

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes ~ November 4, 2003

Chair ~ Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair ~ Stacy Cepello

Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager opened the meeting with self-introductions followed by announcements and public comments.

Les Heringer, M&T, gave an update on the gravel bar situation at the M&T/Llano Seco pumping plant and City of Chico outfall. The study to look at the long-term solution has begun and should be completed by the middle of next year. The Steering Committee, made up of technical people from different disciplines, will tour the site and the gravel bar to begin developing a plan. The last dive performed indicated the intakes are still clear after the short-term fix completed two years ago.

Scott Clemons, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), announced their quarterly Board meeting will be held on November 18th in Sacramento. There are no restoration projects on the agenda, there is one item involving the transfer of the Shahi property from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to the State. Scott also mentioned recent information he had obtained that indicated there had been 3 Safe Harbor Agreements approved in the State of California and another one in process.

Woody Elliott, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), reported on the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park General Plan. There have been 2 public meetings and a third is scheduled for December, tentatively at the Bidwell Mansion in Chico. Woody will give an update to the TAC at the next meeting.

Paul Ward, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and Greg Werner, TNC, announced the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Sacramento River Wildlife Area is nearing completion and should be out to the public by the end of the month. A public meeting is set for December 1st in Chico and another on December 4th in Colusa. Greg is scheduled to give a powerpoint presentation to the SRCAF Board at the December 4th meeting and will also make a presentation to the TAC.

John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust (SRPT), noted there will be a meeting on November 18th, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the El Patio Restaurant in Hamilton City to continue discussion on a possible Interpretive Center.

Annalena Bronson, Department of Water Resources (DWR), and Dan Efseaff, River Partners, discussed a public hearing on La Barranca Restoration Project scheduled for November 10th at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Fisheries office conference room, 10950 Tyler Road, at 2:00 p.m.

Burt Bundy updated the members on the strategic planning process. A planning conference workshop was held on October 24th to further refine the draft plan. Suggestions and comments from that session have been incorporated and the revised draft will be reviewed again by the Board. A copy of the draft strategic direction from the plan and newsletter outlining the planning process will be mailed to all of the stakeholders on the SRCAF mailing list prior to the December 4th meeting. Carol Wright, SRPT, expressed concerns about the lack of environmental representation in the process and would like to have an opportunity to give additional input into the plan. A tentative date to finalize the plan is January but Stacy noted that may not occur until concerns have been addressed.

Working Landscapes has formed an ad hoc committee that is working on PILT issues. The group is open for participation, contact Burt Bundy if interested.

There will be a public workshop on November 12th, 7:00 p.m., at the Corning City Council Chambers for information and discussion on the status of the Corps of Engineers Section 1135 Ecosystem Restoration feasibility study of the area near Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough.

Current Projects/Updates – Gary Lemon, Department of Water Resources (DWR), gave an update on the Hamilton City Project. This is a multi-purpose project to reduce flood damages and restore the ecosystem along the Sacramento River; language is being developed to be added to the WRDA bill to also include a recreational component to increase recreational access and opportunities. Costs to conduct the study and implementation of the project will be shared between Federal, State, and local interests. Glenn County is the official local sponsor, the non-Federal sponsor has not been identified. The study has included hydrologic, hydraulic, geotechnical, and economic analyses. Several levee location alternatives were developed and evaluated and Alternate 6 was the tentatively selected plan. The draft feasibility report and environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) were scheduled for December, 2003 with a public meeting in January, and the final report to Congress in 2004 for consideration for congressional authorization.

New Projects or Proposal Review – Stacy Cepello introduced Jim Ham, DWR, to discuss the proposal/project tracking process. The electronic version of the project fact sheet will be available on the SRCAF website www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov as a database. After the proponent enters the project information, an email will be generated back to the user verifying receipt of the information and providing a password so changes can be made later. There will be a search function for help in locating projects, i.e., entering the river mile. It was suggested that there should be information on the report/final product, either a title of the report or study or a link. There might also be additional fields to indicate how the project fits into the context of the SRCAF's goals and objectives. There was some discussion on who would be using this form and whether it would be user-friendly for a non-technical person. The form should be online, possibly by the next TAC meeting.

Public Use/Recreation Website – Chuck Nelson, California State University, Chico, discussed the new public use and recreation website now on line at www.sacramentoriver.org. Stacy noted the Chico Geographic Center, as a third party, was approached to manage the data. The website includes public access site information, an inventory of public properties, Sacramento River atlas, gallery, educational articles, and an article addressing trespass issues. The article addresses the trespassing issue and advises parties to contact the owners regarding requirements, especially in regards to hunting. Stacy noted that the agency/ownership information on the site is the best that exists today. Chuck said they are looking at seeking funding for long-term maintenance of the website. Scott Clemons suggested there might be a possibility that the WCB would be interested because public access information is one of their fundamental issues.

Bank Mapping – Adam Henderson, DWR, discussed the project to map habitat on the River channel being done in conjunction with an interagency group. It was determined there was a need for a consistent data collection methodology to inventory basic infrastructure along the River. Variables depend on the flow of the river and the definition of “active channel”. The methodology does not account for all revetment, but provides a means of quantifying reveted banks in a consistent, repeatable manner, using a well documented procedure. Reach 1 is almost

completed, Reach 2 and 3 were completed in 2000, and the final report will be available at the end of the year. The information gathered is shared with the COE. DWR's information will be available; however, the COE's may not be because of security issues.

Manager's Report – Burt advised the group he would like to broaden the report and will be asking for information from the agencies to include in his report. There was a suggestion that information could be included that gave progress reports on projects; Burt noted an attempt is being made to establish a much needed monitoring process.

Next Meeting – Stacy is researching information on buffer zones and will report back to the group at the next meeting. Please contact Stacy with ideas or direction on available resources regarding buffer zones. The next meeting was set for Tuesday, January 6th in Willows at the Willows City Hall.