

Technical Advisory Committee Notes – July 19th, 2001

Chairman Dan Keppen opened the meeting with self-introductions followed by public comment and announcements. Scott Clemons, WCB, announced an upcoming board meeting August 30th at the state capitol to discuss project fundings. Scott also talked about the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program which would give cash incentives to farmers for developing wildlife habitat on marginal cropland; he noted there is a ten-year commitment. Anyone interested could contact the Farm Service Agency for more information. Dan announced a meeting on to be held on Aug 16th by Northern Sacramento Water Forum in Woodland at the Heidrick Ag center from 1-3. Three case studies will be discussed, including the Klamath Basin. Another topic will be the Tule Lake decision, as well as the Biological Opinion on riprap on the Sacramento River. Burt noted there would be representatives from the Corps and F&WS at the next Board Meeting if negotiations between the two were completed. John Merz announced the “State of the Sacramento River” Conference will be held on August 17th & 18th at the Red Bluff Community Center.

Burt introduced Jessica Rios from “Friends of the River” to talk about a proposed Bend National Conservation Area and a proposal to list a section of the river under Federal Wild & Scenic status. This area would begin at Balls Ferry to approximately three miles north of Red Bluff at Paynes Creek and would be managed by the BLM. Designation as a National Conservation Area would not change existing land uses.

Project Updates – Les Heringer, M&T, was introduced to talk about the meeting held on July 18th to discuss the Stillwater Science Report. The short-term recommendation is to take the gravel bar back to its 1995 line. Long-term, there were several alternatives of which 2 were considered the most likely to succeed. Hopefully this fall work can begin to move some gravel. Les will meet with the agencies to see if they can pin down a date for start-up – probably September or October. John Merz stated there were still a lot of unanswered questions left from this study – who will be lead is one important question that needs to be addressed.

Managers Report – Burt discussed the July 9th Hamilton City meeting – 3 proposals for levee locations were discussed. It was decided that landowners, HCCSD, and the Corps would meet to talk about the possible sites in more detail. It will continue to move forward under Section 205 and the Comp. Study Initial Project. It is moving forward slowly, but there is progress. Jerry Southam discussed a situation at the PID pumping plant similar to the one at the M&T/Llano Seco Pumping Plant, the river is moving away from the pumps. Permitting was noted as the main concern of the irrigation district. Burt suggested that the situation be brought to the Board to see if the SRCAs can coordinate work on this project.

Burt talked about the Landowners Assurances Committee, chaired by Ben Carter, which will be looking into the landowner impact issues, “safe harbor”, mitigation fund, “good neighbor policy”. Burt noted several other agencies are also recognizing the importance of these issues and are looking at them as well. Denny Bungarz is chairing a committee that will be looking at the Pilt/Economic Issues. In response to a question about the project review process, work is being done to clarify how any type of project or proposal works through the TAC or Board.

Handbook Amendments

Discussion was opened on the proposed amendments. The amendments were reviewed again before a determination was made concerning recommendations to the Board. There were changes suggested by Tom Evans, Shirley Lewis, John Merz, Les Heringer, and a letter with proposed changes that had also been received from Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District. The Committee discussed each of the suggestions and **there was consensus that the language as proposed, for the Inner River Zone guidelines in Reach 1, 3 & 4, “Hard Points”, and Impacts of Bank Stabilization on Riparian Habitat, move forward to the Board as recommended Handbook amendments.** The TAC felt that the proposed language on the Ag Conservation Area needed more discussion. The Committee also agreed that the suggestions and concerns noted today (Attachment A) should be forwarded to the Board. Les Heringer stated he and PCGID had sent suggested changes to the language in Reach 3. Their suggestions had been included in the language presented today but Les did not feel the wording adequately expressed his concerns. He will re-work it and forward it to the SRCA staff for inclusion in the attachment. A representative from PCGID indicated he would discuss the wording with other members of the District and also forward changes if necessary.

Burt noted that the amendment process includes a referral of the proposed amendments to the TAC, Advisory Council and MOA signatories before the Board adopts changes to the Handbook.