

## **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes – September 19, 2001**

Chairman Dan Keppen opened the meeting, followed by self-introductions.

### **➤ Announcements and Public Comments**

It was pointed out that the due date for CALFED proposals had been extended to October 5<sup>th</sup>. John Merz, SRPT, noted the 2001 Fall Speaker Series at the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park October 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> sponsored by California State Parks and the Sacramento River Preservation Trust. He also mentioned the float trip in the Jellys-Ferry area on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Friends of the River from 9:00 a.m. to mid-afternoon; also, the Salmon Festival at Battle Creek on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Becky Miller, DF&G, discussed the Regional Conservation Planning workshop. The workshop is co-sponsored by the Wildlife Society and will take place at the Hilton Arden West in Sacramento on Oct. 30-31. Joe Silveira, USF&WS, noted that the Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Planning update #2 is out.

### **➤ Activities Updates**

Les Heringer, M&T, gave a brief history of the gravel bar encroachment at the pumping plant and City of Chico outfall site. A study by Stillwater Science determined the short-term solution to be dredging the bar back to the 1995 line; this would involve moving approximately 100,000 yards. They are attempting to work through the permitting process now; they have contracted with HDR Engineering for an initial study on the environmental impacts with DF&G as the lead agency. Les noted they hope to start work in late October or early November. They are also applying to CALFED for funding for the dredging and development of a long-term solution.

Mike Reeves, Trust for Public Lands, discussed the Fenwood Ranch conservation easement partnered with the Shasta Land Trust. Once considered for a large development, the owner of the 2200-acre ranch has decided to retain ownership and keep the property in agricultural use. An option agreement has been signed and they hope to close before the end of the calendar year.

Scott Clemons, Wildlife Conservation Board, apprised the group of a recommendation they have received from DF&G to consider a grant to Sacramento River Partners for acquisition of the Pamma property. The WCB has not taken a position yet and are looking for input from the TAC. Dan Efseaff and Craig Lederer from SRP gave a brief description of the 250-acre property located at RM 172 south of Llano Seco. They are looking at removal of an existing almond orchard and replanting at a lower density, 6-10 stems per acre due to flood flow. Scott noted the WCB will make a decision by October 1<sup>st</sup> whether or not to place on the Board agenda.

Paul Ward, DF&G, noted that they will not sponsor a project that does not come before the SRCA. John Merz, SRPT, raised a question as to the project review process and just what the role of the TAC is; that projects brought to the Committee need to have more detail. Tom Evans, FWA, also suggested that additional technical information on projects is needed, handouts should be made available before discussion, and need a clear definition of what the expectations are of the Committee. Burt Bundy, SRCA Manager, and Dan both agreed there needs to be clarification on the role of the TAC and the Board in the project review process. Dan advised the group he would like to bring to the Board for discussion and clarification.

### **➤ Comprehensive Study/Starter Plan**

Annalena Bronson, DWR-Comprehensive Study, was introduced to discuss the Comprehensive Study/Starter Plan, the first in a process that is working towards the development of the preferred alternatives for the Master Plan. W. Craig Gaines, COE, and John Passerello, DWR, were also available for questions. The draft Starting Point Plan will be subject to public review beginning in October, 2001 and Annalena stressed the importance of everyone's involvement in providing input. A

question was raised about using hydraulic modeling that is available now to look at cumulative impacts, that it would be helpful to have that information available. John noted that through the Agency Project Coordination Team an attempt is being made to update the database so they can try to measure the impacts of each project. A meeting announced for October 1<sup>st</sup> in Chico will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> at the Chico Area Recreation District (545 Vallambrosa Ave) from 6-9 pm and will cover the entire river.

A more specific meeting on the lower reaches will be held October 26<sup>th</sup>, Sacramento, COE, (Rm 814), from 1-4 pm.

A meeting on the upper reaches will be held on November 1<sup>st</sup> at the Red Bluff Library, Red Bluff, from 1-4 pm.

➤ **CALFED Proposal Presentations**

Greg Golet from The Nature Conservancy provided an update on one of the six proposals that had been presented at the previous TAC meeting; they no longer plan to apply to CALFED for the acquisition in Tehama County. The other proposals include a management plan for the Princeton – Colusa area, a restoration proposal, a research and monitoring proposal, and a proposal identifying water needs.

Joe Silveira, F&WS, discussed two CALFED proposals being prepared by Sacramento River Partners. One is a Feasibility Study for restoration on 450 acres of a 950-acre site. The study will also look at the needs of the PGCID pumping station and a scientific monitoring program to assess restoration program. The second involves a 135-acre restoration on the “Stone Unit” on east bank of the river across from the Princeton Ferry. They will use hydraulic modeling to see what the best type of restoration will be. Joe noted it will be an open process.

➤ **Manager’s Report**

Burt Bundy updated the Committee on Hamilton City. There seems to be support and funding for the dual role process of a section 205 feasibility study and a Comp Study Initial Project. There is \$600,000.00 in the federal 2001 budget. Woodson Bridge is not getting the same support, still trying to determine the best process for this project. Burt also mentioned that the work being done by DWR to remove the build-up of silt in the Sutter by-pass to improve the refuge capacity is close to being completed.

The Advisory Council meeting was held on September 17<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento where the Annual Report was presented and discussion held on the proposed Handbook amendments; there were no changes suggested to the amendments. Stacy Cepello, DWR, provided the Council with a preview of the changes that will be required to the Handbook to reflect the amendment language. Paul Ward and Harry Rectenwald also updated the group on the Upper Sacramento River Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Management Plan and the status of recommended solutions on many of the action items.

Burt asked that information on site-specific projects be forwarded to the SRCA staff for inclusion in the Manger’s Report.

- **The next TAC** meeting will be on Wednesday, October 17, Willows City Hall, 9:30 a.m.