

## **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – June 7, 2005 (Revised)**

Chair – Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair – Stacy Cepello

Chair Anjanette Martin opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Dan Efseaff, Shirley Lewis, Jeff Sutton, Kelly Moroney, Bruce Ross, Michelle Stevens, Myrnie Mayville, Woody Elliott, Ken Walters, Annalena Bronson, Nicki Allen, Robert LaFleur, Henri Lomeli, Greg Golet, Ajay Singh, Ryan Luster, Brendan Reed, Don Anderson, Dan McManus, Les Heringer, Vickie Newlin, Shawn O'Brien, George Nicolaus, Dawit Zeleke, Burt Bundy, Beverley Anderson-Abbs, and Ellen Gentry.

### **Announcements**

Annalena Bronson, DWR, announced that in order to accomplish better levee maintenance, DWR is investigating Safe Harbor and Section 7 Consultation with the Corps of Eng. Burt noted that flood control is important and that the SRCAF is willing to help coordinate SHA/Section 7.

CALFED--Vickie Newlin, CBDA, announced Joe Grindstaff will serve as the Interim Director replacing Patrick Wright who is now Assistant Secretary for Resources. Joe is reviewing what CALFED has accomplished, refocusing priorities, and is seeking a panel to move forward. Tim Ramirez is stepping into the deputy directorship at CALFED. Stacy noted that Dan Castleberry has been reassigned to the regional USF&WS office.

Burt announced staffing changes at USF&WS. Darrin Thome is going to the Regional Office and Ken Sanchez will be replacing him on the SRCAF Board. Caroline Prose will be replaced by Robert LaFleur.

Michelle Stevens, DWR, announced she is taking a teaching position in El Centro, and will be leaving DWR.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

### **Activity Reports**

River Road – Shawn O'Brien, Deputy Director, Butte County Public Works, reported on the erosion on River Road where the road is within four feet of falling into the river. They plan to place 100 cubic yards of riprap at the site this summer, at a cost of less than \$10,000 for 65 feet. Relocating the road at this time would be costly and time consuming. Representatives of State Parks, who own the adjacent land, indicated that they were very concerned, and needed to be consulted. Several questions were asked about a long term solution. Sean was invited back for progress reports on the River Road Project.

Llano Seco/ M & T Ranch – Les Heringer requested working together (with the Butte River Road Project) for similar objectives. Les then briefly reviewed the alternatives that include rock groins to move the river back to his original pumping plant location. Les expects the final report to be complete this fall.

River Partners – Dan Efseaff reported hosting a bird watching field trip for approximately 30 people at the Rio Vista Site. A draft feasibility study for restoration on the Riparian Sanctuary will be out this month.

### **Current Projects/Updates**

*Rio Vista Unit* – Kelly Moroney reported on the swale feasibility and restoration project on 1149 acres of diverse habitat at their Rio Vista Unit on South Ave. in Tehama County. Swale routes have been modified (to avoid elderberry) and dug to about 18 inches deep to improve drainage and reduce flooding on South Street (Corning). They are coordinating with adjacent landowners and neighbors to eliminate possible impacts. A parking area conceptual plan is tied into a fire break. The total project cost is \$79,520. Estimated construction completion date: July 15. Estimated planting completion date: February 30, 2006. Burt reported that Ernie Ohlin had stated Tehama County's appreciation to the F&WS for coordination and cooperation on the project. This project can be viewed on Project Tracker no. 88.

The Pine Creek swale construction in existing restoration was completed last spring. Coordination with Butte County Planning helped assure that there were no negative impacts. New restoration will include swale construction and will be much easier and less costly.

### **New Projects or Proposal Review**

*Nicolaus Property acquisition* – Dawit reported on the property acquisition and restoration grant approved in 2002, regarding buffers for farms to the south, drainage and CEQA compliance regarding changing flooding patterns. He introduced selling landowner George Nicolaus who discussed the 147 acres of walnut and almond trees adjacent to the Mud Creek levee. George talked about the area flooding one to two times per year and the cost factors involved in his farming operation. He and Dawit have met numerous times with neighbors who have expressed no concern(s) regarding the acquisition. Shirley expressed concern for drainage affecting adjacent property and wanted assurances for Ag interests. Dawit explained concerns will be addressed thru CEQA and other guaranteed processes in place. Stacy added there is a broader watershed issue (i.e., expansion of the urban area around Chico); acres of non-permeable surfaces are added each year increasing the rate of runoff, which often results in more frequent flooding. This project can be viewed on Project Tracker no. 78.

### **Cross Boundary Issues Sub-Committee Update**

The plan is divided into two primary tasks: issues related to listed species and issues not directly related to listed species, it is anticipated that these efforts will proceed in parallel. Stacy reviewed the background of the development of the matrix (condensed and collated from GNP and CSP Landowner concerns) and that currently the committee is on subtask 3. Once species are identified and categorized as to potential landowner impacts and beneficial recovery actions, they can be grouped and sorted accordingly. Dan suggested a basic biology and summary would be helpful.

### **Next Meeting Date and Location**

The next TAC meeting was set for Tuesday, July 12, 9:30am, at Willows City Hall.

The Landowner Incentives Workshop is scheduled for July 28, 1:30pm to 4:30pm. at the Monday Afternoon Club in Willows.