

## Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – September 9, 2008

Chair – Ajay Singh

Vice Chair – Basia Trout

Chair Ajay Singh opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Adam Henderson, Holly Savage, Scott Rice, Rebekah Funes, Lady Bug Doherty, Tom McCubbins, Gregg Werner, Peter Coombe, Jessica Gibbs, Kelly Williams, Bruce Ross, Scot Timboe, Maureen Teubert, Henry Lomeli, Tricia Bratcher, Aric Lester, Beverley Anderson-Abbs, Josh Brown and Ellen Gentry.

### Announcements

The CALFED Science Conference is being held October 22-24 at the Sacramento Convention Center. The Endangered Species Act: California's Water Supply Conference is scheduled for October 2, at UC Davis. Detailed information on these two conferences is available on the SRCAF website: [www.sacramentoriver.org](http://www.sacramentoriver.org).

The River Parkways and Urban Streams Restoration Grants are open for application until November 12. An application workshop scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. These grants are accessible to non profits, agencies, and non-government organizations. There is no requirement for a local match; however a local match increases the potential success rate for some programs.

The Governor's Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force will meet September 18-19 in Sacramento. The fourth staff draft of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan will be released prior to the meeting on their website: <http://deltavision.ca.gov/>.

The Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program provide \$3 million in grants to fund actions that improve conditions for species and habitats impacted by the CVP. Projects are rated according to criteria, which are available on their website. CVP Conservation and CVPIA Habitat Restoration Programs applications are due by November 14.

The SRCAF Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 3:00-5:00, at the Monday Afternoon Club, in Willows.

### Activity Reports

*River Partners*- Jessica Gibbs reported approval for orchard removal and project planning for 325 acres of continual restoration at La BARRANCA in Tehama County. The project will be starting next year.

*Bureau of Land Management* – Kelly Williams reported on land acquisition activities associated with the Bend area ACEC in Tehama County. Two acquisitions have been finalized, 65 acres and 6 acres, providing additional river access and eliminating management issues. There are currently over 17,000 acres in the Bend Area BLM land, which has been proposed as a National Recreation Area. The goal is 22,000 acres to be managed for public open space and recreational activities near the I-5 corridor and the Sacramento River.

*Department of Water Resources* - The PL84-99 site repairs at Elder and Deer Creeks are complete. Planting is scheduled for October and will include elderberry. The two sites near RM 160 are also being completed.

The Sacramento Bank repair at RM177.8 is in construction. Field work began in late August and should be complete by the end of October. Planting is scheduled for November. The total cost is \$1.5 million. Mitigation is estimated to cost \$300,000.

The RM182 mitigation easement being pursued, in response to bank swallow habitat loss, is expected to be complete by the end of the year. Interagency mitigation information will be available at upcoming meetings. DWR's response to vegetation on levees will also be reviewed at a later date.

Outreach is currently being planned for the non-urban levee evaluation and floodplain mapping program.

The local levee assistance grant program, which closed in July, had 21 filed applications totaling less than ½ the allotted money. Consequently another opening for grants may become available this year.

*Central Valley Flood Protection Board* -Lady Bug Doherty noted that a tour is coming up so the Board can look at sandbar willows. Levee vegetation round table discussions may continue in order to reach a final conclusion. She added that inspecting all encroachments on levees has been a focus for several months.

## **Red Bluff Parks and Trail Plan**

Scot Timboe, Red Bluff City Planning, discussed a proposed parks and trails plan and current problems within Dog Island Park and River Land Park. As part of mitigation for the Durango RV Park, the City of Red Bluff was given 26acs of open space for public access and restoration, with an easement for a bike path around the RV Park. Dog Island Park, across the river, is currently overgrown with non-native plants and the city is experiencing problems with homeless camps, debris, unwanted fires, and other safety issues.

The plan calls for removal of invasive species, either by burning or with the use of goats, from Dog Island and River Land Park, as well as trails around Antelope Island along the Sacramento River. A future proposed bridge across Payne's Creek Slough would tie in to trails leading to the Red Bluff Recreation Area. A bridge across the Sacramento River from Dog Island to River Land Park trails would be trussed to a new I-5 bridge, when that is built.

Concern was raised about removing all undergrowth from Dog Island with no plan for restoration. This would likely lead to high levels of maintenance, loss of habitat for listed species, and return of invasives. Burning was not recommended for eliminating blackberry. Herbicides or hand pulling was recommended, and maintenance was also reviewed, the soils and water in this area will lead to dense vegetation growth.

Wildlife Conservation Board has interest in funding for fishing access. Several other grant programs are currently available that may be accessed for parts of this plan. SRCAF and TCRCO have discussed some possibilities of helping apply for grant funding with the City. River Partners expressed an interest in helping develop the plans.

Scot expressed interest in continuing to work with the SRCAF and will provide a tour of the area following today's meeting.

## **New Projects or Proposal Review**

Lower Deer Creek Restoration and Flood Management: Feasibility Study and Conceptual Design Project (PT#139) RM218-220 (Tehama Co.) – Holly Savage, Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy, gave an update on the effort to respond to the flooding and habitat problems in lower Deer Creek, by reestablishing the historic floodplain in a controlled fashion. While the feasibility study identified solutions for the majority of the project area, the study showed that the flooding problems in the lowest reach of the project area, located adjacent to the New Clairvaux Monastery in Vina, and near the confluence with the Sacramento River, are due to constriction-induced backwater of the Sacramento River caused by Woodson Bridge and South Avenue.

The design includes levees on China Slough and a ring levee around the Abbey. The project team has proposed a bank erosion/conservation easement on the left (south) bank at the Monastery to allow natural channel migration and corresponding floodplain creation on the opposite bank. This would restore channel dynamics and is expected to improve channel complexity and habitat value to a measurable degree.

The Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy is requesting that the SRCAF expand the Feasibility Study for the Kopta Slough Flood Damage Reduction and Habitat Restoration Project to include the area of lower Deer Creek. The TAC determined the project meet with the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF Handbook and will go to the SRCAF Board for approval of a letter of support.

This project may be reviewed on the SRCAF website: [www.sacramentoriver.org](http://www.sacramentoriver.org), (Project Tracker #139).

## **Current Projects/Updates**

Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration (Glenn Co) – Gregg Werner, TNC, gave an update on the Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration project. Project components to remove the degraded J levee, construct 6.8mi of setback levee and restore 1,500acs of native habitats, will make flood damage reduction possible.

The last flooding of the area occurred in 1997. The existing levee has only 10+/- year level of protection and the area has been evacuated six times in the past 25 years. The new levee would provide 75 year flood protection. Removal of rock as part of the project brings up issues with USACE; however rock could be allowed to deteriorate over time. The concept then would be to restore the intervening area to habitat. Land

acquisitions would include portions of Dunning Island, Stiles, and Billiou properties with trade of land outside the new levee alignment.

Current status includes: Project authorization and design funding in WRDA, RD 2140 formed, and construction plans are currently 60% complete with full completion anticipated in 2008-09 pending Congressional Action. The question of who will be the non-federal sponsor is still a concern. State agencies do not wish to be liable following the Paterno decision.

The levee festival is scheduled for October 5, when the 60% design will be presented.

*Riparian Restoration and Enhancement at the Wilson Landing Unit (PT #116) (RM203-205)* (Glenn Co.) – River Partners proposes to restore and enhance the 350acs Wilson Landing Unit, owned by DFG. Current activities: Encroachment Permit pending, ground-preparation, weed removal and plant design. Planting design involves restoration of 195acs of self-sustaining native riparian vegetation within a three year period. Approximately 19,940 native woody species are proposed. Upland game birds and neo-tropical migratory birds are target species.

This project may be reviewed on the SRCAF website: [www.sacramentoriver.org](http://www.sacramentoriver.org), (Project Tracker #116). Jessica Gibbs may be contacted at (530) 894-5401x226.

### **Quagga Mussel Presentation**

Basia Trout, BOR, and Peter Coombe, DWR, gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled Don't Move a Mussel Project, an interagency effort to reduce the threat of Dreissenids, namely Zebra and Quagga mussels.

The invasive mussel depends on relatively warm, shallow water and attaches to hard surfaces. They thrive in both warm water and near-freezing conditions, flourish at depths to 300 feet and have been found as deep as 540 feet.

Some of the serious problems caused by these mussels include: plugging industry water intakes, pipelines, underwater machinery, fish screens and heat exchangers, interfering with navigation, and accelerating corrosion by attaching to pilings, docks, and buoys. They can weaken or kill native freshwater mussels and clams by interfering with their ability to open and close their shells, as well as competing with them for food; other affected species include crayfish, turtles, and fish.

Recreational impacts include: filtering phytoplankton from the water thus reducing the food available for other filter-feeding organisms and fish, and releasing toxins that are passed on to any predators. Water clarity has caused aquatic plants such as algae to increase, leading to odor and control problems when the algae die. Fuel efficiency of boats is also decreased and engines are damaged by growth on hulls and engines.

The invasive mussels get into new waterways on boats, trailers, equipment, bait buckets, and live wells. Once introduced, the larval mussels are suspended in water and can drift downstream until they settle (Colorado River and Colorado Aqueduct System). They are currently occupying Dixon Reservoir, Lake Havasu and Irving Lake, to name a few in California. Due to a recent zebra mussel infestation, the San Justo Reservoir and Recreational Area are now closed to the public.

Prevention is being attempted with boat inspections, wash stations, and quarantine. Control includes de-watering, manual scraping, high pressure jetting, filtration; chlorination; molluscicide; use of biological controls such as predators, parasites or diseases; modifying environmental conditions such as oxygen levels, temperature, exposure, and pH; and antifouling coatings, electric currents, and sonic vibrations.

More studies and funds are needed (i.e., Hoover Dam anticipates \$1 million/year for maintenance of hydroelectric power cooling pipes and other hardware) and DWR estimates State Water Project mussel control is \$40 million/year. Boaters can simply clean, drain and dry their boats, trailers and gear. Last year in California, it became a misdemeanor for boaters to transport these types of mussels. The penalty is up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

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

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, at Willows City Hall. The SRCAF Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, at the Monday Afternoon Club.