**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting notes – July 6, 2010**
Chair: Tom McCubbins Vice Chair: Denise Rist

Tom McCubbins opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Lady Bug Doherty, Michael Rogner, John Merz, Laura Westrup, Rebecca Funes, Brian Luke, Hans Carota, Jason Schwenkler, Ralph Keeley, Scott Rice, Ashley Indrieri, Maddie Dunlap, Natasha Nelson, Alan Mitchell, Kip Young, David Brown, Julie Newman, James Gallagher, Stan Cleveland, Buford Holt, Beverley Anderson-Abbs, Rob Irwin and Ellen Gentry.

**Announcements**
Scott Rice, DWR, reported the release of the public review draft of "Implementing Flood Legislation into Local Land Use Planning: A Handbook for Local Communities", which provides for cities and counties, focusing on building codes and levee requirements. The 30 day comment period for this report ends July 29 and is available on the SRCAF website or at: www.water.ca.gov/LocalFloodRiskPlanning/. Comments can be submitted to LocalFloodRiskHandbook@water.ca.gov.

The California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Central Valley Flood Planning Office will host a series of category-based management actions workshops in July 2010. The first of two rounds, the workshops are a key component of Phase 2 planning and engagement activities for the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and will focus on 11 categories of Draft Initial Management Actions. The public workshops run from July 19 through July 29. Information and schedules can be found at www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp/meetings/ under Phase 2: Management Actions.

A Pilot Study to look at flood water rise and fall at RM117 near Tisdale Bypass is in the initial phase. The site will be looked at during the next two weeks for Phase 1 Cone Penetration Tests (CPT) on the west bank on the levee toe, to determine properties of soils and stratigraphy. Bank Swallows are active in the area, with the closest nesting site approximately 500ft downstream (April 15, 2010 survey). Additional surveys may be necessary prior to field activities to confirm the extent of the Bank Swallow colony. Phase 2, using piezometers and lysimeters, is delayed until September.

Lady Bug reminded everyone to be aware of the possible need to apply for vegetation variances under the Corps levee vegetation policy.

**New Projects or Proposal Review**
There were no new projects or proposals for review.

**Current Projects/ Updates**
There were no updates.

**Aerial Photo Interpretation - SRMAP**
Jason Schwenkler, CSUC Geographical Information Center, gave an updated overview of the Sacramento River Monitoring Assessment Project (SRMAP), as provided by CSUC. The project began with the inclusion of team meetings, task scheduling, rapid assessment workshop, aerial photography flight, imagery review, and project setup. Aerial photography orthorectification included the project setup, data collection, processing, image quality control, accuracy reports, and metadata preparation. The initial vegetation mapping was completed using aerial interpretation to establish vegetation categories. Areas were selected for field reconnaissance utilizing rapid assessments for verification, field mapping and metadata reporting. UC Davis validated the submitted vegetation GIS dataset, compared results, edited the data and produced a validated vegetation GIS dataset and metadata report. Additional information included a 2008 re-flight, river channel mapping, indicator species mapping (1999 & 2007), indicator scorecards and a final report. Project deliverables include riparian vegetation, river access parcels, river imagery, an atlas and interactive mapping. Data can be found on the Sacramento River Monitoring site: http://www.sacramentoriver.org/sacmon/index.php.

**Furlan Mitigation Project**
Brian Luke, USACE, gave a PowerPoint presentation, beginning with regulatory history on the Furlan Mitigation Project. Purchased by DWR in 2007 for offsite mitigation, the 97 acre parcel in Sutter Bypass has 3,400ft of shoreline. The proposed project will create 5ac of aquatic and riparian habitat, providing salmonid and green

sturgeon credits. The design includes two annually inundated lagoons, two interior islands with Instream Woody Material (IWM) for fish habitat, a 10:1 wetland bench, a 10ft wide riparian bench, a 3:1 vegetated upper bank, and continuous vertical bank face. The upper lagoon will require excavation of 36,600cu yds and the lower lagoon of 65,050cu yds. Flow vectors indicated no changes in flows from existing conditions and proposed project. More water will be sent into the Yolo Bypass during a 100 yr flood.

Brian noted that fish won't be trapped, which was a concern of NOAA fisheries. The question of silt filling in quickly was a concern of the Sutter County Board of Supervisors, as pointed out by Stan Cleveland and James Gallagher. Brian indicated that according to the hydraulic modeling, there should be no silt problem. Stan Cleveland stated that the river is going to try to meander into the area being created, causing the bend to change. John Merz stated the formal process of an Environmental Review needs to be followed.

Brian gave information on the Standard Assessment Methodology (SAM) Model used to determine fish habitat value. The purpose of the SAM is to systematically evaluate responses, focusing of fish species to habitat features affected by bank repairs over time (i.e., 0, 1, 5, 15, 25, 50 years); and to compare responses among alternative project scenarios. The SAM quantifies habitat values in terms of bank-line or area-weighted species responses. Variables selected are based on relevance to life history requirements, habitat use, SRBPP actions and ease of field measurement for computer-based modeling.

The SAM Results Summary included: 1) Long-term habitat gains for all focus species life stages starting in 2010 (year 0); 2) Habitat gains driven by increased shallow water habitat, increased bank line cover of IWM, aquatic vegetation and overhanging shade; and inundation ratio and bank substrate assumed to remain the same; and 3) Habitat gains compounded by physical increase in seasonal shoreline lengths and wetted areas.

The Schedule includes: finalize EA/IS, soil testing, disposal site, long term management plan and credit analysis, with construction beginning in 2012.

Questions arose concerning: silting in of the lagoons from flows down the Sutter Bypass, and from the river; how mitigation bank endowment would be funded; planting of vegetation within the bypass; what assurances are there that the site will be maintained as a mitigation; how much mitigation would this provide; is it appropriate to produce this type of habitat on an eroding bank; was there or would there be a sediment analysis done; are the project proponents aware of the Nelson Weir project in the Sutter Bypass which could change flowage at this location. This site would be maintained similar to a mitigation site. It is estimated to cost $45,000 to monitor and maintain site once established, turned over and a long term management plan takes effect. Sutter County reported having mitigation where the Feather River and bypass come together, which will cause changes to sediment levels built up over the years.

The document is open for comment until July 22, with a link on the SRCAF website: http://www.sacramentoriver.org/SRCAF/index.php?id=furlan.

**Colusa Boat Ramp**

Alan Mitchell, Ponticello Enterprises Consulting Engineers and Project Manager, gave a presentation on this project. River meander and sedimentation, along with permitting requirements rendered the current boat launch, built in 1960, unusable in the State Park area. Under the Colusa Subreach Planning project a Colusa Sacramento River Master Plan was developed proposing the new location for a boat launch. The existing parking lot is 600 ft from the launch.

In 2006 the City of Colusa submitted a grant application and $340,000 was approved for scoping and feasibility. The process with the State Department of Boating and Waterways is approved, but funds have not been released at this point. Opportunities for additional funding sources are being sought, along with a qualified design consultant. Environmental services may be in-house or combined. The project is going through NEPA and CEQA analysis; however the current funds cannot pay for management or environmental analysis. It is hoped that it will be designed and built in the next few years. Alan will keep the group updated and appreciates any assistance.

**Next Meeting Date and Location**

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for 9:30-12Noon, August 3, at Willows City Hall.