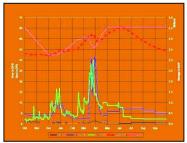
NEWSLETTER

Summer 2011



Ron Warner, Tehama Co. Public Interest, Board Chairman and Jane Dolan, Executive Director



US BOR Graph WY 2011 Shasta Dam Operations graph



Woodson Bridge, Tehama County



River view – unknown RM



Walnut orchard, Tehama County

News of Board of Directors - Board meetings are an opportunity to learn of projects and discuss actions and policy projects along the river corridor. The very wet Spring brought questions of the high water flows. The Central Valley Operations office of the Bureau of Reclamation provided information on Shasta Dam operations: CVP Operational Objectives, Key Operating Agreements and Standards, Agency coordination and a graph of storage standards, 2011 inflow and releases. Read more... The SRCAF Manager continues to work with the multiple Project Partners: M & T Rancho, Llano Seco Rancho and Wildlife Refuge, US Fish & Wildlife Service, State Department of Fish & Game, City of Chico and adjoining landowners to seek protection of the operation of the Pumping Plant and Fish Screens at the Hard Point. Various efforts, studies and analysis continue to be undertaken with the goal of resolving the operational impacts of the M & T Ranch/Llano Ranch Refuge Seco Pumping Plant at RM 192.5. The Board approved a contract with Chris Scheuring, Attorney, to assist in the legal review of the Programmatic Safe Harbor - particularly the liability concerns of Board members and landowners. Other efforts to strengthen the organization and Board effectiveness include the provision of liability and general insurance of the Board, preparation of vital information, history and documents to be included in a board materials binder, and efforts of outreach to agriculture and community organizations.

Kopta Slough/Woodson Bridge Feasibility Study to re-start - There are multiple issues and needs of study along this stretch of the river: erosion impacts to both the State and County Recreation Areas, the concern of protection of the west abutment of Woodson Bridge and the City of Corning sewer outfall, the potential removal of rock revetment that the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined is no longer serving its original purpose, and opportunities to improve flood management. After a failed attempt to resolve erosion with an experimental "palisades", the USACE began a Feasibility Study in early 2002, but the funding authority was withdrawn in 2003. This dormant draft study looks to be revived by the Department of Water Resources Northern Region Office as a project of FloodSAFE. The SRCAF staff has been instrumental in assuring the concerns of the County of Tehama, the City of Corning and adjoining agricultural landowners will be fully considered as this study re-starts. The SRCAF will provide key work in the coordination of the Project Team, stakeholder process, outreach to local government and public meetings.

State Parks & Recreation Proposed Project in Butte County -

State Parks & Recreation completed an EIR in 2008 for a project to restore an existing walnut orchard to habitat and provide outdoor recreation opportunities along River Road in Butte County. SRCAF Board members and staff attended the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) meeting in May 2011. Butte County staff and all adjoining landowners raised their serious concerns of impact to the floodplain, loss of farm land and the financial viability of the project. The CVFPB asked State Parks & Recreation to consider a comprehensive plan of all properties, further hydraulic analysis, long-term maintenance needs and working with neighboring landowners. SRCAF has offered to assist in working with stakeholders to achieve a workable solution and is waiting for the Department of Parks & Recreation response.

Hamilton City J Levee Update - Tom Karvonen, Project Manager of the US Army Corps of Engineers, provided a comprehensive update of the Hamilton City J Levee Flood Damage Reduction and Habitat Restoration Project. After two decades of work on behalf of the community of Hamilton City, and many others to achieve agreement on solutions to flooding and river meander, a Feasibility Study and Proposed Project was completed in 2003. It appeared work would be able to begin as initial funding was included in the proposed federal budget. However, although the project is ready for construction, the funding did not end up in the final budget. Read more...



Near RM 183



Landowner Resources page of SRCAF website

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- Sec/Treas. Lynnel Pollock
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- o Curtis Anderson, DWR
- o Michael Fehling, State Parks
- o Emma Suarez, CVFPB
- o Don Reck, BOR
- Mark Cowan, USACE
- Mike Pool, BLM
- o Eduardo Olmedo, USFS

<u>Staff</u>

Jane Dolan, Executive Director Rob Irwin, Resource Conservationist Ellen Gentry, Administrative Assistant

www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf

River Mile 192.5 - The Board made a Hard Point Determination of the facilities at M&T Ranch/Llano Seco Rancho & Refuge Pumping Plant. The impacts to the fish screen from an approaching gravel bar and both short-term and long-term protection strategies have been under investigation for several years now. In anticipation of a possible third removal of gravel, the Department of Fish & Game (DFG) issued a Notice of Intent of a Subsequent Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration on May 17, 2011. Based on new, additional hydrological information, DFG North Central Regional Manager Kent Smith informed the public the proposed short-term gravel removal will not be necessary this year. The report of potential long-term alternatives remains underway. This report will discuss potential alternatives and technical and regulatory steps of NEPA/CEQA compliance. These investigations and proposals will be subject to peer review, Project Team discussion and stakeholder and public meetings. Read more...

Website: sacramentoriver.org/srcaf - SRCAF continues to expand and enhance the information and usability of the internet-based information resources in our ongoing effort to provide resources, education and outreach for communities, landowners and the public. The Sacramento River GIS portal has been expanded with a variety of geospatial data including historic aerial imagery, hydrology, riparian vegetation and geology datasets. These spatial datasets are provided in a variety of file formats for GIS The GIS data portal is available here: users as well as the general public. www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf/index.php?id=data (Figure 1. 2004 River Channel GIS view). The Sacramento River Library is an ever-growing repository of documents, photographs and digital resources pertaining to the river. SRCAF began developing this resource in late 2010 in response to the need for a centralized library aimed at allowing public access to the vast amount of accumulated knowledge from biologists, conservationists, geographers, hydrologists, journalists and many others. Library content can be browsed or easily searched by a variety of key words to locate and download maps, reports and other information. SRCAF continually expands the library and welcomes comments and suggestions. You can visit the Sacramento River Library at: http://www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf/library. The Sacramento River Glossary was recently added to provide definitions for river-related terminology and acronyms. The glossary is meant to be simple, and users can click on a term to retrieve the definition or to conduct a quick search. The Sacramento River Glossary is available here: www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf/library/glossary.php.

Technical Advisory Committee - The focus of the TAC, Chaired by Tom McCubbins, Watershed Coordinator of the Tehama County RCD, is to bring updates of projects, presentations of proposed projects, information of state and federal agency plans and to share local and regional concerns. At the May meeting, James Wieking, DWR, presented information on the North of Delta Off Stream Storage (NODOS) investigation: reviewing the feasibility study objectives of water supply reliability, species survival, Delta water quality, hydropower generation and cost. The Public Draft of the Feasibility Study and EIR/EIS is anticipated in December 2011. SRCAF invited DFG to present information on the deer population along the river and investigations of the carrying capacity and management proposals to deal with crop depredation concerns. The June meeting brought a report from Jason Roberts, State DFG, on possible changes to the Yolo Basin, and particularly, the proposed modifications to the Fremont Weir that are under consideration in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. River Partners discussed the Princeton-Glenn-Codora and Provident Irrigation District Pumping Plant and Sanctuary Restoration Project. The August meeting included an update of the Annual Survey of Bank Swallow populations and Natasha Nelson, DWR, provided information on the FloodSAFE Regional Advance Mitigation Planning (RAMP). Read more....

Upcoming meetings - Events & Plans to monitor

SRCAF Board meetings: Thursday, August 25 and October 27.

SRCAF TAC meetings: Tuesday September 13, October 4 and November 1.

State and Regional: Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP); Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Planning, Central Valley Flood Planning, Sacramento River Bank Protection Project, DWR FloodSAFE Regional workshops and the State Water Plan Update.