

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – August 2, 2005

Chair – Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair – Stacy Cepello

Vice Chair Stacy Cepello opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Tricia Bratcher, Vickie Newlin, Lance Boyd, Annalena Bronson, Woody Elliott, Dan Efseaff, Kelly Moroney, Burt Bundy, Beverley Anderson-Abbs, and Ellen Gentry.

Announcements

Burt reported on SRCAF putting together an application for a Working Landscapes grant. This will include investigating a Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement; coordinating a Section 7 to provide permitting for flood control, water supply, and boat ramp maintenance; a landowner incentive program; and continued project review. It will be reviewed before the TAC at a later date and updates will continue.

Activity Reports

Big Chico Creek - Woody reported Parks and Recreation are moving ahead with Big Chico Creek access. They will update Project Tracker and make a presentation at the next meeting. The 40 acre Peterson riparian addition includes a car top boat launching facility next to the River Road Bridge, a parking lot upstream from the mouth of the Creek, hiking trails, and an environmental campground. The project is being funded by Anadromous Fish Restoration Project (AFRP) funds. Concerns of trespass and pumping plant interference were raised at the public meeting and are being considered.

Colusa Subreach – Annalena reported there have been good presentations from Joe Countryman and Tom Smith, clarifying matters for landowners and productive for the entire CSP reach. There has been good attendance and progress is being made. Woody added that the Ward addition, owned by TNC and purchased with CalFed funds, will be transferred to State Parks, allowing for recreation to be included with the restoration plans. This has been taken favorably by the CSP advisory group. Burt reported that there was a concern it would need to be restored in habitat only, but Mike Fehling has made it clear that with reorganization, there could be a recreation component. Woody added that the property could include walk-in campgrounds like the Peterson acreage. Burt pointed out that CSP has identified a subcommittee to guide scoping recreation possibilities on the site.

Lower Clear Creek Restoration – Tricia reported that the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District's Lower Clear Creek Restoration plan was submitted for directed action funding last week. This restoration is moving into Phase 3 which will include moving the creek bed from hardpan into an area of the floodplain that would provide better spawning habitat about one-mile away. Tricia also reported that bank protection logs placed in the creek are being used by juvenile salmon. The Battle Creek EIS/EIR has been issued and is available for review. The Anadromous Fish Restoration Program annual work plan for Tehama, Shasta and Big Chico Creek is based upon the Bureau of Reclamation recommendation. The work plan becomes available for public review in the fall.

M&T – Kelly reported the M&T/Llano Seco Ranches Pumping Plant Information/Early Scoping Meeting was held July 27, and many good comments were made.

Chico Landing Subreach – Kelly also reported on the completed EIR for TNC on the 800+ acres (Capay, Pine Creek Landing and Dead Man's Reach). The public meetings were well attended with

comments from landowners. Mike Billiou is involved with TNC in the Hamilton City Project and had expressed concerns about hydraulic impact from restoration on the Capay property. Kelly reported little impact and change in hydrology based on modeling. Kelly toured Dead Man's Reach with adjoining landowners and the engineers, and came up with ideas to address issues of scouring and erosion.

Burt noted that several people have asked for a Hamilton City Project workgroup meeting, which he will try to coordinate.

Kelly also reported on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), Finding of No Significant Impact, and Summary of the CCP for the Sacramento River NWR. Hard copies, CDs and summaries are available at public libraries. There will be a celebration event for the public opening of the 5,000 acre refuge, which will take place September 1. They are currently setting up parking facilities and public use signs. Burt offered to feature this, along with any photos, in the SRCAF newsletter.

Kelly also said they have hired a full time officer to assist with fire danger and law enforcement.

CBDA – Vickie Newlin reported they are in the process of focusing on the CALFED ten year plan. Members of the finance interviewing team and the Little Hoover Commission are interviewing to understand the complex program. Joe Grindstaff, Interim Director, continues negotiations to determine water user fees. They are looking at negotiating with export water users. The Working Landscapes PSP is going to go to BDPAC on Wednesday and to the Authority on Thursday for approval. The program makes available \$20 million for use in working landscapes approaches that are wildlife friendly. Jay Chamberlain, Ecosystem Restoration Program staff, is available for a TAC presentation. Burt will talk to him to see what can be arranged.

Current Projects/Updates

Dan Efseaff, River Partners gave a PowerPoint presentation on the feasibility study for the Llano Seco Riparian Restoration and PCGID Pumping Plant Protection. The following options were given: no action, monitor bank retreat, hold river's current course, allow river bend cutoff and traditional revetment, install flexible movable intakes for pumping plant, and move pumping plant. The comment period ends August 25 for the draft report. A meeting will be held August 18 at River Partners, 4:00PM, to focus on the restoration plan, which will be included in the next round of modeling. Annalena suggested giving an informational presentation and make it clear there is support for the process to the Rec. Board. Burt offered to help set up a meeting, and will make a recommendation today for a September agenda presentation. Material should be sent to the board in early September. He advised meeting with the pre-team as soon as possible.

New Projects or Proposal Review

There were no new projects or proposal reviews at this time.

Cross Boundary Issues Sub-Committee Update

The sub-committee had no updates at this time.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next TAC meeting was set for Tuesday, September 6, 9:30AM, at Willows City Hall.