

## **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – June 5, 2007**

Chair – Ajay Singh

Ajay Singh opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Tom McCubbins, John Merz, Kelly Moroney, Lady Bug Doherty, Don Anderson, Gregg Werner, Basia Trout, Bruce Ross, Allison Groom, Kim Davis, Ashley Emery, Greg Golet, Olen Zirkle, Dan Efseaff, Katrina Chow, Merritt Rice, Burt Bundy, Beverley Anderson-Abbs and Ellen Gentry.

### **Announcements**

River Partners will be having their second Canoe Float, June 23, to tour River Partner's restoration sites within the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, south of Llano Seco Rancho. The group will be meeting at the Butte City Boat Launch at 8:00AM and taking out at the Drumheller Unit at 11:00 AM. Please contact River Partners if you are interested in attending.

SRCAF noted that we are in the process of redesigning and relocating our website. The new website location will be in conjunction with [www.sacramentoriver.org](http://www.sacramentoriver.org). Updates will continue.

The Irvine Finch River Access Area Expansion Ceremony will be held Wednesday, June 27, at 11:30AM. This involves the expansion of part of the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park – a land gift from River Partners to CA State Parks and Recreation, funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board. The event will be located at the Irvine Finch parking lot, west side of the Sacramento River, Hwy 32 Bridge near Hamilton City.

Burt Bundy announced this was his last official TAC meeting. He thanked the group for their continuing work and input and stressed the importance of the process – noting this is a real opportunity for those involved along the river. He welcomed Beverley Anderson-Abbs as the new SRCAF Manager. Her previous position as Resource Conservation Assistant will be open and advertised as soon as possible.

### **Activity Reports**

The Red Bluff Diversion Dam report was rescheduled for the July TAC agenda.

The Shasta County Planning Commission approved the Shasta Ranch Gravel Mine. SRCAF provided information at the TAC, did a site visit, and provided input into concern regarding levees proposed on the Sacramento River. Discussions were also held with USFWS and DFG. Results from those discussions have not been received. There would be no further action by SRCAF regarding this project unless requested.

Katrina Chow, Project Manager, Bureau of Reclamation introduced Merritt Rice, Principal Engineer, MWH; who provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation. In 2002 CALFED ROD supported service storage projects including Shasta Lake. Primary study objectives include anadromous fish survival and water supply reliability. Secondary objectives include ecosystem restoration, flood damage reduction, hydropower, and recreation. The SLWRI Plan Formulation addresses the recommendation process. One of the comprehensive alternatives included raising the Shasta Dam and Reservoir 18.5 feet. This would represent a 3% increase in the height of Shasta Dam and correspond with a 14% increase in the storage capacity of Shasta Reservoir. Accomplishments and costs, based on surface area, were provided by a common assumptions workgroup. Next steps include preparing an administrative draft feasibility report and continuing public and stakeholder coordination. The final feasibility report is scheduled for the end of 2008. For more information contact Katrina Chow at (916) 978-5067, or [kchow@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:kchow@mp.usbr.gov)

## **Current Projects/Updates**

Greg Golet, TNC, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Colusa Subreach Planning Pest and Regulatory Effects Study Update. The second meeting of local experts took place May 11 to discuss the results. Part 1, Regulatory Effects, characterized existing regulations and identified differences between farms adjacent to habitat versus those adjacent to other farms.

The following information was included: special status species, agricultural operations, environmental laws and regulations, pesticide use laws and regulations, water quality laws and regulations, species protection laws and regulations. Special-status terrestrial species known to occur in the Subreach: VELB, bank swallow, western yellow-billed cuckoo, Swainson's hawk, and white-tailed kite. Greg reviewed regulatory effects solutions: possible delisting VELB, Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement, buffer strips, self-mitigated restoration designs, habitat conservation plans, and benefits of the GNP.

Part 2, Pest Effects, summarized high priority crops (orchards), row (field) crop rotations, prioritization of pest species, solutions and an evaluation. The high priority vertebrate pests included CA ground squirrel, Botta's pocket gopher, CA vole, mule deer, and the black rat. In summary, many pest species identified as high or medium priority have little to no chance of increasing in population or damage; some species may actually decrease. Solutions include: evaluation of restoration design(s), prevention (self mitigating design, planting protocols and buffer strips), and abatement (trapping and baiting).

Preparation and presentation of the Draft Final Report is expected to be submitted to the TNC by July 31. A presentation to the Advisory Workgroup will occur on or before August 14. The Final Report and a Final Report Executive Summary is due to TNC for final review by August 28. A final version will be available by September 28.

Greg noted that they have already met with adjoining landowners and will meet with them again. TNC would also like to see examples of problems that have yet to be picked up (i.e., Don Anderson mentioned salmonella and disease impacts from animals).

Olen Zirkle reviewed the status of the M&T Ranch pumping plant protection. Two alternatives are being considered: spur dikes and dredging. Long term modeling shows the river will continue to move to the west. Modeling for the two proposed alternatives is being done above the gravel bar and below the pumping plant. Three alternatives will be looked at for dredging.

Eric Larsen will be checking river meander from RM 165-215 to locate nine sites for potential rock removal and resulting impacts. The model will be completed in June. All modeling will have been run by the end of August and a Draft Report is due October 1.

Toe rock is to be placed with a goal of maintaining pumping plant operation while minimizing further erosion until a final long term solution is determined. Nesting bank swallows are being looked at now. The short term project report will be out the end of June for comment. Kelly Moroney noted that the draft EIS/EIR will be completed in August. A final report on modeling will be done November 1. Also, a workshop will be scheduled for next spring. A recommendation on an alternative will be made at that time.

## **New Projects of Proposal Review**

There were no new projects or reviews at this time.

## **Programmatic Safe Harbor discussion**

The Programmatic Safe Harbor discussion was also rescheduled for the July TAC agenda; however Beverley gave a brief report on discussions with the Executive Committee and work with USFWS and DFG. The federal portion of the SH will also be on the agenda for the SRCAF Board meeting, June 28.

## **Next Meeting Date and Location**

The next TAC meeting was set for July 10, at Willows City Hall.