

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting notes – December 7, 2010

Chair: Tom McCubbins

Tom McCubbins opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Aric Lester, Mary Randall, Tricia Parker, Michael Rogner, Gregg Werner, John Merz, Mark Johnson, Ashley Indrieri, Mike Berry, Rebekah Funes, Laura Westrup, Ron Unger, Earl Nelson, Rob Irwin and Ellen Gentry.

Announcements

SRCAF - Ellen Gentry reported that the ratification of Jane Dolan, as SRCAF Manager/Executive Director, will be reviewed in a Closed Session following the SRCAF Board meeting Sept. 9.

Rob Irwin reminded the group that projects may be entered into Project Tracker before projects are developed, in order to track them as they progress. Projects can be updated with change details at any time. Please contact Rob if you need assistance at 528-7401 or rirwin@water.ca.gov.

CSUC - Rebekah Funes announced there will be a presentation and discussion on the draft Sacramento River Ecosystem Scorecard and Monitoring Plan, January 13, 2010, 10:00-2:00PM, at the CARD Center, 545 Vallombrosa Ave., in Chico. Funded by CALFED in 2007, the Scorecard and Monitoring Plan document the current state of the Sacramento River, and recommend methods to track changing conditions into the future. For more information visit the SRCAF website at: <http://www.sacramentoriver.org/SRCAF/index.php?id=sacmon>.

DWR - Mary Randall gave an update on the IRWM planning grant draft recommendation posted this week. Implementation Grants are due January 7. The first Board of Directors meeting will be held January 19. The California Water Plan will start regional forums in February, which will provide an opportunity to present information on a regional basis. FloodSAFE documents will be out by the end of the year.

SRPT - John Merz announced the 12th Annual Snow Goose Festival is being held January 27-30. Registration is opening next week. For more information, contact Liz Gardner, 530-345-1865 or go to www.snowgoosefestival.org.

TNC – Gregg Werner announced that he would be shifting his responsibilities to the Klamath Basin, and that Ryan Luster would be transitioning to managing TNC's efforts on the Sacramento River Project, in January, 2011.

Activity Reports

AFRP - Tricia Parker, USFWS, gave an update on upcoming solicitations for proposals for Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (AFRP) funding. Program funding could be used for a feasibility studies side-channel restoration, such as the Sulfur Creek fish passage assessment. Also, Tehama County RCD is involved with fire field issues. Road work from the Butte County line to the Shasta County line (culverts, sediments) is being finalized. Maps are being finished this week and will be available to partners.

New Projects or Proposal Review

Sacramento River side-channel restoration projects - Mike Berry, Senior Environmental Scientist, DFG, gave a presentation on potential side channel enhancement along the upper Sacramento River in Tehama County. The side channels within this section of the river provides essential juvenile rearing habitat for several runs of Chinook salmon. Mike reviewed a 2.2 mile stretch of Anderson slough, which has been degraded by channel alterations, reduced flow and subsequent infestation by aquatic weeds and exotic fish species. He described the benefits of opening the channel to Sacramento River flows, which would create approximately 2.2 miles of juvenile rearing habitat, the inhibition of invasive fish and aquatic weeds, the potential to alleviate flood impacts, and the opportunity to re-open the Reading Island boat ramp. Potential funding includes AFRP FY2011 for feasibility study for fish habitat restoration.

Current Projects/Updates

Willow Bend Restoration Project - Michael Rogner, River Partners, announced that the project's encroachment permit application was being reviewed by CVFPB staff. Michael noted that the permit would have some bearing on the project timeline and design, and he would be able to give a presentation of the project at a future TAC meeting.

Flood Protection Corridor Program

Earl Nelson, DWR, noted the mission of the Flood Protection Corridor Program is to fund primarily nonstructural flood management solutions through direct expenditures and grants to local public agencies and nonprofit organizations. The FPCP vision is to avoid future flood damage. By acquiring ag conservation, wildlife habitat preservation and flood flow easements, and by restoring flood plain functions, flood waters can safely spread over and in some cases, move quickly through floodplains or be detained for later release. Other anticipated benefits include enhanced wetland development, water table recharge, etc.

When all Prop. 13 funded FPCP projects have been completed, results will be nonstructural flood benefits from every project, including 10,455 acres of ag land conserved (Staten Island) and 3,701 acres of wildlife habitat conserved (La Baranca). These areas were all previously vulnerable to loss of environmental resources through urbanization. Nonstructural allows meander and free flowing action.

Seventy-five million dollars are available, within the flood plain, to reduce risk. Applicants have to be non-profit or a local government agency. The CA Waterfowl Association (Gover Ranch) is a possible applicant below Cottonwood Creek. There is a \$5 million cap on projects. Scoring criteria includes: projects evaluated for flood benefits or reduction, habitat, ag, miscellaneous water quality, other ancillary benefits and the capability of a team putting it together. The team is also evaluated, ranked, scored, recommended to a management team (FloodSAFE and DWR Flood Management), modified and signed off. Non-profits need a lead agency. CEQA documents are paid for and there is a match requirement with a minimum of 10% (i.e., labor, in-kind, land, project management). For more information, go to www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/fpo/sgb/fpcp, or contact Earl Nelson or Ron Unger.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for 9:30-12Noon, January 4, at Willows City Hall. **[This meeting was subsequently cancelled.]**