

Technical Advisory Committee meeting notes for October 19, 2000

Chairman Dan Keppen opened the meeting with self-introductions and followed with announcements of upcoming meetings.

INNER RIVER ZONE

Koll Buer (DWR) discussed the DWR's draft report on Reach 3 and made available copies of it and maps pertaining to the study. Questions were raised about whether or not soil types were looked at and Koll explained that predicting potential soil erosion based on soil types is difficult. One of the problems in using soil type is that flood plain deposits cover the soil. He agreed that if more recent soil type studies were used it would be a valuable additional tool to use and was willing to take ideas while report was in draft form. Burt Bundy(SRCA) stated that the Board will send a letter to DWR to complete the draft and will be looking for a final at some point. Stacy Cepello(DWR) will discuss options for Reach 4 at the next meeting. Burt will set meetings in each Reach with landowners to discuss the IRZ.

HARD POINTS

Discussion was opened about a hard points committee and what process should be used – to leave as current forum or establish a sub-committee to form definition of hard points. To date two counties have responded with their lists of hard points. Many concerns were raised and there still seems to be a great deal of confusion about what constitutes "hard points". Paul Ward(CDFG) suggested that a report be given to the general TAC membership on what has happened to date in previous sub-committee meetings. Paul and Les Heringer(M&T) are to provide that review at the next meeting. It was agreed that at an upcoming meeting Koll would present an overview on what happens in the natural processes of the river. It was also agreed that the forum would remain the same and a sub-committee would not be formed at this time.

Les Heringer, manager of the M&T Ranch reported on the status of the pumping plant which was moved from its' long-time location on Big Chico Creek to a point on the river. Construction was completed in 1997 and in 1998 the DWR was asked to monitor a gravel bar which began to develop in the area of the plant. Since monitoring began the bar has grown 1100 feet on the south side and 450 feet to the west and is now almost even with the pump. The city of Chico runs its' treated wastewater across M&T property to the river and is also concerned about the impact of this gravel bar. Les stated they will meet with the city of Chico and the COE next week to discuss options and will give an update to the committee at the next meeting. The committee indicated that options, possibly through the Corps Comp Study, should be developed to enable continued operation of the pumps.

SUB-REACH PLANNING REPORT

Coordinator Burt Bundy reported on the work being done with the COE for protection of Hamilton City. They are currently looking at different options such as re-doing the J-Levee or possibly setback

levees. Erosion is a real concern at the head of the J levee and there is emergency action taking place now to deal with possible flooding.

Burt also reported that through the landowner's request, a conservation easement on Bloody Island, approximately 1600 acres between the Sacramento River and Battle Creek, has been completed. A riparian habitat study will be conducted by DWR and BLM for that area and a public input process will be coordinated through the SRCA.

An acronym list will be distributed to both TAC and Board members soon. It will probably be added to several times.

A copy of the MOA Section that deals with how the SRCA addresses CEQA/NEPA compliance was passed out to the committee.

ACTIVITIES UPDATES

Burt reported on river mile 207 where landowners have requested paperwork for permits for some protection. Rock is a possibility, but there are concerns this may deflect the flow and impact the GCID intake facility. Other options need to be developed to determine a solution.

Shasta County has a site where a landowner has put in a levee and adjacent landowners have complained to the county and the Department of Fish & Game. It is currently in The Reclamation Board permit process.

A project in Sutter County involves 120 acres owned inside levees – the landowner is currently working with the NRCS on wetland preservation. The local RD has expressed concerns about impacts to flood flows. Burt is coordinating a meeting with affected agencies and others.

FWA is continuing its effort with the Colusa County RCD to provide fish screens for local pumpers along the river. The question was raised as whether a fish screen qualifies as a hard point?

The Fish and Wildlife Service reported that a local land trust and a representative from Shasta County are working on a possible Conservation Easement on 2100 acres bordering the River, most of which is outside the conservation area.

The next meeting was set for November 16, in Willows