

The Chair opened the meeting with self introductions. There were no announcements or public comments.

Cross-Boundary Issues – Stacy reported the working committee that will be developing the scope of work has not met yet. Michelle Stevens and Annalena Bronson, both from the Department of Water Resources (DWR), are working with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) in an effort to bring the agency's new Safe Harbor expert to one of the TAC meetings. Stacy will have a more comprehensive discussion at the July 6th TAC.

Activity Reports – Ernie Ohlin, Tehama County Flood Control, pointed to work being done on the Flynn Unit as an example of coordination between agencies and districts. Two wells are located on the site and the USFWS has agreed to abandon one while Tehama County has agreed to take the other well into their monitoring grid.

Olen Zirkle, Ducks Unlimited, and Eric Larsen from U.C. Davis were introduced to provide an update on the M&T/Llano Seco Pumping Plant. Olen provided a brief history of the pumping plant including the re-location to the current site in 1997, the removal of a portion of the gravel bar in 2001, and the subsequent proposal submitted to CALFED for funding to determine a long-term solution to the gravel bar. An amendment to the original proposal was submitted requesting an extension to do some additional studies and to analyze the use of Ranney Collectors as an alternative off-stream water source. The grant amendment was approved last week. Eric discussed the work that has been done to look at the pattern of river meander. The models show that in time the river will move away from the current pumping plant site. He also provided sediment transport reports which show how much is passing through at various sites, and how much the numbers could vary from year to year. Additional modeling will be done to look at the sediment transport at this site, the effects of existing revetment upstream (and possible removal) on the site, and to simulate the effect of the placement of 8 groins. To analyze the use of the Ranney Collectors a test well and several monitoring wells will be drilled outside the levee; they hope to drill the test well this fall. It was noted that they have recorded all possible alternatives, even those that were rejected, in an effort to be as comprehensive as possible. John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust (SRPT) emphasized the importance of additional studies to look at possible impacts, both upstream and downstream, in determining the long-term solution. The first phase of the report will be out in the next couple of weeks and will remain in draft form until the results of the next round of studies can be added. Paul Ward, Department of Fish & Game, DFG, reported to the group that a dive this year indicated some build up at the fish screens and, although no work needs to be done this year, more gravel will probably have to be removed within the next couple of years. The extraction would take the bar back to the 1995 level and will require re-doing the permitting process.

Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary – Dan Efseaff from River Partners gave an update on the Riparian restoration planning and feasibility study for the Riparian Sanctuary, Llano Seco Unit. A meeting was held to provide information about the project and gather public input. River Partners is working with USFWS and Princeton, Cordora, Glenn and Provident Irrigation Districts (PCGID/PID) in a cooperative effort to look at alternatives to restoring 500 acres on the Riparian Sanctuary, protecting the PCGID/PID fish screen and pumping plant, and develop a

long-term monitoring plan. Additional information is available on the website at www.riverpartners.org. Dan noted they are continuing to seek input and comments from as many stakeholders as possible while continuing to bring updates to the Forum.

Action Specific Implementation Plan (ASIP)- Vickie Newlin, CALFED, discussed a new layer of permitting, ASIP, which must be prepared on any projects that receive CALFED funding if there is potential for take under federal or state laws. The agencies would like to schedule a 3-hour workshop to present a comprehensive look at the process. There are currently two test projects working through the process. Two tentative dates were selected, either August 18th or August 19th. Once a date is confirmed, the SRCAF will work with Vickie on the outreach.

Acquisition of a flood-prone portion of Womble Ranch - Dawit Zeleke, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), discussed a proposal involving the acquisition of 307 acres of flood-prone land located inside the levee in Colusa and Glenn Counties. DFG will be the property owner. The property consists of 249 acres of riparian habitat and 58 acres in agriculture. All of the adjacent landowners have been contacted. The neighbors to the north were concerned that because of the project they would not be able to continue draining water from their property into the slough. TNC has agreed to work with the property owners so that they can continue.

Pine Creek Unit – Kelly Moroney, USFWS, reported on work being done on the Pine Creek Unit of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge to improve drainage. Cooperation with Tehama County facilitated the development of the proposal. Currently, culverts pass under Highway 32 and terminate at the refuge boundary. They are looking at developing two swales to improve the drainage prior to any restoration work. Dirt removed will remain on site and be used to temporarily improve road access to two private residences until a long-term solution is determined. A concern was raised about the possible impacts of this project to the property to the north and whether questions about possible impacts had been answered pertaining to, i.e., the volume of water that would move through, where it would go, and what plant communities would respond. Kelly noted the agency had looked at the work as a minor maintenance issue that did not require a great deal of technical review.

Kelly also reported on a project with Butte County, similar to the USFWS/Tehama County partnership, to abandon 5 of 6 wells. Butte County will take over the remaining well for monitoring.

Kelly will give an update on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the refuge at the next TAC meeting. Several public meetings are scheduled in July: July 20th in Willows, July 21st in Chico, July 27th in Red Bluff, and July 29th in Colusa. The meetings will be held from 5-9 pm, locations will be announced at a later date.

Miscellaneous Items -

Paul Ward noted the LAC is looking for concrete examples of problems that have arisen because of mitigation and asked that anyone with examples email them to him and he will take the information to the LAC meeting on June 9th.

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for July 6th, 9:30 a.m., Willows City Hall, Willows.