

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes – June 3, 2003

Chair ~ Anjanette Martin

Vice-Chair ~ Stacy Cepello

Chair Anjanette Martin opened the meeting followed by self-introductions, announcements, and public comments.

- The Chair noted that discussion on a draft letter to Patrick Wright, CalFed, originally slated for today's TAC meeting, would instead be reviewed and discussed at the Landowner Assurances Committee (LAC) on June 12th.
- Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, announced the upcoming Board meeting on June 19th will be held at the Ord Bend Park. The meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. with a barbeque to follow; he asked the members to let staff know whether or not they would be attending.
- John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, announced the Spring-run Working Group will meet on June 10th, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife (USFWS) office in Red Bluff. Discussion will be on the recovery planning process.

Activity Reports

- Bonnie Ross, Department of Water Resources (DWR), announced they have just gone through the Flood Protection Corridor Program solicitation cycle. The Proposition 13 funds provide grants to local public agencies and nonprofit organizations. Forty-five projects were submitted; a decision will be made on which projects will receive funding by the end of June. Earl Nelson, DWR, discussed one of their main objectives, which is to acquire property rights to lands within the floodplain. He noted that those projects within the inner river zone (IRZ) would be brought before the TAC and Board.
- CalFed Ecosystem Restoration Program Proposal Solicitation Packages will be out in the fall and would be directed at "next phase" projects. Another round will follow in 3-4 months and will concentrate on specific issues such as fish passage.
- Kelly Moroney, USFWS, announced they had received funding for wildfire reduction and have four projects planned in Tehama, Glenn, and Butte Counties. The projects include prescribed burns, fire breaks, and manual fuel reduction. Burt praised the USFWS for their efforts in this area. Kelly noted they are also trying to secure funding to abandon 18 wells in various counties; they had previously abandoned 19 wells on the Rio Vista Unit with an average cost of \$4,500.00 per well. The draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Refuge is being developed and should be out to the public in September. Kelly will report back to the TAC and Board on the plan.
- John Thomson, USFWS, announced the Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP) would be sending out solicitations for restoration proposals in August or September. Total funding available is approximately \$4 million; contact John for more information or to be added to their mailing list.
- The attendance list for the each TAC meeting will be included with the TAC notes. The Chair suggested suppressing the distribution list so that when an email to the group goes out all of the names aren't shown.
- Stacy gave a brief update on the status of the website being developed with Chico State. The contract ends at the end of June and the website will be up and running, but he noted it will remain a work in progress for 6 months to a year. The website will contain three areas: (1) An extended glossary and information section on the river and public access (this is currently being reviewed) (2) Maps showing public lands, whether there is access or not,

using information from the Public Use and Recreation Study recently completed by EDAW and (3) Sacramento River GIS

Current Projects Updates:

- *Del Rio Project* – update by Dan Efsseff, Sacramento River Partners (SRP). SRP held a series of meetings to look at appropriate uses of the 237-acre site in Glenn County. A pamphlet was distributed showing the location of the property and a timeline of proposed activities that include restoration and public use. Adjoining neighbors of the property: Sacramento River Refuge, a duck club, an easement owned by TNC, and a private landowner. Funding came from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and Great Valley Center. A concern raised was the potential of people bringing in trailers and staying long-term. SRP has considered the possibility of an on-site manager, depending on the activity level. Scott Clemons, WCB, commented on the public use concept in this project and noted WCB has funding available for public access projects.
- *Pine Creek Restoration Project Sacramento River Wildlife Area (SRWA)* – update by Dan Efsseff, SRP. Site consists of approximately 235 acres and was purchased by the Department of Fish & Game (DFG) in the early 90's. Funding for the project came from WCB with a \$52,000.00 contribution from SRP. They are waiting for Reclamation Board approval on elderberry planting; both FWS and the Reclamation Board recognize the need to work out an agreement on the elderberry planting issue. Some TAC members expressed concerns regarding the hydraulic impacts of the project. A hydraulic evaluation has been done by MBK and the project was determined to be flood neutral, a Reclamation Board permit has been secured and, as a public document, is available for review. The property was also a part of the Hamilton City sub-reach study by TNC.

For further questions, contact information was available on both projects. Jeff Sutton, Family Water Alliance, noted an overall concern about the cumulative impact to flood control of all projects.

Update on Electronic Project Fact Sheet – John Lance, DWR, presented an electronic version of the Project Fact Sheet that will be available on the website being developed with Chico State. Eventually, information on past projects will also be entered to facilitate project tracking. Although difficult to make changes to the electronic format, it was recognized that adjustments will need to be made and that the form will continue to evolve. One question raised, citing Environmental Justice concerns, was whether or not the project proponent's email address could be required information.

Manager's Report – Burt Bundy

- *Colusa Sub-reach Plan* – a steering committee consisting of representatives from DFG, and Colusa and Glenn counties will help TNC and the SRCAF develop the final agreement with CalFed and the contract with SRCAF regarding services to be provided. They hope to have the agreement in place by October or November. An Advisory Committee will be established by the Board to look at the issues within the 20-mile reach between Colusa and Princeton; Greg Werner from TNC will be the Project Director. Greg has been in touch with stakeholders in Colusa including an active recreation group regarding participation on the committee. Anyone interested should contact Greg Werner or Burt Bundy.

- *Woodson Bridge* - Several project meetings have taken place; the feasibility study is up and going . Public meetings will be scheduled when more information is available.

Next Meeting - There will not be a July TAC meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for August 5th at the Willows City Hall.