

## Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes – March 4, 2003

Chair – Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair ~ Stacy Cepello

The Chair opened the meeting with self-introductions followed by announcements, comments, and activities updates:

Bonnie Ross, Department of Water Resources (DWR)/Department of Flood Management, updated the group on their grant solicitation program. They received 43 grant applications with a total funding request for \$145 million. The distribution throughout the State was fairly equivalent to population distribution. The Sutter County requests totaled 2.5 million and the other counties requested approximately \$10 million. A selection committee, including team members from Red Bluff, will review the proposals. DWR staff is working on project summaries to upload to the website; the site will be available for public access in approximately 2 months. CALFED will get the reviews back by May 1, projects that are funded need to have an agreement in place by the end of August.

Bonnie also updated the group on the Feeney-Lerch property. An appraisal has been completed by DWR and they are close to making an offer.

Stacy reported that the Corps of Engineers (COE) has initiated a Section 1135 study of the Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough Project in the amount of \$500,000. The Project has a \$5 Million cap and will include 3 components: (1) modifying existing rock (2) restoration and (3) protection at the bridge abutments. Tehama County, with SRCAF support, has requested this project for some time. A group including DWR, State Parks, Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS), Tehama County, the City of Corning, and other stakeholders will be convened; As soon as the COE team is established, Stacy will ask a COE representative to come to the TAC to discuss the project.

Greg Werner, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), discussed the status of the Department of Fish & Game (DFG) Management Plan for the Sacramento River Wildlife Area. Two meetings are scheduled for public input, the first meeting is set for April 1, 7:00 p.m., at the Chico Family Masonic Center and the second on April 3, 7:00 p.m., at the Colusa Industrial Park. Greg will send information on the meetings to the SRCAF staff to distribute to the TAC members. A presentation will be made to the SRCAF Board at the March 20 Board meeting in Willows.

Kelly Moroney, F&WS, discussed the feasibility study being done at South Avenue in Tehama County. A meeting was held with TNC, representatives from Tehama County, and other stakeholders to discuss some alternatives identified in the study to reduce flooding on South Avenue. They are currently pursuing more information on one of the alternatives.

It was noted that CALTRANS needed to be more involved in discussions at the TAC because of their link to several of the projects. The TAC suggested that the SRCAF Board encourage CALTRANS to be a more active participant in the process.

Anjanette and Stacy both reported on the Sites Reservoir Project and noted that 1.5 million has been approved for the study; ~~the~~ preliminary environmental documentation is slated to be out by late 2004 while the final EIR is slated for completion by 2005.

\* Changes made to the notes 3/13/03

Tricia Bratcher, DFG, discussed the information gathering that is occurring in regard to the possible enlargement of Shasta Dam. The Forest Service is currently gathering fishery information. Impacts downstream have not yet been addressed. When more information is made available, a report will be made to the TAC.

Scott Clemons, Wildlife Conservation Board, reported that the Turtle Bay Exploration Project was approved for funding. The project includes restoration and enhancement of 340 acres on the Sacramento River and wetlands restoration through a partnership with the COE.

Public Use and Recreation Study - Greg Werner, TNC, was introduced to discuss the study conducted by EDAW in a 100-mile-long, four-county area located between Red Bluff and Colusa. The intent of the study was to identify and characterize existing public access opportunities and needs, and to make recommendations for future access opportunities. Greg explained the process and components of the study and pointed out some of the key issues that were identified. Some of the key recommendations that came out of the study included:

- (1) establishing the "Pine Creek Preserve", one of the five "focus sites," that might include a nature visitor center and river research center,
- (2) developing and distributing maps brochures, and guide books with information on public access,
- (3) establishing a river signage program,
- (4) developing a boat trail system and consider establishing a boat coordinator position,
- (5) evaluate the need for new and renovated boat facilities,
- (6) establishing a management coordination committee, including coordination with law enforcement

Several of the recommendations in the study included involvement by the SRCAF and a question raised by Greg concerned what the role of the SRCAF would be, whether leading, coordinating, or supporting. Following the presentations some questions and concerns were raised concerning (1) problems of water safety on the river such as impacts to emergency services on the river when boat ramps aren't accessible, (2) impacts to counties that may occur because of the local cost share involved for new or renovated boat facilities and the maintenance, (3) the need for signage to clearly indicate where users have access and where they do not (4) how to determine what is adequate signage, and (4) how to handle parcels that have no road access. Greg indicated when the mapping is available on the website they will try to make it as clear as possible where the public can gain access. He also noted that some additional information regarding the signage issue might come out of the management plans currently being developed by DF&G and F&WS. Following the discussion, the members agreed that the TAC would recommend to the Board that a Public Use & Recreation" sub-committee, made up of both TAC and Board members, be established to prioritize the issues raised in the study.

Proposed Handbook Amendment –The Handbook Amendment Committee met on March 3 and agreed upon alternative language for sections 3 and 4 on page 6-12 of the Handbook. At the

TAC there was some discussion and clarification on why some of the sub-committee members felt it was important to include language that identifies the IRZ specifically as that defined in the 2002 amendments. Some additional changes were suggested and the following language will be recommended to the Board for acceptance:

Section 3 – *Any activities to restore physical or successional processes within the IRZ (as adopted in 2002 revision) shall be investigated from a flood management perspective and be consistent with the guiding principles.*

Section 4 – *Restoration throughout the IRZ (as adopted in 2002 revision) should be evaluated and coordinated with those areas contiguous to the IRZ with the objective ~~\*to establish~~ of establishing linkage to other existing blocks of riparian or valley oak woodland habitat as well as proximity to the main channel or sloughs and tributaries.*

\*change to the notes 3/20/03

Project Review Form – The Project Review Subcommittee met on February 20<sup>th</sup> and made several revisions to the fact sheet for review at the TAC; some additional changes were suggested:

- (1) Under Type of project/study – add planning.
- (2) Under Contacts/Landowner access permission required? Add Yes/No/Not Required
- (3) Under Technical information/Environmental documentation – add Cumulative impacts?
- (4) Under Activity information/Goals – Relationship to CALFED ~~ERP~~ or CVPIA goals

The new suggestions will be incorporated into the form and emailed to the group for review. Discussion will continue on the project fact sheet and process.

It was noted that project fact sheets are not being completed on many projects that are taking place along the river. It was also pointed out that some projects have been going on for a long time and some would have impacts on local taxes and economies, i.e., Sites Reservoir. It was suggested that informational presentations on some of these projects would be very useful, if not at the TAC, then possibly at separate workshops. Burt agreed to contact the parties to arrange if the TAC determines it wants more information on certain topics.

The Next meeting was set for April 1, 9:30 a.m., Willows City Hall.