliers and the newsletter for the Fitzgerald ASBS (Attachments B & C, respectively).
- Glauthier mentioned getting our website updated. Nelson cited cash flow as the reason we have not been able to address the website.

## 7 **Adjourn**

Glauthier adjourned the meeting at 8:58 pm.

# Plant Community Conservation Projects

San Mateo County RCD  
Board of Directors Meeting  
August 15, 2013



## SFPUC Watershed

RCD Staff  
Chelsea Moller



NRCS Staff  
Ling He



San Mateo County Resource Conservation District

## Purple Loosestrife Eradication



San Mateo County Resource Conservation District

## Slender False Brome Eradication



San Mateo County Resource Conservation District



## Prescribed Grazing



San Mateo County Resource Conservation District



San Mateo County Resource Conservation District

# Free help with sustainable gardening!



**Residents of Montara and Moss Beach can receive free technical assistance and funding to make coastside yards and gardens more sustainable.**

**Funding available for property improvements**

## Learn how to

- Attract birds and butterflies to your garden
- Use less-toxic chemicals
- Lower your water bills
- Capture rainwater
- Protect the ocean and our creeks



**Interested? Contact the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District**  
Chelsea Moller 650-712-7765 x105  
[chelsea@sanmateorcd.org](mailto:chelsea@sanmateorcd.org)



# Fitzgerald Special Edition



## PROTECTING THE MARINE RESERVE TOGETHER

SUMMER 2013

### LEARN MORE ONLINE:

- See maps of the Reserve, the ASBS, and the pilot projects
- View photos of the Reserve and the incredible sea life there, plus before-during-and-after shots of swale construction
- Read about the Reserve's history
- Find links to more great resources online, local groups, and upcoming events

For all this and more, visit

[www.smchealth.org/asbs](http://www.smchealth.org/asbs)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Historical Ecology	2
Pollution Reduction Updates	2
Microbial Source Tracking	3
Help for Homeowners	3
Your Garden Score	3
Kids' Corner	4
Events	4

## What's in the Water?

During the 2012-2013 rainy season, rainwater runoff from properties and streets in Montara and Moss Beach was sampled to determine the quality of stormwater draining to the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (Reserve) and to assess the effectiveness of Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to remove pollutants from the stormwater runoff.

This effort is part of a larger project called the *James V. Fitzgerald Area of Special Biological Significance Pollution Reduction Program* (Fitzgerald Project) that is led by the County of San Mateo, in collaboration with the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI).

A total of 82 samples were collected from six pilot BMP locations in Montara and Moss Beach where roadside ditches have been converted to vegetated swales, and where storm drain

filtration devices have been installed. Based on water quality testing results prior to treatment, pollutants of concern include metals (copper, lead, nickel, zinc), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), permethrin pesticides, sediment, and fecal indicator bacteria (FIB).

### Where do these pollutants come from?

Many of these pollutants are related to vehicles and combustion. For example, copper from brake pads and zinc from tire wear can end up in stormwater. PAHs from fuel burning (i.e., engine combustion, wood), diesel particulates, fluid leaks from cars, and the breakdown of the roadway surfaces can also end up in the storm drain system.

Elevated levels of FIB, such as *E. coli*, a bacteria found in feces from humans, pets, and



wildlife, can leak from septic lines or wash off from yards.

Other pollutants such as sediment can result from erosion due to bare soil that is exposed to rainfall during the winter (i.e., from improper grading & construction practices, trails, rural roads). Contaminants can also come from building materials (i.e., roofs and gutters) and household products used in the yard.

Read more in this issue to find out how you can help and what the County is doing to reduce stormwater pollution.

## Antsy? Get Better Pest Control

Water quality monitoring results revealed elevated levels of permethrin in stormwater at several of the sampled BMP locations. Permethrin is a type of pyrethroid pesticide that is found in many of the leading bug sprays sold at nursery or hardware stores for control of common pests such as ants,

cockroaches, grubs, termites, and wasps. These products can be highly toxic to aquatic organisms, cats, and beneficial insects that naturally keep pest populations under control.

Fortunately, there are effective alternatives to these chemicals and products. For ant control, learn more at:



Common pest control products

[www.GotAntsGetSerious.org](http://www.GotAntsGetSerious.org)

For other pests, visit:

[www.flowstobay.org/pestcontrol](http://www.flowstobay.org/pestcontrol)

# Fitzgerald 100+ Years Ago: Historical Ecology

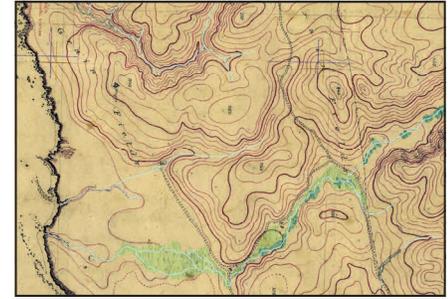
What if we could see the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (Reserve) as it existed a decade ago? A century ago?

Understanding the historical landscape and how it has changed over time can help address many of the challenges associated with managing and planning for the future of local watersheds. The study of how the system functioned often reveals ways to restore native habitats within our developed landscape to create a healthy

ecosystem with both wildlife and recreational benefits.

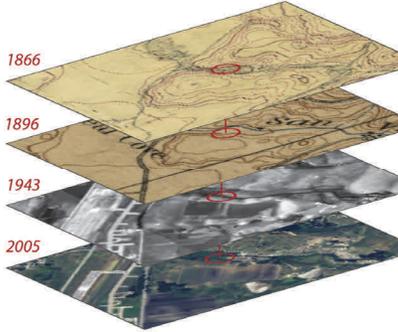
Because local scientists have been visiting the Reserve for over 100 years, we have good documentation of changes since 1911. And other sources let us look back even further, to times when only native inhabitants used the Reserve area resources.

Visit the San Francisco Estuary Institute's project online at



San Vicente creek in 1866. Freshwater marsh (light green) merges into willow riparian forest (dark green) along the creek.

[www.sfei.org/node/1368](http://www.sfei.org/node/1368) and learn how their research can be used to set priorities for the Reserve area's preservation and restoration.



Photos courtesy of [San Francisco Estuary Institute](http://SanFranciscoEstuaryInstitute.org)

[www.smchealth.org/asbs](http://www.smchealth.org/asbs)

# Updates: Pollution Reduction Program

Since the pilot phase of the Fitzgerald Project began in June 2011, the County has installed four vegetated swales and three storm drain filtration devices to filter out pollutants in roadside drainages before they reach the Reserve.

Two vegetated swale designs were implemented. One design involved the use of a native grass sod for biofiltration. The other design involved an under-drain system coupled with permeable pavers, rock weirs, and a mixed palette of native plants including grasses and wetland species.

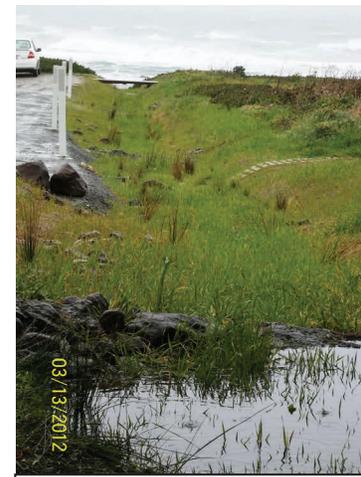
The filtration devices included two designs, a box unit filled with granular filter material and a catch basin replacement vault with filtering cartridges. For more photos of these BMPs, visit [www.smchealth.org/asbs](http://www.smchealth.org/asbs)

Water quality monitoring by SFEI showed that the vegetated swales reduced pollutant levels

by 30% to 100%, depending on the type of pollutant and site characteristics. The filtration devices were also effective at removing pollutants but were generally more costly due to the need for increased maintenance such as sediment removal and filter replacement.

In August 2012, the County hosted a residential low impact development (LID) workshop. Topics included bioswales, rain gardens, pervious pavements and permeable pavers, irrigation and pesticide use, and rainwater harvesting.

The County is now preparing for Phase 2 of the Fitzgerald Project where additional roadside ditches in Montara and Moss Beach will be converted to vegetated swales designed to help remove pollutants from stormwater runoff. County planning efforts are continuing to retrofit the Reserve parking lot in order to treat runoff before it



Vegetated swale, Moss Beach

enters San Vicente Creek and the Reserve.

Phase 2 of the project will also involve work by the RCD on private and open space properties throughout the ASBS watershed (Read more on Page 3).

Visit [www.smchealth.org/asbs](http://www.smchealth.org/asbs) for a list of Phase 2 sites and to view presentations from the LID workshop.



Flume filter box, 14th Street, Montara

# What's the Source of that Bacteria?

Have you ever noticed a sign at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve near San Vicente Creek warning visitors that creek water and beaches are contaminated and may not be suitable for swimming or other contact recreation?

Did you know that San Vicente Creek and the Reserve are listed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board as impaired due to coliform bacteria?

With the help of scientists from UC Davis and SFEI, the County is looking into the sources of the bacteria. Genetic analysis was performed to determine the prevalence of a universal *Bacteroidales* genetic marker and host-specific genetic markers from human-, bovine-, dog-, and horse-associated *Bacteroidales*.

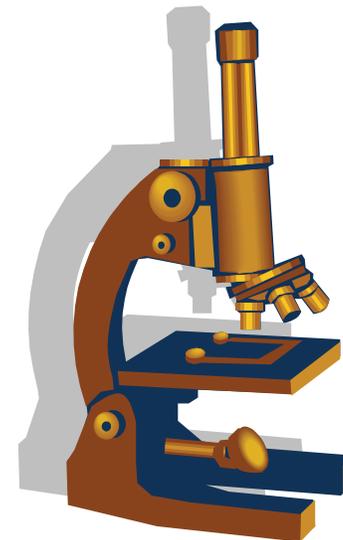
This evolving watershed management tool, called Microbial Source Tracking (MST), is used to help determine potential sources of fecal contamination in our waterways. MST based on genetic analysis of *Bacteroidales* (a specific type of fecal bacteria) is considered a state-of-the-art methodology, and UC Davis is at the fore-

front in the development and use of it.

For this study, UC Davis scientists collected a total of 58 samples (water, sediment, and biofilm on plants) from Martini, Kanoff, Montara, Dean/Sunshine Valley, and San Vicente Creeks just upstream of the confluence with the Pacific Ocean. SFEI researchers collected additional samples at multiple sites within the same five watersheds and tested them for the standard fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) – coliform bacteria, *E. coli*, and *Enterococcus*.

The MST results showed that FIB levels were highest during the rainy season. Results also confirmed the presence of fecal contamination in the tested creeks from human, dog, bovine, and horse sources.

Of the four markers that were tested, dog appears to be the most prevalent source during the rainy season. There may be other more significant sources of fecal pollution present that were not characterized as part of this study, such as wildlife or other domestic animals, but more research is needed. For the full report, visit [www.smchealth.org/asbs](http://www.smchealth.org/asbs).



## What You Can Do to Help

- Pick up after your pets. Pet feces left in the backyard during rain can lead to increased fecal bacteria counts in our creeks and ocean.
- Make sure your sewer laterals and septic systems are working properly and do not have cracks or leaks.

## Free Technical Assistance to Homeowners

The San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) works with landowners to achieve conservation through voluntary actions. The RCD provides free and confidential technical assistance to private and public landowners and currently has a grant to help fund improvements that benefit the Fitzgerald ASBS watershed.

### RCD CAN:

- Help residents interested in landscaping with native plants or harvesting rainwater
- Help residents with manure management
- Raise awareness about the importance of cleaning up dog waste and help organize clean-ups
- Help residents improve drainage to minimize runoff of water contaminated by common household pollutants (e.g. pet waste, pesticides, metals)
- Help landowners improve rural roads or trails so there is less sediment or pollutant runoff entering the Fitzgerald ASBS

If you live in the Fitzgerald ASBS watershed (nearly all of Moss Beach and Montara) and are interested in talking with the RCD about potential projects on your property, please contact Irina Kogan by email: [irina@sanmateorcd.org](mailto:irina@sanmateorcd.org) or phone 650-712-7765 x107.



### How Does Your Garden Score?

- ◆ Building healthy soil
- ◆ Reducing waste in the garden
- ◆ Conserving water
- ◆ Creating wildlife habitat (for birds and pollinators)
- ◆ Protecting local watersheds and the ocean
- ◆ Contributing to a healthy community
- ◆ Saving energy

The RCD will provide FREE backyard habitat/garden assessments to homeowners. Some funds will also be available to help implement improvements!

Contact Chelsea Moller by email: [Chelsea@sanmateorcd.org](mailto:Chelsea@sanmateorcd.org) or phone 650-712-7765 x105.

# Kids' Corner

## Spotlight on Tide Pool Critters

### Connect the Critter



Draw a line from the name of the tidepool creature to its picture.

Starfish



Sea lemon



Sunburst anemone



Kelp scallop



Ostrich-feather hydroid

Hermit crab



Red barnacles



Harbor seal pup



### Quick Quiz

You can protect these tidepools critters by:

- A. Washing your car at the carwash
- B. Always putting litter in the trash can
- C. Cleaning up after your dog
- D. Controlling bugs without pesticides

For the right answer, check the bottom of this page

Find these critters and more online at [www.fitzgeraldreserve.org](http://www.fitzgeraldreserve.org) (and thank [Friends of Fitzgerald Reserve](#) for the photos)

## 2013 Coastside Events

### Coastal Cleanup Day Sept 21

Pitch in to pick up litter at Mirada Surf or another Coastside beach.

Visit [flowstobay.org](http://flowstobay.org) for full details

### Volunteering at the Reserve

Friends of Fitzgerald trains volunteers to help out at the tidepools. For details,

visit [www.fitzgeraldreserve.org](http://www.fitzgeraldreserve.org)

or

Partner with a park ranger to help educate visitors. Visit the County Parks volunteer page for more details.

[www.smcgov.org/parks](http://www.smcgov.org/parks)

### Coastside Cleanup Days and Educational Events

Organized by Coastside Land Trust

Visit [www.coastsidelandtrust.org](http://www.coastsidelandtrust.org) for details.



### First Flush

Late September/ early October

Volunteers sample local storm drains during the first big rain of the winter season.

Contact the RCD for more information and to sign up. (650-712-7765)

Check online for additional events in your area  
[www.smchealth.org/asbs](http://www.smchealth.org/asbs)