

## **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – April 3, 2007**

Chair – Ajay Singh

Acting Vice Chair – Beverley Anderson-Abbs

Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Gregg Werner, John Merz, Lady Bug Doherty, Shirley Lewis, John W. Hunt, Tom Cannon, Ashley Emery, Dan Efseaff, Bruce Ross, Greg DeYoung, Beverley Anderson-Abbs, and Ellen Gentry.

### **Announcements**

Sacramento River Preservation Trust is continuing their tours, with a BLM hike Saturday, April 7 near Bend. They are working on a series of river floats for May. Go to their new website at [sacrivertrust.org](http://sacrivertrust.org) for current information. A blog section for members is also being established.

The Sacramento River Restoration Science Conference, hosted by SRCAF and TNC is scheduled for April 9-10, at the Bidwell Park Room, Bell Memorial Union, CSU Chico. Abstracts will be posted on websites and CDs will be available. The response has been gratifying; registration is full. Notices were emailed to the TAC previously.

The DWR Public Workshop is set for April 11, 6:00PM, at the City of Chico Chamber of Commerce. Mitigation will be part of the discussion. For questions, contact [mescott@water.ca.gov](mailto:mescott@water.ca.gov).

Sunsweet Growers is hosting 50K and 7 mile races at BLM, April 21. For more information contact Beverley.

### **Activity Reports**

Bruce Ross gave the Emergency Repair Update. The URS consultant has prepared how they mitigate rock sites by replanting riverside vegetation on the shelf at the edge of the river to restore to natural habitat. DWR Northern District was not involved in planning. One species, slender wheat grass, is not native to CA, but normally found in upland foothills and a better choice may be blue wild rye. A definition of specie selection is being requested. The plan for RM 182 includes decompacting the bench and planting for habitat. Little rock is expected to be exposed when complete. Trees will be chained and fascine bundles will be laid on the river rock to provide habitat, so that the levee can remain free for inspection. Concern has been raised that using the mean August flow as the basis for installation of mitigation would not be adequate as this level generally lasts less than one day. Sacramento River Preservation Trust indicated that they would like to make comments. It was suggested that the Forum ask to extend the comment period for those who would like an opportunity to comment. Construction is not expected before fall. It was also suggested that URS attend the next TAC meeting to discuss the mitigation plan update. Burt met with DWR Northern District and talked about concerns addressed at the TAC last month. DFG and USFWS were on site when the decision was made to extend the bank revetment.

John Hunt, NRCS, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding “Conservation Planning: technical and financial resources for farms, ranches, and rural property”. A conservation plan covers an evaluation and strategy, combining landowners’ knowledge and skill with the expertise of NRCS technical staff, to manage the land’s profitability while conserving or enhancing natural resources. Planning includes free technical assistance, GIS mapping, and a plan detailing treatment (i.e. conservation practices, methods, etc.). SRCAF has some funding for baseline work and mapping

for the Safe Harbor agreement. NRCS could be a partner in the process, providing an option for landowners wishing to acquire biological assessments on their property.

### **Current Projects/Updates**

It was requested that SRCAF get an update of M&T receiving funding. Sacramento River Preservation Trust would like clarity on ERPiam notification, funding, and evolution, and recommended a presentation to explain the process.

### **New Projects or Proposal Review**

Tom Cannon, Wildlands Inc., gave an informational presentation on the Sacramento River Umbrella Conservation Bank for Salmon. An Umbrella Conservation Bank includes: procedures and policies for entitling a specific geographical area of conservation banks, conservation plan for fish ESUs (ecologically significant units), connection to a recovery plan, and consultation with the recovery team and with permit applicants. An Umbrella Bank Agreement covers a conservation plan, consultation and permitting, service area(s), land title, easements, endowments, financial accounts, trust agreements, credit release schedules, credit accounting procedures, monitoring and management, and closeout.

The Central Valley salmon umbrella conservation bank includes ESUs for Winter-run Chinook, Spring-run Chinook, Fall-late fall run Chinook, Steelhead and Sturgeon. Essential fish habitat (EFH) includes Salmon, Steelhead, and Sturgeon.

The Fremont Landing Conservation Bank, Phase I encompasses 100 acres of riparian forest restoration, one mile of river bank restoration, one mile of off channel habitat restoration and one mile of borrow pit stranding fixes. Phase 2 incorporates two miles of additional river bank restoration and potential river bank rock removal. Wildlands Inc. partners with landowners for mitigation and keeps monies local.

Safe Harbor information will be made available in May after communications expected from DFG.

### **Next Meeting Date and Location**

The next TAC meeting was set for May 8, at Willows City Hall.