

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes for February 15, 2001

Chairman Dan Keppen opened the meeting with announcements. Tom Evans, FWA, requested a public comment period to be placed towards the beginning of each agenda. Burt Bundy, SRCA Manager, noted that the meetings are usually run on a round table basis where anyone can make comments at anytime during the meeting but it was agreed that all future agendas will have a public comment line. John Garner, PCGID, suggested that when Hard Points are discussed, as in the case of the M&T pumping facility, that Hard Point issues in other districts also be included. Burt noted that the planning activities listed are those the SRCA is coordinating at the time.

A request was made for copies of the TAC attendance sheets and it was agreed that the information would be made available on the SRCA website. John Merz noted the Salmonid Restoration Conference will be held March 1-4 in Chico. The Chairman discussed the Biodiversity Council meeting March 14 & 15 also in Chico.

PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Burt updated the committee on Hamilton City. It appears that the Comp. Study may consider the Hamilton City sub-reach for an Initial Project. The COE is also still working on the 205 Study. A meeting will be held February 27, 8:30 a.m., at the Hamilton City Firehouse for all interested stakeholders to discuss progress on efforts by the COE, Glenn County, The Reclamation Board, and others. Announcements will be sent out in the next few days.

M&T –There has not been a lot of progress since the last meeting. Burt noted there has been good support from all levels for this project but the problem seems to be getting through the process. Les Heringer, Manager/M&T, discussed the January 16 meeting held at the site with representatives from Stillwater Science. They are working on a short term, and possibly long term, solution to the gravel bar intrusion. Les agreed that the support from all agencies has been very good, but advised beginning work on a problem as soon as possible and not waiting until it becomes a crisis situation. Dan stated one of the reasons for the lack of progress may be that CALFED has over 600 projects they are managing and staff is spread too thin.

Burt noted the SRCA is coordinating another project at Moulton-Weir. The property consists of approximately 106 acres and was acquired by the WCB in 1991. They are working with The Reclamation Board and others on a proposal to re-vegetate a portion of that. It was originally on the WCB agenda for the 23rd but because of some issues raised by landowners it was determined that more time was needed for public input and scrutiny. There will be a meeting the first part of March to look at the opportunities and impacts of this project.

INNER RIVER ZONES

Burt discussed the draft language on Reach 1. The geologic characteristics of this Reach vary from a very limited channel at the northern portion to the broad alluvial floodplain at Red Bluff. The upper portion is highly influenced by dam releases. Stacy Cepello, DWR, discussed the alternative definitions and evolution of the current language. He indicated that the conservation area from Keswick to Red Bluff is 18,500 acres so the floodplain only would be somewhat smaller than that. Burt noted that a public meeting will be held in the area to allow for public input before the definition is brought to the Board.

Burt opened the discussion on Reach 4 noting the change made by Pete Rabbon. Koll Buer(DWR) stated the language was not clear as to whether it would exclude the by-pass area. Burt stated that he assumed it

did, but will look at the language and see if that needs to be clarified. He also discussed the 1/23 meeting held in Meridian on Reach 4 which was attended by approximately 175 people. Several landowner concerns were raised regarding flood flows, mitigation fund, set-back levees, and land acquisitions. Sam Lawson, TNC, indicated they are not looking at acquiring any property south of Colusa. Sue Sutton, FWA, noted that because TNC is not looking at acquisitions, it does not mean other agencies are not. Mr. Cecil, a landowner on the Sacramento River, had brought to the December Board meeting his concerns about a COE report (1993) that indicated they wanted to build a levee on his property. Pete Rabbon and Mark Charlton, COE, had met with him after the Board meeting to try to reassure him. He has since received a fax from Pete answering some of his questions but has not heard from the COE and would like something in writing from both agencies to assure him that this is a dead issue.

A request was made by FWA for an amendment to remove references to the Conservation Area from the Handbook. The point was made that the Board Meetings were the place to address policy issues, not the TAC meetings. It was also noted that this would probably require an MOA change.

It was noted that Glenn and Colusa Counties are looking at requiring property to be re-zoned if it is going to be sold for habitat restoration. The question was raised as to whether or not the SRCA should get involved. Burt responded that they don't usually get involved in land-use issues but will bring it up to the Board.

DEBRI CONCERNS

Tom Ellis gave a presentation to the TAC on several issues of concern to him as a landowner and water user. Following the presentation Tom asked the SRCA to consider the following: (1) Eliminate from the Handbook any reference to allowing large woody debris to enter the river channel (2) Refrain from planning projects that allow vegetative growth in flood control channels (3) Eliminate all language referring to establishing set-back levees within Reach 4 (4) Limit conservation area to within the existing levees in Reach 4. Tom requested a written response to the above. (Copy of complete presentation attached)

ACTIVITIES UPDATES

Woody Elliott from State Parks & Recreation reported on three permitted projects; the restoration of 4 acres north of Colusa, a non-irrigated planting area at the mouth of Big Chico Creek, and the planting of ½ acre at old Chico landing.

Ramon Vega, USF&WS, announced Packer Lake will be open to the public on March 1.

Barney Flynn, Sacramento River Partners, discussed plans for restoration on a 26 acre parcel on Department of Fish & Game's Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area in Shasta County. The SRP will make a presentation to the full Board.

Sam Lawson, TNC, spoke of a grant proposal to purchase 2 tracts south of Hamilton City, both adjacent to lands currently owned and managed by TNC. They will continue in walnut and prune production until the levee is built.

The next meeting will be March 22, 10:00 a.m.

The following month will be April 19th, 10:00 a.m.