

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes for January 11, 2001

Burt Bundy, Manager of the Sacramento River Conservation Area, opened the meeting with self-introductions and announcements. He indicated that Dan Keppen was unable to attend because of Bureau responsibilities. John Merz (SRPT) stated that the annual Snow Goose Festival would be taking place on January 13-14 in Chico. Earl Nelson(DWR) discussed Prop #13 monies available, \$60-\$70 million, for restoration projects. They are currently looking for concept papers. Anyone interested can contact Earl at enelson@water.ca.gov. Burt discussed the upcoming IRZ meeting at the Veterans Hall in Meridian on 1/23/01 on Reach 4.

PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Burt reported on the \$5,000,000.00 brought up at the last Board meeting by Pete Rabbon. They are working on language to commit these funds which should help move the flood damage reduction/restoration project at Hamilton City forward.

M&T – A meeting was held recently in Chico with Congressman Wally Herger, the COE, and USF&WS on the situation with the M&T/Llano Seco pumps. Another meeting is scheduled for the 16th of January with Stillwater Science at the site to try to find a short-term solution. Because the COE did not feel this project fit under their umbrella of responsibility, a determination as to the lead agency has not been made.

Scott Clemons(WCB) discussed the landowner in Knights Landing who is still looking for sale of easement or fee title of property he has within the levees. He has met with the Rec. Board, RD1500, and others trying to find options available on his property. Suggestion was made that this might be a good project for the Sacramento River Conservation Area.

INNER RIVER ZONES

Stacy Cepello (DWR) read the current language for defining Reach #4 that was approved by the TAC committee and has since gone to the Board. He explained that the Handbook had not developed a guideline for this reach but it has been decided that there should be a designation. The meeting on Jan 23 would inform and provide a forum for discussion of the proposed change.

Alan Fulton (U.C. Co-op Ext.) discussed a meeting held on 1/05/01 with Colusa and Glenn County Supervisors and landowners to look at land use trends. Have some basic numbers and is looking at a baseline report out in March or April. Question was raised as to when the DWR would have 1998 information available? Stacy explained some of the difficulties involved in gaining access to current data, depending on what program it falls under. It was noted that within a year the Sacramento River Conservation Area should have information on ownership within the conservation area.

Koll Buer(DWR) gave a slide presentation on Reaches #1 through #4, which showed the distinct differences between the reaches. Discussion followed on the IRZ for Reach #1 – a guideline had not been developed for this reach in the Handbook. The question was raised if they want to define it and just what the definition should be. This Conservation Area reach encompasses approximately 21,900 acres and the riparian development has been heavily impacted by hydraulic and gravel mining operations. It was stated that meetings would be held for public input in determining the definition.

SUB-REACH PLANNING REPORT

Kelly Williams of BLM, who was scheduled to present on their activities, was unable to attend the meeting so Mike Roberts (TNC) reported on funding received from CALFED for restoration planning for the **Beehive Bend Sub-Reach** (RM 165-176) and other sub-reaches. Instead of a parcel-to-parcel basis, they are now looking at stretches of river that are between 15-20 miles long. Utilizing modeling and socio-economic studies, the project includes examining soil information and geology to determine patterns within conservation ownership. Typically, these are areas that flood often, are located within geological control, and are subject to extensive erosion.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Scott Clemons (WCB) reported on the Moulton-Weir unit. This is an area located north of Colusa on the east side of the river and consists of approximately 106 acres. The middle section was managed for walnut production. The WCB acquired the property in 1991 but left the lease in place for the orchard. The lease has now expired and the trees were removed. An interior portion has not had new riparian vegetation growth. They are working with the Reclamation Board to receive a permit for a proposal to re-vegetate the center of the property. Long term management will be evaluated with DFG. Discussion of the project will be scheduled at the next WCB Board meeting.

John Carlon(Sac River Partners) updated the restoration activities on the Jacinto and Princeton Units.

Ramon Vega(SNWR) updated the committee on several activities – **Comprehensive Study Plan** is still on target for March 16. Currently have 2 planners in place and will be doing public scoping. The **Environmental Assessment for Habitat Enhancement and Restoration** - should have the administrative draft out 1st of February and ready for public review mid March. **Packer Lake** has gone through the 30 day public review process and should be opened for fishing in the next few months. **La Barranca Feasibility Study** – have had second meeting with landowners and looking at summer for finalization. A 200 acre restoration project on the **Llano Seco** will be implemented this fall. **Levee District 111**/Glenn County – meeting was held to discuss maintenance on their levees – consensus was that the three levees and the refuge will be managed together.

Rebecca Fawver(CALFED) noted that the Comp. Study will be sending an information paper out in mid March which will go to the Sacramento River Conservation Area, and then to the outside. She will provide updates as they become available.

It was reported that the Department of Water Resources is in the process of putting the SRCA Handbook on the Website (www.sacramentoriver.com) and hope to have that completed prior to the 1/23/01 meeting in Meridian. Wildlife Conservation Board is hoping to put the history of the Board on the web as well.

Next meeting will be February 15, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. in Willows.