

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting - February 21, 2002

Chair Anjanette Martin opened the meeting with self-introductions. This was followed by a brief overview of the discussion that had taken place at the February 14th TAC meeting regarding the issues and potential impacts related to removing the SRCA boundary. The Committee reviewed a 2/21/02 paper prepared by Vice Chair Stacy Cepello that discussed two documents, the SRCA Background and "With/Without Outer River Area" which have been developed and discussed at the TAC; it also summarized the TAC discussion on two critical issues and possible ways to address them. The two consequential items to removing the boundary were Board representation and project oversight. The Chair asked for comments and/or suggestions. Burt Bundy, SRCA Manager, clarified the two alternatives being considered by the Board (1) to eliminate the current boundary or (2) to leave the outer boundary and further define the purpose of the Outer River Area. The draft "Comparison of SRCA - With and Without Outer River Area" will go forward to the Board as a working document, subject to differing opinions, but noting the concerns and issues raised by the TAC. Family Water Alliance will also present their responses to that document to the Board for consideration.

- **Alternative I** – Remove the outer boundary and consider the potential impacts: In regards to the project oversight and Board eligibility issues, one suggestion from the TAC was to adopt a variation of the FEMA 100-year floodplain in Reaches 1 & 2 and eliminate the area outside the project levees in Reach 3 & 4. This would also help clarify the language “near the river”. It was noted that the IRZ in Reaches 1 & 2 is the 100-year meanderbelt, not the floodplain. It was suggested that there is a need to correct the idea that the SRCA has some kind of jurisdiction when it does not; it is a place for input. Also noted was the concern of some stakeholders that although there was support for restoration in the Inner River Zone, there is not for a broader area; they want the SRCA to support only those projects within the Inner River Zone. There was consensus that the 2/21/02 document go forward to the Board, not as a recommendation, but as an informational piece. A memo from Henry Rodegerdts that addresses the possible impacts on eligibility requirements for NPO landowner directors if the boundary is removed will go forward to the Board also.

- **Alternative II** – Leave the boundary as is and further define the Outer River Area. The Committee reviewed a draft definition of the area between the outer edge of the IRZ and the outer boundary of the Conservation Area. Discussion followed with some suggested changes to the language noted. There was a concern that the “Ag Conservation Area” draft language insinuates that the SRCA would have something to do with existing land uses in this area; it was noted that the SRCA does not have oversight over the land, but the definition is trying to deal with the perception that the entire area is targeted for habitat restoration. Further discussion on this issue will hinge on the action taken by the Board.

A question was raised about what federal/state agencies can do on land they buy that affects adjoining landowners; it was noted that existing state and federal laws cover that, not the SRCA.

- **SRCA Background draft** - This will be a product of the TAC that gives a more accurate understanding of the historical background of the Program. The document will be revised to reflect the changes that were suggested during the discussion.

ACTIVITIES UPDATES

F&WS Wildlife Refuge -Joe Silveira announced that the Environmental Assessment has been finalized and noted that copies are available at the Refuge.

TNC - Mike Roberts informed the Committee they are in the process of developing a scope of work and have contracted with EDAW to do a study on public access. The SRCA will help to facilitate meetings for public input and to help in developing plans. Dawit Zeleke has started a series of stakeholders meetings to look at landowner concerns. Three primary concerns raised at the first meeting were flooding, erosion, and endangered species; they are trying to pinpoint specific examples of where these issues are occurring. The next meeting will be on February 27th in Williams. They have finalized the hydraulic modeling for Hamilton City that looks at restoration strategies in that area; they will make a presentation to the TAC at a future date.

No date has been set yet for the Hamilton City meeting on the J levee

Sacramento River Partners - Carol Wright discussed the Pamma Property. Once escrow closes, they will ask the SRCA to help coordinate meetings to discuss public access issues. Carol also noted they will be planting Moulton Weir and Howard Slough in March. The SRCA will help facilitate public informational meetings.

DF&G - Paul Ward, announced they are broadening their planning effort on lands they currently own, to look at all acres within SRCA, and bring to a standard compatible with this process; they hope to have in place within the next couple of months. He also announced a meeting will be held in Chico to try to clear up some misperceptions about DF&G lands and public access.

WCB - Scott Clemons announced the Pine Creek Property would be considered on their February 27th agenda. This involves restoration on 230 acres of state property 2 miles downstream from Hamilton City at the end of the J Levee. He informed the group there are no proposed acquisitions right now.

A question was raised about the removal of orchards prior to restoration and what happens to the existing animal population. Scott noted they try to avoid removing all of the trees but to focus initially on those that are diseased and/or dying.

DWR is working on mapping showing public access. It was noted it is an extremely difficult task, in part because of the different methods of tracking, but it is in process.

COE/Comprehensive Study- Annalena Bronson, Reclamation Board, updated the group on the Study – The starting point plan was not well received and there has been a change in direction. They are currently working on a draft of guiding principles that would include, among other things, no third party hydraulic impact (avoid or mitigate), and simplified management. There will be another series of public meetings to discuss the new direction.

CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program - Marie Sullivan, USF&WS, announced the draft recommendations would be out by mid-April followed by public workshops, with final funding decisions by the end of May; the Watershed Program is just starting. Marie introduced John Thomson as her replacement at the TAC.

Manager's Report - Burt Bundy noted a written report is also available. There was discussion on the draft Project Review form, a sample form indicating the data that would be requested on each project for conformity of information. A concern was expressed about the possible impact to staffing and funding as a result of work necessary to supply the information. A suggestion was made to change the title, possibly Fact Sheet?

ANNOUNCEMENTS -

Governor Gray Davis signed legislation, **AB1414**, to coordinate government land acquisitions for the DFG and DPR; specifically, the DFG will now be required to prepare management plans for all lands that it acquires within 18 months.

NCWA – 10th Annual Meeting February 28th, 2002 Peach Tree County Club, Marysville, Ca., 2:00 p.m.

Bennett Raley, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, will be the keynote speaker.

NCWA/SVLA/Central Valley Project Water Association will present a panel discussion on federal water allocations in the Klamath Irrigation Project and Central Valley Project arenas. Date: March 6, 2002 Heidrick Ag History Museum, Woodland, 10:00 a.m. and CSU, Chico Memorial Farm, 6:00 p.m.

The next TAC meeting will be on March 21st, 2002, 9:00 a.m. at the Willows City Hall, Willows.