

## **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes** – February 3, 2004

Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, opened the meeting followed by self introductions.

Paul Ward, Department of Fish and Game (DFG), announced the second meeting of the scientific panel for the M&T/Llano Seco Pumps Study would convene in February to discuss the results of information reviewed by the group.

Dan Efseaff, River Partners, updated the group on the Gaines property and The Partners' efforts to develop information on a possible boating access location. Glenn County and State Parks are both interested in a boat ramp location below the Butte City Bridge. Questions were asked about access during flooding and erosion at bridge abutments. Dan indicated that Cal Trans is reviewing those problems.

Burt reported that the Corps of Engineers held a review of the Hamilton City Study with their Washington D.C. Headquarters; Glenn County provided a teleconference site and several local representatives participated. The consensus was that the project is almost ready to move forward for authorization. Questions were raised about the recreational component and if it was included. It was indicated that this component would not move forward at this time because it was not as well developed as the flood damage reduction or restoration components, but they hoped that it would be added later. Questions remain about recreation: Who would be state sponsor, and how would the various state and federal ownerships be coordinated?

Burt also reported that both the Reclamation Board and DFG had visited a site below the Hamilton City Bridge (west bank) where rubble had been dumped and had directed the landowner to cease dumping. Reclamation Board staff had indicated that since there was no public safety issue, no further action was anticipated. DFG was still considering which direction to take.

Jackie Ferrier, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, announced the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Refuge was being printed, and that 1 more internal review was to be completed. It should be available in about 2 months.

Woody Elliott, State Parks and Recreation, reviewed the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report; the same overview had been presented by EDAW at the January SRCAF Board meeting. Questions were asked about erosion near the proposed office and public use area and Woody indicated that they thought that it would be protected by the bridge abutment. A question about the significant impact of converting farm land brought a response that acknowledged State Parks did understand the concern.

Cathy Morris, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), reviewed the transfer of the Singh property to State Parks. TNC acquired the approximately 40-acre property in Butte County in March, 2002. It has been before the SRCAF TAC and Board several times; the project was first presented in the summer of 2001. The land is expected to remain in agricultural production until restoration planning is completed and funds are acquired to implement restoration, as long as it remains

economically viable to farm the property. Following the review, the issue of the conversion of agricultural land was discussed.

Stephen Puccini, DFG, provided a handout on the changes to the Streambed Alteration Agreement (S.B. 418) effective January 1, 2004. Several changes were made to the language in an effort to make the process more user friendly. He noted that the fee structure will probably be amended, but the increases would be aimed at those with a better ability to pay. Following the discussion, several questions were raised by the group. It was noted that the term of an agreement can be extended beyond 5 years if the entity provides an acceptable fourth year status report. Paul Ward noted that agreements need to cover both the construction and maintenance of the project to allow for a longer duration. An agreement could apply to more than one location or entity if similar projects are involved. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the handout please contact the SRCAF staff at (530) 528-7435.

Adam Henderson and Stacy Cepello from the Department of Water Resources (DWR), opened a discussion on the use of “buffers” as a tool in addressing conflicts between adjoining land use practices. During the discussion several questions were raised including what policies are in place, how to identify solutions for specific impacts, and examples (both good and bad) of solutions that have been used to resolve conflicts. As a next step, the group recommended developing a list of potential problems that might impact a landowner.

The next meeting was set for March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:30 a.m., Willows City Hall, Willows.