Technical Advisory Committee meeting notes for August 21, 2000

Sacramento River Conservation Area Chairman Denny Bungarz opened the meeting with self-introductions by the participants, and a review of the TAC structure and responsibilities as determined by the SRCA Board of Directors. He asked the Coordinator (Burt Bundy), to contact counties and other appropriate entities for appointees and to compile a list of members. Chairman Bungarz then introduced Interim TAC Chairman Dan Keppen.

Chairman Keppen asked the Committee for their suggestions as to voting procedure and process. Several members expressed support for a modified consensus process with the ability to vote and forward minority opinions to the NPO Board. Mike Crump (Butte Co. Public Works Dir.) expressed the need to notify members of specific issues to be discussed prior to committee meetings. Marlyce Myers (TNC) suggested that it should be understood before discussion on each project as to the process. The Chairman indicated that he would report to the Board a synopsis of the TAC's recommendation.

Stacy Cepello(DWR) presented a history of the determination of the Inner River Zone(IRZ) in reach #2. He explained how it was a culmination of historic river movement and future projections for the need of sustaining natural river processes that determined the area of the IRZ. Frequent flooding (2-4 yr interval) seems to be the determining factor in habitat establishment within the IRZ. Koll Buer (DWR) has done most of the geomorphic work on reach #3. Stacy will ask him to present his information at the next meeting. Reaches #1 & 4 are pretty well defined by geology or the Flood Control Project. Stacy will work with the Coordinator to prepare a draft definition to bring back to the TAC at the next meeting.

Chairman Keppen opened the discussion on Hard Points by having the Coordinator recount the history of the hard point issue. Burt talked of the earlier discussions at the Riparian Habitat Committee to attempt to define areas or points along the River that have a significant socio-economic reason to be protected or have substantial public investment. Bridges, cities, authorized flood control projects and large pumping plants with public investment would be considered for protection. Burt talked of the need to protect the "function" of the activity, not always the structure that provides the current activity. As an example, the new PCID/PID pumping plant consolidates 3 older plants for more efficiency and better screening. Serge Birk (CVPWA) voiced the need to look at a broad perspective. Paul Ward (F&G) reminded the group that they need to go back to the group that discussed this issue at the Riparian Habitat Committee. Jason Larrabee suggested that each county should be asked to submit a list for consideration by a committee of the TAC. After further discussion, the Chairman directed the Coordinator to request a list from each of the counties, and to also ask for volunteers for the committee.

Ernie Olin (Tehama Co. Flood Control) gave the group a review of the situation at Woodson Bridge that Tehama County is proposing for an Early Implementation Project (now Initial Project). The plan would call for rocking the west abutment of the bridge for an undetermined length along the river, then pulling the rock about a mile upstream to alleviate pressure on the state and county parks upstream of the bridge. This could also allow the River return to its natural meandering process. Extensive monitoring and study would be included.

Tom Tinsley (Glenn Co. Public Works Dir.) reported on the progress being made at Hamilton City. The County and the COE have entered into a Sec. 205 agreement to study alternative for flood protection at Hamilton City. They are also looking to an Initial Project with the COE to help speed up and fund the project. The County has been working with local landowners, the Community Services Dist., and other agencies and entities to bring together support for a comprehensive solution that includes flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration and other benefits to the area.

The next meeting was set for Sept. 21, in Willows.