

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes for March 22, 2001

Chairman Dan Keppen opened the meeting with self-introductions followed by announcements and public comment. Tom Evans, Family Water Alliance, asked about the time line on the amendment process and the issue of “safe harbor”. Burt Bundy, SRCA Manager, stated that those two items plus several others would be discussed at the next Board meeting. He asked that further discussion wait until the Board discusses the issues and makes suggestions.

A COE meeting was announced for 1:00 p.m., March 22, in Chico at the City Council Chambers.

Chuck DeJournette discussed a Shad symposium to be held in Baltimore May 20th – 23rd.

Dan reported on a panel presentation that he and Les Heringer, Brendon Flynn, Denny Bungarz, made to the Bio-Diversity Council in Chico concerning land acquisitions. He felt it was a productive discussion and noted it might be a good idea to have a presentation on “safe harbor” and what the true definition is. Dan also advised the Committee on an upcoming meeting in Chico at the Sierra Nevada Brewery on April 18 at 1:00 p.m. put on by the Sacramento Water Forum to discuss the current water/power crisis. Several speakers will be on hand including representatives from DWR, CVPWA, ISO, and the Modesto Irrigation District. John Merz announced a workshop on endangered species will be held in Chico on March 29, cost for the workshop is \$125.00.

It was noted that Jason Larrabee, SRCA Board member, has been offered a position in Congressman Doug Ose’s office in Washington, D.C.

PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Burt reported on the **Hamilton City** meeting held on February 27 that gave everyone an opportunity to come back together and discuss progress to date by the various entities. Another meeting is scheduled for April 16 at the fire station in Hamilton City.

He also discussed a recent meeting with landowners concerning the **Moulton Weir Project**. The meeting was an opportunity to look at ways to address some of the issues that have been raised. He pointed out that this was a good example of the Site-specific planning process that SB1086 advocated.

Burt and Les Heringer, **M&T**, reported that the contracting process is moving along – the grant has come through for the study by Stillwater Sciences. Les felt that by mid-April he would be able to give a better update.

Burt indicated that **Woodson Bridge** was still a project that needed a funding source. Ernie Ohlin, Tehama County Flood Control, informed the committee that someone in Congressman Ose’s office had contacted him requesting a meeting to discuss possible appropriations for Woodson Bridge. Burt noted that it would have to involve the COE because of rockwork placed there.

Burt announced the Riparian Habitat Joint Venture had given an award to the SRCA during the Riparian Habitat and Floodplain Conference for innovative programs involving landowners in habitat restoration. He also noted that the draft of the Glenn County Land Conversion Impact Study is out and copies will be made available for the next TAC meeting.

BLM REVIEW OF BEND AREA

Kelly Williams, BLM, gave an overview of the acquisition and management of lands from Balls Ferry Bridge to Red Bluff. Discussion included the criteria used when considering acquisitions such as; location (in focus area), land must have some kind of public value, it must be undeveloped, and it must have a willing seller. They use “multiple use management” plans that may also look at vehicle closure or firearm restrictions where damage is being doing to the property by off road traffic. Questions were raised concerning public access and Kelly expanded on the process of determining public use on the managed

lands. He pointed out several locations where public access would be enhanced. He also stated that there is an OHV (off-highway vehicle) area managed by the BLM northwest of Redding. In response to a question, he indicated that the BLM could acquire water rights with the property, but only to do restoration work.

REVIEW OF GEOMORPHIC INVESTIGATIONS ON THE SACRAMENTO RIVER

Bruce Ross, DWR, discussed a study being done for BLM under a 2 year CALFED grant that will help BLM in their land management decisions. The study involves the Sacramento River from the mouth of Cow Creek to the Jellys Ferry Bridge that looks at where the River has been and where it is likely to go, issues with public and private levees, spawning substrate, sediment supply, and opportunities for gravel enhancement. John Merz, SRPT, asked about the citizens advisory process and Kelly noted the grant did not indicate there would be a public input process, this is just data gathering. When it comes to the development of management plans, then they will have public input.

IMPACTS OF BANK STABILIZATION ON RIPARIAN HABITAT

(This item was inadvertently left off the agenda – Committee agreed to open discussion but would take no action today)

This issue involves proposed modifications to language in the Handbook, Pg I-2 & I-3/Issue #2. At their 9/09/99 meeting the Riparian Habitat Committee reviewed a letter from The Flood Control Association that voiced concern with the Handbook's language regarding bank stabilization and the resulting loss of riparian habitat. A handout was made available with the suggested modifications. John Merz indicated that the SRPT did not agree with this language and that there was a need for more dialogue. It was decided that a committee would be formed to deal with this issue: John Merz, Dan Keppen, Bob Clark, Les Heringer, Annalena Bronson, Marie Sullivan, Lewis Bair, and Paul Ward. Any prior discussion on this subject will be reviewed and made available to this new committee. The SRCA staff will coordinate the first meeting.

INNER RIVER ZONES

Stacy Cepello, DWR, discussed the proposed language for defining the Inner River Zone in Reach #1. Following his discussion Burt read the Reach #4 definition, which included the addition of language, which excluded the weir or by-pass area. Discussion on Reach #4 raised additional questions; should the weirs and by-pass areas be named, should it indicate the weir or by-pass in the Conservation Area, and is the 10 foot delineation enough? Burt also mentioned a couple of suggestions for Reach #3 which is still in the very preliminary stages – and asked for any ideas or suggestions. It was determined the staff will come back to the next TAC meeting with draft language on all three reaches. He explained the process would be for the definitions to go to the TAC for approval, then to the Board, then to the public for input.

PROJECT /ACTIVITIES UPDATES

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for April 19th at the Willows City Council Chambers, Willows, Ca.