

Chair Anjanette Martin opened the meeting with self-introductions. There were no announcements or public comments.

Activities Updates –

Jonathan Oldham, Caltrans, reported on the Toomes Creek Riparian Mitigation Site in Tehama County. As a result of several upcoming bridge replacements, the Department of Transportation has purchased a mitigation site on Toomes Creek at Highway 99 in an effort to meet mitigation requirements. Most of the property consists of a prune orchard, however, there are approximately 27 acres available for riparian habitat restoration and preservation. The long-term goal is to sell the orchard and maintain the 27 acres as a Department mitigation bank.

Marlyce Myers, TNC, announced the initial results of the Jones and Stokes Socio-Economic report will be discussed on June 20th 1:00 p.m., at the Willows City Hall following the TAC meeting.

Dawit Zeleke, TNC, discussed the status of the Great Valley Legaci grant they had received to look at good neighbor policy issues specific to TNC properties and the adjacent landowners. Since the first two meetings they have been meeting with individual farmers to address specific issues. Of particular concern have been gates, access issues related to properties, and problems dealing with controlling the squirrel population. FWA offered to facilitate a meeting with farmers in the Colusa area, Dawit expressed a willingness to do that. It was pointed out that the Colusa Sub-Reach Proposal will be also be addressing some of the concerns in that area. Information gathered through the meetings will be available on the TNC website which is still in the process of being developed.

Les Heringer, M&T/Llano Seco, agreed that signs marking private and public property are extremely important and pointed to some of the problems they have because of property next to their ranch that is publicly owned.

Carol Wright, Sacramento River Partners, announced they have a new website, riverpartners.org, with links to all of their projects. They have also received a Great Valley Legaci grant to look at access issues for lands purchased with public funds.

Manager's Report –

- Hamilton City - Burt Bundy, SRCA Manager, informed the Committee that the Glenn County Board of Supervisors and HCCSD will be considering a request to the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) to study a multiple objective project for Hamilton City under the Initial Project section of the Comprehensive Study. It is believed this would be faster than the current 205 study and would likely improve the cost/benefit ratio.
- Woodson Bridge – Discussion has opened up again to explore the possibility of asking for the COE to engage in a study to address the erosion problem at the Bridge. Included in the discussion is the possibility of replacing the natural swales below South Ave through a collaboration between TNC and USF&WS. The SRCAF will facilitate a workgroup meeting when more information is available.

CALFED Proposal Review - Projects Recommended for Funding As Is/ or In Part

- Sutter Mutual Water Company – RM 118.5/Sutter County/Start 2001-Complete 2005/Fund In Part

Presenter: Rich Jenness, Consultant, Laugenour and Meikle

Type of Activity: Design and construction of a positive barrier fish screen at the Tisdale Sacramento River Location. Possible alternatives include (1) Replacing the existing Tisdale Pumping Plant with a new pumping plan equipped with a positive barrier fish screen and (2) Retrofit the existing Tisdale Pumping Plant with a positive barrier fish screen.

Primary Goal: Provide a screened irrigation pump station diversion for the Water Company
Will coordinate activity with the Comprehensive Study.

- Colusa Sub-Reach Study – TNC - RM 144-164/Colusa County/Start 2003 – Complete 2006/Fund As Is

Presenter: Dawit Zeleke

Type of Activity: Planning

Primary Goal: Plan protection and restoration activities in the Colusa Sub-Reach with stakeholders. Develop design alternatives and build support among stakeholders and agencies for identified implementation projects within the project area that would demonstrate a balance among the various uses of the river.

TNC and the SRCAF will collaborate on sub-reach planning for the Colusa Sub-Reach to insure stakeholder involvement in an effort to get input at the beginning, before anything happens. First step will be to set up a stakeholder committee to determine what direction they will take.

- Meridian Farms Water Company – Positive Barrier Fish Screen Project

Type of Activity: MFWC is applying for funds to complete the engineering final design, conduct final environmental analysis and secure necessary permits for the fish screen project.

Proposal was not presented at today's TAC but project information had previously been emailed to TAC/Board members for review.

Discussion on those Projects Considered As Directed Action

- Reclamation District No. 108 Consolidated Pumping Facility and Fish Screen – Colusa, Yolo Counties.

Lewis Bair reported they have sent comments back to CALFED and asked for clarification on some of the questions. (Comments were also sent on their Sediment Removal Project which was initially not recommended for funding.)

- Sacramento River Restoration: Chico Landing Sub-Reach – TNC – RM 178-206/Butte, Glenn Counties/1200 acres (Sunset Ranch, RX Ranch, Capay, Dead Man's Ranch)/Start 2003 – complete 2006

Type of Activity: Restore 1218 acres of riparian habitat between RM 178-206

- Restoration of the Confluence of the Sacramento River, Big Chico and Mud Creeks – TNC - RM 193-194/Butte County/ 271 acres/Start upon funding-complete 3 years.

Type of Activity: Land acquisition and restoration planning

Primary Goal: Acquire approx. 271 (40 have been acquired) acres of flood-prone ecologically significant land, of which a portion is located within the SRCA/IRZ for addition to the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park. Complete baseline assessments and draft restoration and management plans.

Implementing a Collaborative Approach to Quantifying Ecosystem Flow Regime Needs for the Sacramento River- TNC – RM 144-243/Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Colusa Counties/Start upon funding-complete 3 years after.

Type of Activity: Data compilation and directed field studies

Primary Goal: Develop ecological information that can inform other processes, which are evaluating large-scale water management issues.

In discussion it was noted that Integrated Storage Investigation (ISI) is looking at many of the same issues and there was a question of how much overlap there was between this project and that investigation. Anjanette commented that because of some of the overlap, every attempt to combine efforts should be made.

Carol Wright, Sacramento River Partners, noted there were some inaccuracies in the comments from CALFED which pointed out the need for the SRCAF to be more involved in the next round. Stacy pointed out that is the vision of project tracking so more information on the projects will be known before going to CALFED.

A letter went out from the Board to CALFED about the lack of time for proposal review; it indicated there had been limited review by the May 10 deadline. After today's review there will be a public comment period at the SRCAF Board meeting and then a follow-up letter will probably go out. It was determined that the TAC should make comments to the Board that those projects recommended for funding were reviewed at today's meeting and do meet the guidelines of the Handbook. The TAC will continue discussion on those "Considered As Directed Action" and make recommendations at a later date. John Merz suggested it would be helpful to have a 1- page staff report relative to each of the proposals that have been reviewed that indicates whether or not a project meets the guidelines. This report could be used to inform the Board of the TAC's review of each proposal and its consistency with the principles and guidelines.

Update on New Website - Stacy updated the group on the website that is being developed to provide both project tracking and public access information. He noted that one of the most difficult tasks is determining what is public land. Many agencies are in the planning process so it is difficult to know how it will change in the future. He also described the "other link" that is currently available on the SRCAF website which allows an alternative method of accessing the CALFED PSPs. Shirley Lewis commented on a potential problem with private residences on public land related to trespass/hunting issues. Kelly Maroney, SRNWR, reported that they are trying to address that by providing safety zones.

Next Meeting – June 20th, 9:30 a.m., Willows City Hall, Willows