

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes – June 20, 2002

Chair-Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair-Stacy Cepello

In Anjanette's absence, Stacy Cepello opened the meeting followed by self-introductions.

Activities Updates – Kelly Moroney, USF&WS, informed the Committee they had been approached by Tehama County to look at alternatives to help with the flooding issue on South Avenue. Historic swales at the site have been cut off and they have received bids for a feasibility study to look at possibly restoring the swales. They will choose a consultant by the end of the month and will meet with neighboring landowners to discuss the potential project.

Stacy reported on Woodson Bridge and a June 13th field trip to view the erosion sites and the rocked area on the state property. Tehama County has requested a Section 1135 Study of the area for both removal of the rock revetment at the COE site and placement of rock to protect the bridge. This also ties in with the efforts to replace the natural swales below South Ave that Kelly had discussed.

Carol Wright, Sacramento River Partners, gave an overview of a project that investigates restoration alternatives on 500 acres of the Riparian Sanctuary, Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge. They will work closely with Princeton-Codora-Glenn and Provident Irrigation Districts (PCGID-PID) as degradation of rock revetment on the northern boundary of the property may threaten their new fish screen and pumping plant. The project was discussed at the TAC several months ago but many changes were made to the initial proposal since that time. Initially, this was not recommended for funding; however, they re-submitted the proposal with comments prior to the May 10 deadline. It has now been recommended for Prop 204 monies in the amount of \$289,784. A suggestion was made that the project contacts should also include a name from PCGID-PID. Stacy noted that a suggestion had been made at the last Board meeting to invite a representative from CALFED discuss the funding process.

John Thomson informed the group that one of the directed action proposals by TNC involving riparian habitat restoration on 1218 acres between River miles 178-206 (Chico Landing Sub-Reach) has received a commitment of a small portion, approximately \$257,000, from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Report on Geomorphic Investigations along the Sacramento River at the mouth of Battle Creek – Bruce Ross, Department of Water Resources, reported on the study to determine baseline conditions from River Mile 266 to River Mile 284. The approximately \$160,000 funding for the study is part of a grant that came out of negotiations started two years ago between Trust for Public Lands (TPL), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Gover Ranch. The study is looking at hydrology, flow duration, peak flood flow frequency, gravel size comparisons, and stream meander and will help BLM in their land management plans on property along the river.

Discussion on CALFED proposals recommended for "Directed Action"- Les Heringer, M&T, did not have anything new to report, they are still furnishing information to CALFED. Lewis Bair, RD108, indicated the same on their consolidated pumping facility and fish screen proposal, he did report that their sediment removal project would not go forward.

Discussion of possible designation of a Sacramento River National Conservation Area in Tehama and Shasta Counties- Kelly Williams, BLM, discussed restoration efforts in the Jelly Ferry Bridge area acquired through a land exchange; 25 acres have been restored and 145 acres were sold to Shasta College; the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R. &P.P.) allows for the sale of public land to, i.e., an educational institutional for a nominal fee. He also discussed the conservation easement on the Gover Ranch. Because of historic river channels and a potential for a claim by State Lands Commission, they are not seeking a conservation easement on the entire ranch. When completed, the conservation easement will be half and half, riparian and agricultural. They are waiting for the report from DWR and completion of phase II before they begin any management planning.

Kelly discussed the “Boxer Bill”, #2535, which includes several items; one item is the potential designation of 17,000 acres in Tehama and Shasta Counties as a National Conservation Area. The area was identified by BLM in 1993 as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Designation as a conservation area would mean it would be a congressionally designated unit with a line item in the budget; the additional funding would improve their management capabilities. Kelly did not foresee any changes in the public use as a result of the designation. Passage of the bill would require that a management plan be developed within 3 years and public involvement would be extremely important. He commented that this is not a BLM initiative.

It was reported that Representative Thompson introduced a bill in the House this week that is very similar to the Boxer Bill.

Kelly also discussed the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) made up of volunteers from a wide range of interests and backgrounds that meets formally 3-4 times a year and is involved in the “big picture” planning of the district.

The written copy of the Manager’s Report was made available. The group was reminded of the Hamilton City Levee Festival on June 23rd sponsored by the Hamilton City Community Services District.

A presentation of the Draft Findings for the Socioeconomic Assessment conducted by Jones and Stokes for TNC will follow the TAC meeting at 1:00. A draft report will be prepared for review after today’s discussion and input.

The next meeting will be on July 18th, 9:30 a.m., Willows City Hall.