

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum

2008-2010 Strategic Plan

PROGRAM GOAL

To preserve remaining riparian habitat and reestablish a continuous riparian ecosystem along the Sacramento River between Redding and Chico, and reestablish riparian vegetation along the river from Chico to Verona.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum was established to coordinate implementation of the 1989 Plan and Handbook by bringing communities, individuals, organizations, and agencies together along the Sacramento River from Keswick to Verona to make resource management and restoration efforts more effective and sensitive to the needs of local communities.

The Forum supports restoration done well and serves as a forum for sharing, a facilitator of solutions, and a partner for projects that protect both the natural values of the Sacramento River and the communities it runs through.

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LONG-TERM VISION

The SRCAF has a vision of the future that guides our work as an organization. Some of this vision exists today and will need to be preserved. Some is not yet in place and will need attention to achieve. We are committed to create a future Sacramento River Valley where:

- The Sacramento River Conservation Area within the corridor will be a healthy, thriving ecosystem that supports abundant fish and wildlife and diverse human activities.
- Communities will have a strong, positive orientation toward the Sacramento River, looking at it as one of the natural treasures in the area. The long history of agriculture will continue as a sustainable foundation for our rural lifestyle. The river will continue to be a valuable resource, and neither a threat nor a burden.
- People who use the river corridor will live and work in harmony. Conflicts that emerge among river users will be identified and resolved to reflect balance and the long-term needs of the river and communities.
- Public agencies working on the Sacramento River will be partners with communities, landowners¹, and other interested parties. Agencies will manage public lands and resources in a way that balances the needs of all members of the community and the natural resources that surround them.

¹ For the purposes of this document, the term “landowner” is to apply to private and public entities and their day-to-day operating agents (e.g. managers, lessees, tenants, etc.)

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CORE VALUES

There are key values that guide our work. These values are important to everything we do. We use these values to shape our work and ensure that our approaches are consistent with our results.

- **Habitat Restoration** – Restoration done well is supported by public policy and is an important investment in the future health of the Sacramento River. Balanced restoration should be a benefit to the communities of the area and not a burden.
- **Balance** – Effective restoration can be in balance with the other community needs in the river corridor, including agricultural production, public safety, public and private infrastructure, economic stability, and public recreation. While restoration will change how some things are done in the community, it does not have to disrupt the communities and people who live in them.
- **Working Together** – The Valley has been and always will be a diverse mix of people, activities, and interests. We support the diversity within the Valley and the importance of working together to respect each other's needs and to help find workable solutions to the challenges we all face.
- **Open Communication** – Healthy discussion among the many interests in the valley will lead to positive, sustainable solutions. Inherent to effective communications is openness, accuracy, and honesty. We are committed to dialogue that leads to solutions, and will create opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds and opinions to work through conflict to create solutions.

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I. Programmatic Goals and Strategies

The Program Goal is to preserve remaining riparian habitat and reestablish a continuous riparian ecosystem along the Sacramento River between Redding and Chico, and reestablish riparian vegetation along the river from Chico to Verona.

1. CORRIDOR PLANNING/MANAGEMENT GOAL – Activities to protect and restore the river corridor are planned and managed effectively.

Corridor Planning/Management Strategies

- A. Promote the implementation of the Good Neighbor Policy for all activities in the conservation area.
- B. Assist local land use planning efforts within the conservation area.
- C. Facilitate plans that implement effective, balanced restoration.
- D. Coordinate efforts between public and private land conservation groups.

2. COORDINATION GOAL – Public agencies, local communities, and landowners are valued resources to each other.

Agency Coordination Strategies

- A. Improve the regulatory environment connected to activities along the river.
- B. Facilitate coordination, cooperation, and communication among agencies and between public agencies, local communities and private landowners.
- C. Inform agencies about rural needs.
- D. Inform local communities about agency constraints.

3. EDUCATION GOAL – The public, landowners, and agency staff understand the importance of restoration and the opportunities to conduct restoration in a balanced, effective way.

Education Strategies

- A. Gather and disseminate information that improves the quality and understanding of restoration.
- B. Reach out to key audiences most connected to restoration efforts.
- C. Develop and distribute publications and other tools that support education and outreach efforts.

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I. PROGRAMMATIC GOALS AND STRATEGIES

4. LANDOWNER SUPPORT GOAL – Landowners have support and resources to address restoration issues.

Landowner Support Strategies

- A. Assist landowners in influencing the quality of restoration projects.
- B. Help shape public policies to benefit landowners.
- C. Provide incentives to landowners to sustain or restore habitat on private lands.
- D. Provide incentives to landowners to maintain agricultural lands in a wildlife friendly manner.
- E. Continue to emphasize that participation in restoration activities are voluntary on the part of landowners.

5. COMMUNITY SUPPORT GOAL – Resource management activities will provide a net positive benefit to public needs of the local communities

Community Support Strategies

- A. Work toward public access to public lands when appropriate.
- B. Continue to advocate full PILT payments to counties.
- C. Support public safety and flood protection.

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II. ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS AND STRATEGIES

1. ORGANIZATIONAL GOAL – The Forum has the organization necessary to effectively fulfill its mission.

Organization Strategies

- A. Maintain strong systems to manage information.
- B. Ensure the Forum has the facilities and equipment to work effectively and efficiently.
- C. Develop and document organizational decision making processes and structures.

2. HUMAN RESOURCES GOAL – The Forum has a diverse and committed group of people to lead its efforts.

Human Resources Strategies

- A. Improve Board member participation, commitment, and capacity in the work of the Forum.
- B. Grow the capacity of staff to support the mission.
- C. Involve other interested parties in providing support for Forum activities.

3. FINANCIAL CAPACITY GOAL – The Forum has stable and predictable resources to support its mission.

Financial Capacity Strategies

- A. Develop stable support from public agencies.
- B. Develop private foundation support for the Forum.

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I. PROGRAMMATIC GOALS AND STRATEGIES

1. CORRIDOR PLANNING/MANAGEMENT GOAL

Activities to protect and restore the river corridor are planned and managed effectively.

Strategy	2008	2009	2010
A. Promote implementation of the Good Neighbor Policy for all activities in the conservation area	Provide Good Neighbor Policy information at the earliest opportunity to all project planning efforts	Implement Good Neighbor Policy during project review and encourage use by others	Implement Good Neighbor Policy during project review and encourage use by other:
B. Assist local land use planning efforts within the conservation area	<p>Participate in meetings for local land use planning</p> <p>Respond to information requests by local governments</p> <p>Coordinate with CalFed to develop an inventory of restored habitat</p>	<p>Participate in meetings for local land use planning</p> <p>Respond to information requests by local governments</p> <p>Make available an inventory of restored habitat</p>	<p>Participate in meetings for local land use planning</p> <p>Respond to information requests by local governments</p> <p>Make available an inventory of restored habitat</p>
C. Facilitate plans that implement effective, balanced restoration	<p>Finalize Colusa Sub-reach planning</p> <p>Identify second sub-reach plan target area</p>	<p>Disseminate data collected through Colusa sub-reach planning effort</p> <p>Assist in developing funding to support a second sub-reach plan</p>	<p>Initiate work on second sub-reach plan</p>
D. Coordinate efforts among public and private land conservation groups	<p>Promote discussion and cooperation in project planning through TAC and other Forum groups</p> <p>Advocate use of Handbook principles and guidelines in project planning</p>	<p>Continue facilitation of project planning</p> <p>Advocate use of Handbook principles and guidelines in project planning</p>	<p>Continue facilitation of project planning</p> <p>Advocate use of Handbook principles and guidelines in project planning</p>

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2. COORDINATION GOAL

Public Agencies, local communities, and landowners are valued resources to each other.

Strategy	2008	2009	2010
A. Improve the regulatory environment connected to activities along the river	<p>Develop permit guideline process to help coordinate permit streamlining and consistency</p> <p>Establish pilot permitting process for boat launching facilities maintenance</p>	<p>Coordinate permit streamlining and consistency</p> <p>Expand simplified permitting process to other permitting areas</p>	<p>Coordinate permit streamlining and consistency</p> <p>Continue to work on permit coordination and simplification.</p>
B. Facilitate coordination, cooperation, and communication among agencies and between public agencies, local communities, and private landowners	<p>Re-engage signatories to the Forum Memorandum of Agreement</p> <p>Review TAC and Board procedure to maintain consistency</p> <p>Continue review of projects through regular deliberations of the TAC and Board</p> <p>Coordinate site-specific projects</p> <p>Outreach to local agencies and planning groups</p>	<p>Orient and inform all signatories on the current activities of the Forum and solicit input on their activities</p> <p>Maintain consistent project review procedure for all projects</p> <p>Continue review of projects through regular deliberations of the TAC and Board</p> <p>Coordinate site-specific projects</p> <p>Continue outreach through letters and attendance at meetings</p>	<p>Provide ongoing communication to all signatories and participating agencies/organizations</p> <p>Maintain consistent project review procedure for all projects</p> <p>Continue review of projects through regular deliberations of the TAC and Board</p> <p>Coordinate site-specific projects</p> <p>Continue outreach through letters and attendance at meetings</p>
C. Inform agency representatives about rural needs	<p>Help develop information about rural needs</p>	<p>Disseminate information about rural needs to agency personnel</p>	<p>Disseminate information about rural needs to agency personnel</p>
D. Inform local communities about agency constraints, programs, and activities	<p>Develop ways to inform about agency constraints, programs, and activities</p>	<p>Continue to inform about agency constraints, programs, and activities</p>	<p>Continue to inform about agency constraints, programs, and activities</p>

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3. EDUCATION GOAL

The public, landowners, and agency staff understand the importance of restoration and the opportunities to conduct restoration in a balanced, effective way.

Strategy	2008	2009	2010
A. Gather and disseminate information that improves the quality and understanding of restoration	With DFG, NRCS, USFWS, RHJV and others gather and/or develop educational material about restoration and coordinate agency support and education programs	Gather and disseminate information from agency research and reporting	Gather and disseminate information from agency research and reporting
	Facilitate technical studies and develop baseline information for key projects	Advocate for key agency information needed within the river corridor	Advocate for key agency information needed within the river corridor
	Coordinate with DWR and CSU Chico GIC to update computer mapping information	Update and expand information included in computer mapping project	Distribute information through public information sources including libraries
B. Reach out to key audiences most connected to restoration efforts	Update contact list to include more private landowners	Maintain updated landowner contacts	Maintain updated landowner contacts
	Identify key audiences and develop outreach process and materials	Conduct workshops, seminars, and other public information events	Conduct workshops, seminars, and other public information events
	Continue to expand role as a Public Forum	Expand role as a Public Forum	Expand role as a Public Forum
	Plan and co-sponsor a restoration and technical conference	Plan and co-sponsor a restoration and technical conference	Co-sponsor a restoration and technical conference
	Plan and facilitate a Safe Harbor/incentives workshop	Work with landowners to sign on to Safe Harbor agreements	Work with landowners to sign on to Safe Harbor agreements
C. Develop and distribute publications and other tools that support education and outreach efforts	Publish annual report on the Sacramento River	Publish annual report on the Sacramento River	Publish annual report on the Sacramento River
	Publish and distribute quarterly newsletter	Publish and distribute quarterly newsletter	Publish and distribute quarterly newsletter
	Update and maintain website as an information and education tool	Maintain website as an information and education tool	Maintain website as an information and education tool

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4. LANDOWNER SUPPORT GOAL

Landowners have support and resources to address restoration issues.

Strategy	2008	2009	2010
A. Assist landowners in influencing the quality of restoration projects	<p>Review conservation area projects to ensure scientific review and public input</p> <p>Offer technical advice and support to landowners from the Technical Advisory Committee</p> <p>Update and maintain computer mapping and other technical information within the conservation area</p>	<p>Review conservation area projects to ensure scientific review and public input</p> <p>Offer technical advice and support to landowners from the Technical Advisory Committee</p> <p>Update and maintain computer mapping and other technical information within the conservation area</p>	<p>Review conservation area projects to ensure scientific review and public input</p> <p>Offer technical advice and support to landowners from the Technical Advisory Committee</p> <p>Update and maintain computer mapping and other technical information within the conservation area</p>
B. Help shape public policies to benefit landowners	<p>Implement all elements of the Good Neighbor Policy</p> <p>Continue to review and update GNP as appropriate</p>	<p>Implement all elements of the Good Neighbor Policy</p> <p>Investigate addition of Conflict Resolution element of GNP</p>	<p>Expand Good Neighbor Policy elements throughout the corridor</p> <p>Investigate addition of Contingency Fund element of GNP.</p>
C. Provide incentives to landowners to sustain or restore habitat on private lands	<p>Develop landowner incentives library of funding and technical assistance for landowner restoration efforts.</p> <p>Plan workshops and other outreach activities to connect landowners to restoration resources</p> <p>Develop Safe Harbor/Voluntary Local Program Agreement to provide regulatory assurances to landowners and neighbors</p> <p>Seek funds to disburse for small restoration projects</p>	<p>Assist landowners/communities in obtaining funding and implementing grants for habitat conservation</p> <p>Coordinate outreach and facilitate informational workshops about restoration resources.</p> <p>Coordinate outreach and facilitate informational workshops SHA and VLP</p> <p>Create criteria for distribution of restoration funds for small restoration projects</p>	<p>Assist landowners/communities in obtaining funding and implementing grants for habitat conservation</p> <p>Continue outreach efforts and workshops</p> <p>Coordinate outreach and facilitate informational workshops SHA and VLP</p> <p>Work with individual landowners to develop restoration plans for funding</p>

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D. Provide incentives to maintain agricultural lands in a wildlife friendly manner	Work with landowners to access appropriate funding sources for private land conservation efforts	Assist landowners in implementing wildlife friendly agriculture	Continue education and assistance to maintain wildlife friendly farming.
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5. Community Support Goal

Resource management activities will provide a net positive benefit to public needs of the local communities.

Strategy	2008	2009	2010
A. Work toward public access to public lands when appropriate	Coordinate project planning for public access and recreation Facilitate cooperative agreements between agencies and user groups	Continue project planning for public access and recreation Facilitate cooperative agreements between agencies and user groups	Continue project planning for public access and recreation Facilitate cooperative agreements between agencies and user groups
B. Avoid negative economic impacts to local communities.	Continue to encourage studies identifying benefits and impacts to local communities Coordinate with restoration entities to minimize or mitigate negative impacts	Provide information to help local communities respond to changes Assist in developing ways to minimize impacts	Continue coordination with all participants Continue coordination with all participants
C. Support public safety and flood protection	Facilitate law enforcement coordination within the corridor Coordinate flood damage reduction with habitat restoration activities	Facilitate law enforcement coordination within the corridor Coordinate flood damage reduction with habitat restoration activities	Facilitate law enforcement coordination within the corridor Coordinate flood damage reduction with habitat restoration activities

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II. ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS AND STRATEGIES

1. ORGANIZATION GOAL

The Forum has the organization necessary to effectively fulfill its mission.

Strategy	2008	2009	2010
A. Maintain a strong organizational system	Create stronger financial reporting process for the Board	Involve Board more in operational and financial process	Involve Board more in operational and financial process
	Explore options for an alternative organizational structure if warranted	Initiate move toward alternative organizational structure	Complete move toward alternative organizational structure
B. Ensure the Forum has the facilities and equipment to work effectively and efficiently	Continue to work with DWR and others for infrastructure support	Continue relationship with DWR and others	Continue relationship with DWR and others
C. Develop and document organizational decision making processes and structure	Conduct annual planning to review and revise organizational plans	Conduct annual planning to review and revise organizational plans	Implement new strategic planning process
	Develop long-term planning process and structure	Review long-term plan and modify annual plan as needed	Review long-term plan and modify annual plan as needed
	Refine Board and committee structure and decision making process	Review and adjust structure and decision making process	Review and adjust structure and decision making process
	Update committee work plans and membership	Update committee work plans and membership	Update committee work plans and membership

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2. HUMAN RESOURCES GOAL

The Forum has a diverse and committed group of people to lead its efforts.

Strategy	2008	2009	2010
A. Improve Board member participation, commitment, and capacity in the work of the Forum	<p>Reemphasize expectations of all Board members</p> <p>Provide input to County selection of Board members</p> <p>Formalize and conduct Board orientation and training program</p> <p>Develop committee structure that improves participation and decision-making</p>	<p>Review Board member expectations</p> <p>Provide input to County selection of Board members</p> <p>Conduct orientation and training for Board members</p>	<p>Review Board member expectations</p> <p>Provide input to County selection of Board members</p> <p>Conduct orientation and training for Board members</p>
B. Grow the capacity of staff to support the mission	<p>Develop and implement annual training plan for each employee</p> <p>Contract with public agencies to provide staff dedicated to Forum activities</p> <p>Explore potential for internships</p>	<p>Continue building organizational capacity through staff training</p> <p>Contract with public agencies to provide staff dedicated to Forum activities</p> <p>Hire intern for scientific or outreach functions</p>	<p>Continue building organizational capacity through staff training</p> <p>Contract with public agencies to provide staff dedicated to Forum activities</p> <p>Expand internship program</p>
C. Involve other interested parties in providing support for Forum activities	<p>Identify potential agencies and organizations for partnerships as MOA supporting signatories</p> <p>Define committee membership and stakeholder involvement</p>	<p>Expand agencies and organizations committed to partnerships as supporting signatories</p>	

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3. FINANCIAL CAPACITY GOAL

The Forum has stable and predictable resources to support its mission.

Strategy	2008	2009	2010
A. Develop stable support from public agencies	<p>Identify and secure long-term funding to support organization and programs</p> <p>Strengthen relationship with the California Bay-Delta Authority</p>	<p>Explore additional opportunities to secure funding from public partners, if warranted</p> <p>Continue to work within CALFED program</p>	<p>Continue efforts to secure and expand funding opportunities, if warranted</p> <p>Continue to work within CALFED program</p>
B. Develop private foundation support for the Forum	<p>Develop long-range resource development plan</p> <p>Submit grants to private foundations to support specific projects and programs</p>	<p>Update long-range resource development plan</p> <p>Submit grants to private foundations to support specific projects and programs</p>	<p>Update long-range resource development plan</p> <p>Submit grants to private foundations to support specific projects and programs</p>