

SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA FORUM STRATEGIC PLAN

Adopted 9/27/2012

MISSION STATEMENT

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum (Forum) works with communities, agricultural interests, landowners, organizations and agencies along the Sacramento River from Keswick to Verona to facilitate resource management and restoration efforts to be effective, balanced 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.

LONG-TERM VISION

The Forum is committed to create a future Sacramento River Valley where:

- The Sacramento River corridor will be a healthy, thriving ecosystem that supports abundant fish and wildlife and diverse human activities.
- The long history of agriculture and its economic contribution to the region 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. Communities will have a strong, positive orientation toward the Sacramento River, looking at it as one of the natural treasures in the area.
- 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 and private organizations working on the Sacramento River will be partners with communities, landowners and other interested parties. Resource agencies and organizations will manage their lands in a way that balances the needs of all members of the community and the agriculture and natural resources along the river.

CORE VALUES

- Balance – Restoration should be in balance with the other community needs along the river corridor, including agricultural production, flood control, public safety and protection of critical public and private infrastructure, economic stability and public recreation.

- Working Together – The Sacramento River 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 – 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.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

1.) Corridor Planning/Management Goal – Activities to protect and restore the river corridor are planned and managed effectively.

Corridor planning/management strategies:

- A) Work to promote the implementation of the Good Neighbor Policy for all activities in the river corridor conservation area.
- B) Become informed of local land use planning efforts within the conservation area.
- C) Facilitate plans that implement effective, balanced projects.
- D) Provide information and seek to coordinate conservation activities.

2.) Coordination Goal – Public agencies, private organizations, local communities and landowners are valued partners and stakeholders.

Coordination Strategies:

- A) Facilitate coordination, cooperation, and communication among agencies and between public agencies, local communities and private landowners.
- B) Work to improve the regulatory environment connected to activities along the river.

3.) Outreach and Communication Goal – The public, landowners and agency staff understand the value of agriculture, support private landowner conservation practices and recognize the need to provide information and work together to conduct restoration in a balanced, effective way.

Outreach and Communication Strategies:

- A) Gather and disseminate information to the public of projects, activities, plans and studies of the river corridor.

- B) Reach out to key audiences and stakeholders to share information and concerns, so that all are aware and invited to participate.
- C) Develop and distribute information, studies, publications and other tools that support conservation efforts and regulatory relief.

4.) Landowner Support Goal – Landowners have support and resources to address restoration issues.

Landowner Support Strategies:

- A) Assist landowners in implementing restoration projects.
- B) Help shape public policies to benefit landowners.
- C) Identify, advocate and provide information of incentives to landowners to sustain or restore habitat on private lands.
- D) Continue to emphasize that participation in restoration activities is 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) Work with local entities to achieve mitigation of loss of revenue to local government and the local economy upon the conversion of lands to public ownership or habitat conservation.
- C) Support public safety and flood protection.

6.) Organizational Goal – The Forum has the organization necessary to effectively fulfill its mission.

Organizational Strategies:

- A) Ensure the Forum has the funding to work effectively and efficiently.
- B) Encourage Board member participation, commitment and capacity in the work of the Forum.
- C) Involve other interested parties in providing support for Forum activities.