

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting ~ April 13, 2004

Chair ~ Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair ~ Stacy Cepello

Open/Introductions/Announcements -

The committee met at the Ord Bend Park for a brief meeting prior to a site visit to the Ord Bend Restoration Project and Don Anderson's property.

Bonnie Ross, Department of Water Resources (DWR), reported on the Feeny Lerch property located ½ mile south of Glenn. DWR has made a final offer on the property so they are waiting to for a response from the owner. Bonnie also announced she will be moving to the Division of Planning and Local Assistance and will be involved in fish passage which, hopefully, might allow her some involvement with the TAC in the future.

Stacy reported on a recent meeting regarding the Section 1135 Ecosystem Restoration Project at Woodson Bridge. Funding has been halted on the Corps of Engineers' Section 1135 projects until the next funding cycle. However, Annalena Bronson, DWR, recommended the project be presented to the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project, Interagency Working Group. The response at the meeting was very positive.

Kelly Moroney, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), announced a public workshop will be held on April 14th at the Red Bluff Community Center to discuss the La Barranca Restoration Project. The La Barranca Unit is 2 miles south of the Red Bluff Division Dam on the west bank of the Sacramento River.

Dan Efseaff, River Partners, in cooperation with the USFWS and Princeton, Cordora, Glenn, and Provident Irrigation Districts are hosting a public input meeting on April 28th, 3:00 p.m. at the Glenn Pheasant Hunting Center on the Riparian Sanctuary Feasibility Study.

Drumheller Slough Unit Restoration Project - This proposed project was discussed at the March TAC meeting and some questions had been raised about contact with neighboring landowners. Dan reported they had met with all of the adjacent landowners since the meeting to talk to them about the project and no issues or concerns had been noted. A suggestion was also made at the TAC that the Fact Sheet identify the source for the flood analysis information and change language in the Public Use section. The current language gave the impression the public use component had been ruled out. The project fact sheet has been revised to reflect those suggestions. The TAC has completed the review of the Drumheller Slough proposal and has found that it meets the Handbook guidelines.

Ord Bend Unit Restoration Project – The group moved to the Ord Bend Unit, a project initiated in 1998. The discussion was led by Kelly Moroney, USFWS, and Dan Efseaff and John Carlton from River Partners. This project for River Partners' first project and John reported the costs to be approximately \$6,500 per acre for the restoration over a 5 year period. The costs include a number of things including gravel for fire break, movement of plantings from original location due to drainage, and placement of a natural screen. Kelly noted they have hosted several field trips for students and the general public at the site and have also provided equipment and staff in a cooperative effort with the Levee District for maintenance of the levee.

A variety of land uses (residential, commercial, and agriculture) are adjacent to the site. This project serves as an example of how the proponents incorporated measures to build cooperation

and minimize impacts to the adjacent neighbors. Dan handed out a list of some of the issues that were raised by the landowners. Some of the measures that have been incorporated include a permanent fire break around the perimeter along the highway and adjacent to the landowners; a vegetative screen to serve as a noise buffer; elderberry no-planting zone along agricultural borders and levee; and installation of owl boxes for potential rodent damage. There was a question raised whether there were studies on natural recruitment versus active restoration; it was noted many factors come into play such as the type of soil and flood frequency.

Don Anderson's Property – The group moved from the Ord Bend site to Don Anderson's property to look at a number of topics, including a levee break and repair, road repair, trespass issues, and deer predation. Don discussed some of the problems he has encountered with the public accessing the river on his property to fish, or sometimes camp. He pointed out some of the natural re-vegetation that had taken place along a rocked bank. The bank was repaired twice after high flows broke through elevated portion of County Road 29, after back-to-back storms in 1995. Bob Johnson, Glenn County, discussed the work that was done to the county road following the flooding. In 1985/86 Glenn County and other agencies worked to relocate the road after the river had topped it and caused considerable damage to the orchards on the other side. The road is now reinforced and designed to allow overbank flows to spread out and slow down. There was some discussion on the public benefit weighed against the cost of the road repair.

Don discussed some of the problems he has had in his orchards from deer predation. In some areas the orchard is very close to riparian habitat and the trees closest seem to suffer more damage than the orchard separated by a greater distance. One measure Don has incorporated is the use of dogs in the orchard using an underground electronic fence and collar to train the dogs to stay inside the orchard. While he has had some success, it does not stop all of the deer from damaging the young trees.

John Carlon provided a letter from a landowner adjacent to Don's that commented on a project by River Partners that converted 2-1/2 acres of walnuts to riparian land. Their first experience with flooding following the conversion to riparian was that the riparian land seemed to be an effective way to protect his walnut orchard from erosion and damage from sediment and debris deposition.

Buffers - Stacy reported on the preliminary discussion related to buffers that is occurring within the TAC. There is general agreement that buffer issues addressed by the TAC need to be grounded in real world experience and that the committee should prioritize and focus on the most important ones. There is also a great deal of information and experience to be gained from those who have lived, farmed, and restored and managed habitat along the river. It is proposed that a subgroup of the TAC develop a list of issues; that a survey be developed to capture the experiences of the affected parties (what works and what doesn't); and that the committee work toward practical implementation of the SRCAF's emerging Good Neighbor Policy. The final product could be a report, informational pamphlet, and/or proposed additions to the Handbook.