

## Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Notes - November 2, 2004

Chair – Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair – Stacy Cepello

The Chair opened the meeting with self-introductions. The following were in attendance: Ryan Luster, Henry Lomeli, Gregg Werner, Ernie Ohlin, Woody Elliott, Dan Efseaff, Fraser Shilling, Kristin Carter, Kelly Moroney, Michelle Stevens, Greg Golet, Lewis Bair, Myrnie Mayville, Rebecca Fris, Caroline Prose, Stacy Cepello, Anjanette Martin, Burt Bundy and Ellen Gentry

### Activity Reports

Burt Bundy reported on the annual Advisory Council meeting, held in conjunction with the California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee. At that meeting: Diana Jacobs gave the Background on SB 1086; Stacy Cepello made a presentation on the status of the Sacramento River Riparian Corridor Restoration; Burt gave a review of the 2003 and 2004 Annual Reports and key activities.

### Current Projects/Updates

Kelly Moroney, F&WS, reported that they are responding to several hundred comments that came in on the comprehensive management plan and hope to have a final plan soon. Woody Elliott, CA Department of Parks, reported the Bratton Acquisition project would be coming to a close the end of this year.

Gregg Werner announced the Colusa Subreach will be holding their first meeting the next day. The Advisory Workgroup consists of 21 people, and will be working on the area between Colusa and Princeton for two and a half years, ending in 2007.

### Cross Boundaries Study

Stacy Cepello said he has received corrections on material from the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, which are finished and ready to be distributed. Caroline Prose, Michelle Stevens, Annalena Bronson, Woody Elliott, Gregg Werner, Jeff Sutton, Robert LaFleur (who is off temporarily), Adam Henderson, Myrnie Mayville, Dan Efseaff, Trisha Bratcher, Anjanette Martin, and Ernie Ohlin are on the email discussion group. The PSP overlaps some with cross boundary issues and the charge of this committee has been a central activity. There are interesting areas of overlap. In addressing landowner concerns, various agencies are dealing with Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) and MOAS, but all need data to back it up. With PSP using work that has already been done, VELB, etc, there can be ramifications with how to address those concerns. Flood management is interested in pursuing that, and they are coordinating with Michelle Stevens.

Mark Buckley, UC Santa Cruz economist, gave a presentation at the CALFED science project and his work was described as meaningful, and may be a benefit with him having communicated with landowners. His material regarding Sacramento River landowners and the decision making process, has economic ramifications. The Committee would like him to attend, and has tentatively scheduled him for the December 7 TAC meeting for a 10-15 minute description of his research.

Stacy gave the powerpoint presentation used at the Joint Session meeting with the ERP Sub-committee. It is an independent look at a chronological story, which included information on the FEMA 100 year flood boundary, and the 150 year meander belt. More comprehensive notes and the PowerPoint presentation from this meeting can be viewed on the following website:

<http://calwater.ca.gov/BDPAC/Subcommittees/EcosystemSubcommittee2004.shtml>

#### New Projects or Proposal Review—CALFED ERP Monitoring PSP

Greg Golet, TNC has one proposal focusing narrowly along horticultural restoration. The submitting impetus had been for a good comprehensive assessment across the whole landscape and how well horticultural restoration is doing in landscape perspective. Greg talked about the dynamicism of habitat so they can get some flux for habitats across the board. Research follows up a look at vegetation, birds and valley longhorn beetle between Red Bluff and Colusa, focusing on restoration sites. These sites are designed for recovery of these species, and the ability of the river to produce habitat on its own. Future projections evaluate scenarios to meet goals along lines of more habitat for species, and measuring progress to date. He distributed the executive summary.

Dan Efseaff, River Partners, presented four main proposals which fit in to other efforts.

1. Valley Elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB) sampling. River Partners sampled 7600 elderberry shrubs for elderberry survivorship, presence of VELB exit holes (yes), presence and absence of argentine ants. Proposed action: determine age and population of VELB, map distribution and measure distance to populations.
2. Native grass proposal – Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) funded sight, background: limited information on long-term management and establishment of native grasses. Proposed action: resample native grass plots, examine treatment blocks, assess wildlife usage and examine seed bank profile.
3. Subsurface water quality under restored areas. Background: no information on restoration effects on water quality of subsurface water. Proposed action: installation of monitoring wells and calibration of nitrates in water in wells.
4. Vegetation and Wildlife response. Background: follow up on bird response on wildlife targeted design on the Beehive Bend Unit. Proposed action: follow up bird and wildlife surveys.

Kristin Carter, CSU, said they have put together an Advisory Committee on historical investigations from other universities; its first task is to find missing tasks, an on-going element coordinating the project. Significant partners: SRCAF taking on public outreach and education, and providing project tracking. TNC and River Partners initially participating regarding specific monitoring protocols, indicators put together into one type of monitoring plan. F&G, DWR and F&W are also participants. Outcome will be how the system stands and a monitoring plan for future projects.

Fraser Schilling discussed the monitoring plan based on the goals of ERP and SRCA, existing types of data as good indicators, and what kind of indicators best describe effective restoration and gauging restoration projects and programs: an effective approach of whole study area. He indicated anticipating some new information outside the proposed project. Half devoted to field and the other half as working and developing with forum and others.

Stacy Cepello, DWR, reported on three areas:

1. Adam Henderson, a large woody riverine habitat. Tags river logs with radio tags and monitors what happens to them. Connects forest to river and fish habitat. They are hoping this work will expand to include identifying source of logs and a historic comparison of the amount of LWD.
2. The monitoring of success of cottonwood and other species regeneration – study sites that TNC and other monitoring success of cottonwoods on river - is tied to weather and is a critical component of river management and Northern Delta storage work. It looks at flow and hypothesis of a variety of issues. They want to develop methodology.
3. Koll Buer is on staff, currently working with Michael Singer, and DWR is wanting to comparing data sampling along the river. Koll quantifies changes in the river over time. It would be desirable to get him back on the Sacramento River with Chico State's coordination.

Burt outlined the Monitoring PSP, due on 19<sup>th</sup> of Nov. Several board members will not be in area for the SRCAF meeting (11/18), so a quorum is not expected and the meeting will be moved to Dec 2. The question was raised on how to proceed and what the general recommendation was of TAC, the proponent's responsibility being to meet the guidelines of the handbook, and to bring information. Rebecca stated it should be sufficient to say they plan on coordinating with SRCAF, rather than having letters of support. Proposals should identify that they are working with SRCAF in their plan. Moving the SRCAF meeting to 12/2 will provide an opportunity to listen to refinements of the proposals and the SRCAF will comment during the comment period provided by CALFED. Burt will forward this information to the board.

#### CALFED Chico Landing Sub-reach CEQA

Rebecca Fris talked about the Chico Landing Subreach Restoration CEQA process and a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 6-8:00 p.m., at Ord Bend Community Hall. This meeting is the public scoping meeting for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). She will send out an agenda thru SRCAF. Copies of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) and the Initial Study (IS) can be obtained from the website:

<http://calwater.ca.gov/Programs/EcosystemRestoration/Ecosystem.shtml>

Ryan Luster discussed three parcels: Deadman's Reach, USF&W property; Capay property, USF&W; and Pinecreek units in Butte County. The CEQA process just started in September and hopes to wrap up in July. The outcome is favorable (813 acres). TNC be working with Chico State (see handout) on three experiments getting under way this spring. The purpose of the studies is how to better implement on the river and coordinate and utilize restoration for new sites.

Burt made the announcement that the tech position for SRCAF was funded. There will be advertising in the next few days in the Chico/Redding area. The deadline is Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Chico Research Foundation (530-898-6811) or the SRCAF regarding this position. It pays an annual salary of \$54,000 including benefits, working out of the Red Bluff office.

#### Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, December 7, at 9:30 a.m. at Willows City Hall.