

**Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes – December 3, 2002**

**Chair ~ Anjanette Martin**

**Vice Chair ~ Stacy Cepello**

- The Chair opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. and introduced Mike Roberts from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with an update on their outstanding directed action proposal (#167). The revised proposal, “Implementing a Collaborative Approach to Quantifying Ecosystem Flow Regime Needs for the Sacramento River”, was re-submitted to CALFED on November 12<sup>th</sup> and is currently on the CALFED website for comment. The revisions to the proposal included a restructuring of the workshops, clarification on what the framework will be for all of the information, coordination with existing processes, i.e. North of Delta Offstream Storage Investigations, and an increase in the field studies to seven.

Ryan Luster, TNC, followed with an update on proposal #171, “Sacramento River Restoration: Chico Landing Sub-Reach”, re-submitted November 14<sup>th</sup>. The original proposal to CALFED involved 1,218 acres but approximately 161 acres will now be restored through funding from the Bureau of Reclamation. There were science questions involving the restoration techniques that CALFED had asked them to address. A question was asked about possible drainage problems and it was noted that determination of what will be planted on the properties would be based on previously funded hydraulic modeling of the Chico Landing Sub-reach. A question about the possibility of restoring natural swales was also raised.

Mary Keller, Sutter County Public Works, discussed approval of a \$960,000 grant from the Department of Boating and Waterways to construct the Tisdale Boat Launching Facility on the Sacramento River. The proposed site is a waterside berm within the levee system of the Sacramento River and the Tisdale Bypass and will replace the existing facility located ½ mile upstream. The project entails constructing a two-lane boat launching ramp, parking area, and slope protection.

The Reclamation Board will meet on December 20<sup>th</sup>, P Street. Included on the agenda are reports on the Floodplain Task Force and the Comprehensive Study Interim Report.

Carol Wright, Sacramento River Partners, reported that the walnut orchard has been taken out on the Del Rio property; the management plan is available on their website, [www.riverpartners.org](http://www.riverpartners.org). She also noted that planting is currently underway on the Pine Creek Unit. They have received funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board for the Beard property acquisition; that property is now in escrow.

Bonnie Ross, Department of Water Resources/Flood Protection Corridor Program, reported on their proposal solicitation cycle. They recently held pre-submittal workshops in Red Bluff and Sacramento and will hold one in Los Angeles on Wednesday, December 4.

- **Incidental Take Authorization** ~ Presentation by Chris Beale and Renee Hawkins, CALFED, prepared in conjunction with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS). The Landowner Assurances Committee (LAC), in its efforts to develop the Good Neighbor Policy, had requested background information on options and programs available to authorize incidental take under existing state and federal

laws. The presentation was heard at the November 6<sup>th</sup> LAC meeting and the Committee suggested that the presentation come to the TAC for informational purposes and additional input. The following is a brief summary of the options and programs that were discussed; for more detailed information, a printout of the 2-hour PowerPoint presentation is available.

The voluntary options and programs available to authorize incidental take under state law include:

- Accidental Take
- Voluntary Local Programs (VLP)
- Incidental Take Permit
- Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP)

The take authorization under federal law and regulation includes:

- Incidental Take Statement
- Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) & Incidental Take Permit
- Safe Harbor Agreements

Additional information on “no surprises” and other USF&WS policy issues is available on their website, [sacramento.fws.gov](http://sacramento.fws.gov).

The potential approaches, whether regional HCP/NCCP, VLP, Section 7, Safe Harbor Agreements, or individual case-by-case projects, all depend on coordinating state and federal programs.

The next step will involve more in-depth discussion at the LAC of the different programs to determine what option, combination of options, or hybrid of options, the group is most interested in, then looking at the process involved in more detail. The TAC agreed that each of the options presented today needed to be “fleshed out” and more information was needed on the actual implementation process. A question was raised about the organizational role of the Forum in this process; how much responsibility the SRCAF wants to assume needs to be clarified.

- **Manager’s Report** – Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, reported that construction of the “backup” to the upper end of the “J” levee in Hamilton City has been completed.

The annual meeting of the SRCAF Advisory Council was held on November 19<sup>th</sup> in Chico. Tim Ramirez, The Resources Agency, discussed the new state law that will go into effect on January 1 that will impact the current CALFED structure.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m., Willows City Hall.