



sacramento river
conservation area
forum
a voice for all interests



**OPEN
FORUM**
where ideas flow

Spring, 2008

Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough erosion needs feasibility study

SRCAF has coordinated outreach and a public meeting to inform the community that there is a project in the works regarding Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough. Before the project can be started though, a feasibility study will be designed to answer questions. The general feeling at the public meeting in January was that something should be done as soon as possible.

The project goals are to reduce the negative effects of flooding and erosion at Woodson Bridge and the state and county parks, restore ecosystem function, protect public trust resources, and provide recreation opportunities. To accomplish these goals, the project could include the removal of 5,600 feet of rock revetment along the Kopta Slough property and placement of rock to protect the west abutment of Woodson Bridge and the City of Corning Sewer Outfall.

Some background work for the feasibility study was completed under the USACE in 2003. DWR is now in a position to provide funding to reinstate this project as a flood management, erosion reduction project, with a riparian restoration component that would provide mitigation for other DWR flood protection work along the river.

DWR Northern District will submit a proposal to DWR Flood Management, explaining the concept of the project. Flood Management has approved funding for the feasibility study that will identify the associated costs, impacts, and benefits of the project. DWR would use the results of the feasibility study to decide whether or not to move forward with funding for the project.

Erosion has been occurring at the Woodson Bridge State Park and the project has the Dept. of Parks and Recreation support. State Parks is willing to accept the Kopta Slough Property as part of the park under their management and would look at improving recreational potential in the area once that occurs.



The Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough Flood Protection and Habitat Restoration Feasibility Study public meeting was well attended January 24th, at Corning City Council Chambers.

A brief history of Woodson Bridge

The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) placed rock at its current location in 1963 due to flood concerns, however; erosion at the State Park and at Woodson Bridge continued. In 1986 DWR put in the Palisades on the State Park, upstream from Woodson Bridge, with the intention of slowing erosion and causing sediment drop and eventual habitat recruitment. The Palisades failed to do what they were intended to do and became a navigational hazard leading to their removal. In 2000 the SRCAF Board agreed to work with Tehama County and DWR to investigate and promote ways to move the Kopta Slough Project forward. In 2003 a USACE 1135 Authority (Ecosystem Restoration of Previous USACE Projects) was initiated to accomplish the locally preferred solution of removing the revetment to allow the river to eventually retake its historic channel through Kopta Slough. Hydraulic modeling was begun and the feasibility study was partially completed when funding for this authority was removed due to military action in Iraq.

SAVE THE DATE
June 12, 2008
for the SRCAF Annual Meeting/BBQ



Ajay Singh
TAC Chairman

TAC summary

February - The TAC reinstated the position of Vice Chair for continuity purposes. The position will rotate to a new MOA representative each year. Basia Trout, US Bureau of Reclamation, volunteered to fill the position for the remainder of 2008.

Scott Rice, DWR/URS, reported that offsite mitigation for RM182 is still incomplete but includes an easement or fee purchase of private property to allow erosion for bank swallow habitat. The site being assessed had an active bank swallow colony with 491 burrows in '07.

Rebekkah Funes, CSUC, reviewed the Sacramento River Monitoring and Assessment Project (SRMAP) to assess current conditions and change in riparian vegetation and river dynamics on the Sacramento River. TNC is consulting on the survey scorecard and monitoring plan for ecosystem indicators and protocols for analysis of data.

Information is available on the SRCAF website regarding the Ecological Flows Study. Ryan Luster, TNC, was the lead for this project. Ryan will make a full TAC report at a later date.

BLM - Kelly Williams gave a history of the 17,000 acre Bend Area BLM land. HR1241 and SB811 were introduced in Mar. 2007 to designate the land as a National Recreation Area (NRA), requiring management for protection of biology. Language in these two bills needs to be reconciled. The TAC determined the designation met the guidelines and principles of the SRCAF Handbook.

Jelly's Ferry Habitat Restoration Project (RM266-267R) - (Tehama County) Restoration is planned for 201 acres of BLM land that serves as one of the main entrances to the Bend Area ACEC. BLM is working with Tehama County Public Works to ensure compatibility with the Bridge Replacement at the same location. The TAC determined the project met the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF Handbook.

Gover Ranch (RM217-274L) - (Tehama, Shasta Counties) Easements have previously been purchased on this property with plans of restoration. This stage provides for restoration of fallow land and the phaseout and conversion of existing walnut orchards and grain fields. The TAC determined that the project met the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF Handbook.

Josh Brown, SRCAF, noted baseline survey forms are being developed for the Programmatic Safe Harbor/Voluntary Local Program (SHA/VLP). Public meetings will be held in April.

March -Beverley Anderson-Abbs, SRCAF Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the six guiding principles for SB1086. The review process is available in the SRCAF Handbook at www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf.

Scott Rice, DWR/URS, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2008 USACE Erosion Sites Progress Summary; two sites are located in the SRCA, RM83.9R (Fremont Weir) and RM177.8R (Princeton/Codora Pumping Plant). Comments about the draft

should be directed to Mike Dietl at Michael.L.Dietl@usace.army.mil. Relevant info on the two sites is on the SRCAF website.

Aric Lester, DWR, reported that funding for the feasibility study for the Kopta Slough/Woodson Bridge Flood Damage Protection Habitat Restoration Project is being finalized.

Gregg Werner, TNC, gave a presentation on the Colusa Subreach Planning Hydraulic Analysis results. Copies of the report are available online or from Gregg at gwerner@tnc.org.

Meridian Farms Water Company Fish Screen Project (RM134-135) - (Sutter County) The CALFED project will be completed in two phases, consolidating diversions at Meridian, Drexler and Grimes, eliminating the Drexler diversion, and adding fish screens and a conveyance system. This project received an SRCAF support letter in 2002.

Afton Unit, Tract 2, Habitat Restoration (RM166-167) - (Glenn County) This Unit is within the Sac River National Wildlife Refuge. Restoration plans include buffer zones near private property and 11 year firebreak and monitoring agreements. Ninety acres of the unit will remain closed to the public as a sanctuary, while 126ac will be open for wildlife-dependant use. The Draft Environmental Assessment is available online and at the Refuge Office.

Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park Habitat Restoration and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Development Project (RM194-195) - (Butte County) This project includes the 43ac Singh Unit and the 146ac Nicolaus property, separated by private land. The Draft EIR is available online, at www.parks.ca.gov, www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf, Butte Co. Library, Scotty's Landing, or through Denise Reichenberg, 530-895-4303.

For complete TAC meeting minutes go to www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf



Basia Trout
TAC Vice Chair

Newsletter by Email

SRCAF wants to email our future newsletters to as many of you as we can. This will help to drive down our costs and "Go Green" at the same time, but we need your help!

- ✓ If we have sent you an email in the past, we will use that address.
- ✓ If you have a new email address we can use, please email us a note (egentry@water.ca.gov).
- ✓ If you prefer receiving the paper version, please contact us (530-528-7435) and let us know.

Thank you for your participation!

The SRCAF newsletters are always available on our website: <http://www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf/index.php?id=agend>



Water
Wise:

Q. What are the chances of a "100-year flood" occurring?

A. The "100-year flood" has a 26% likelihood of occurring over a 30-year period, which equates to a 1% chance of occurring in any given year.

Colorado State models M&T

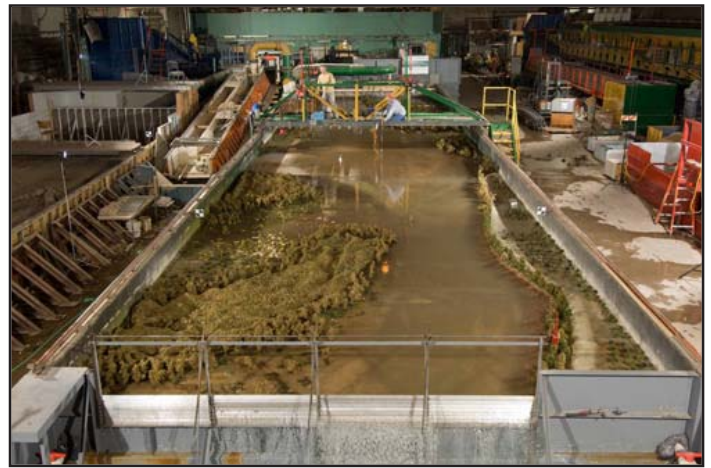
by Olen Zirkle

The M&T/Llano Seco Pumping Plant project remains on target with many of the deliverables met. The work was divided into two subprojects, short-term and long-term.

The short-term project was recommended by the project's consultant team in order to stabilize the river while a long-term solution was developed. It was comprised of two tasks to maintain the river in its current configuration. Those two tasks, stabilization of the west bank with a rock toe and tree revetment and dredging of the gravel bar were completed during late October and early November 2007.

M&T Chico Ranch donated a 20 acre permanent easement on its property south of the pumping plant as mitigation for bank swallow habitat. Llano Seco Ranch also agreed to plant 3.46 acres of valley-foothill riparian habitat on its property and 0.35 acres of shaded riverine habitat on the FWS Capay Unit. This work will allow an additional five years for the development and implementation of a long term solution.

The reach is being modeled from the north boundary of the Bidwell Bar State Park to a location approximately 1500 feet down stream of the pumping plant. The model has been set up at the Colorado State University Hydraulic Lab in Fort Collins, CO, and is being used to test several proposals for a long-term solution. Testing includes: several spur dike configurations to be located on the west bank of the river, two dredging scenarios that route water around the gravel bar, and a pumping plant relocation scenario.



The Colorado State University Hydraulic Lab, Fort Collins, runs tests for the M&T/Llano Seco Pumping Plant project to assist with a long term solution.

The project represents an effort by many parties to recommend an equitable solution to the long-term viability of the pumping plant. Considerations include the needs of agriculture, wildlife, waterfowl, wetlands and riverine processes, while recognizing the operational and economic constraints of the outcome.

Modeling information, engineering efforts and the additional time allowed by the short-term project, will assist with a long-term solution that is equitable to those involved in this multi-year process.

Safe Harbor Public Workshops Scheduled

SRCAF is hosting two public workshops to provide information and answer questions about the Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement/Voluntary Local Program. The program will soon be available to landowners and land managers within the Sacramento River conservation area in Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Sutter and Yolo Counties.

The first workshop will be held Tuesday, April 29, 2:00PM, at Chico Municipal Center, 421 Main St., in Chico.

The second workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, 9:00AM, at the Red Bluff Community Center, 1500 S. Jackson, in Red Bluff.

Safe Harbor and Voluntary Local Programs are voluntary agreements between the US Fish & Wildlife Service, CA Dept. of Fish & Game and cooperating non-federal landowners. They are designed to benefit certain endangered and threatened species by giving landowners assurances that at no future time would the agencies impose restrictions

on their land as a result of conservation actions on their part or by neighboring land owners.

Landowners who wish to participate would sign a cooperative agreement stating what habitat enhancement actions will be carried out on their property. The landowner will then be issued a "Certificate of Inclusion" which will include the landowner into the agency approved incidental take permit.

Participating landowners are required to maintain only the habitat initially documented on their property at the time of the agreement. Landowners who do not wish to participate actively in restoration, but may be connected to restoration property, may sign on as a neighbor and receive the same protections in the event that habitat and/or species move onto their land.

A draft copy of the SHA/VLP document is posted at sacramentoriver.org. For more information call the SRCAF office at (530)528-7411.

Manager speaks about the role and success of SRCAF

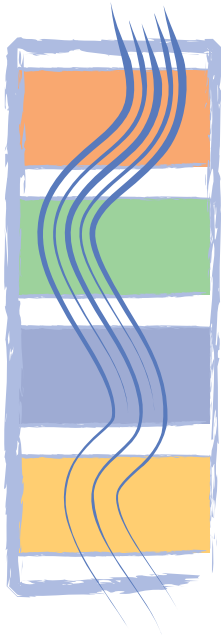
SRCAF Manager, Beverley Anderson-Abbs, spoke at the Sacramento River Discovery Center about the history and work

being accomplished by the Forum since its inception in 1986. "The role of the SRCAF is in helping to return the river to a more natural setting, while being ever mindful of the needs of agriculture, local economy, and the importance of flood protection," she said.



She also spoke about some of the species at risk within the 222 miles of river, including species in our area such as the elderberry beetle, Chinook salmon, steelhead, yellow billed cuckoo and the bank swallow.

Successes of the Forum are measured in the number of agencies, private landowners, and organizations talking to one another and working together for the greater good of the River, the land and the people who depend upon it for their lives and livelihood.



sacramento river conservation area forum

a voice for all interests

2440 Main Street
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Calendar of Events

Riparian Weed Control Workshop
April 16, 8:30a.m., Cache Creek Nature Preserve
34199 County Rd. 20, Woodland

CA Native Grassland Assoc.
April 18 Hedgerow Farms fieldtrip, Winters

Colusa Subreach Advisory Workgroup meeting
April 21, 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
Colusa Industrial Properties

TAC meeting
May 6, 9:30a.m. to 12noon
Willows City Hall

SRCAF Board meeting/BBQ
June 12, 3:00p.m. to 5:00p.m.
Monday Afternoon Club, Willows

Watershed Festivals
May 3, 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m., Caldwell Park, Redding
May 10, 9a.m.-1:00P.M. SRDC, Red Bluff

