

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – September 6, 2005

Chair – Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair – Stacy Cepello

Vice Chair Stacy Cepello opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Mike Perrone, Greg Golet, Bonnie Ross, Annalena Bronson, Butch Hodgkins, Dan Efseaff, Gregg Werner, Woody Elliott, Les Heringer, Burt Bundy, Beverley Anderson-Abbs, and Ellen Gentry.

Announcements

Mike Perrone, DWR, reported the Department has recently embarked in a multi-agency cooperative effort to streamline implementation of its flood maintenance responsibilities, especially in regard to listed wildlife species. Flood maintenance will be done “better and faster” according to the Department’s director. He indicated they would like to use the work of the SRCAF to help them move forward with the plans.

Activity Reports

Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge – Stacy Cepello reported copies have been received for the Sacramento Wildlife Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Kelly Moroney and USF&W staff was congratulated for their work on the project. An ownership and public access website is being maintained by the CSU Chico Geographic Information Center and plans are underway for a grand opening in October.

CalFed – The SRCAF board indicated interest in the CalFed Working Landscapes Grant proposal which includes improving conservation activities on working ranches. The September 19 call out has been delayed. SRCAF is coming to the TAC for input and guidance for the estimated \$9 million allocation. For consideration is Project Tracker review, Safe Harbor for the conservation area, improving landowner incentives, and coordinating a section 7 consultation with USFWS for maintenance, flood control and water supply. Stacy Cepello is working on ESA issues.

Current Projects/Updates

M&T – Les Heringer gave an update on the M&T pumping plant, working on a short term fix with some form of revetment on the west side, so that the steering committee can implement a long term solution. A presentation will be made at the SRCAF board meeting October 20. Les also reported that the north side of DWR property needs boundary signs in order to avoid trespassing on M&T property, along with a local contact number. He added the DWR property only has river access.

River Partners – Dan Efseaff announced River Partners will be hosting a field trip October 1 for the Turtle Bay walk through restoration. For more information contact Mona at 530-894-5401x23. Dan gave a brief report on the Llano Seco Riparian Restoration and PGCID Pumping Plant Protection, and discussed the alternative to extend rock at RM 174 in order to protect the plant from river meander, while removing rock that is failing from a point upriver.

Colusa Subreach – Gregg Werner reviewed the CSP scopes of work. Fran Borcalli was selected for peer review of the hydraulic analysis, and plans are underway for the Ward property expansion. Gregg expects all projects to be in progress by the end of the year. Greg Golet distributed the Analysis of Regulatory Limitations and Pest Species Effects on Agriculture Caused by Restoration. Greg

suggested this planning project can also help cross boundary issues. The main components of this nine month project are regulatory limitations and pest species impacts. The current focus is on looking at appropriate consultants. The next CSP meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 8.

Big Chico Creek – Woody Elliott reported the Parks and Recreation Big Chico Creek access project has been entered in Project Tracker (Number 92). 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 will be formally presented at the next TAC meeting.

New Projects or Proposal Review

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

Cross Boundary Issues Sub-Committee Update

Greg Golet, TNC gave a report on the Draft Scope of Services for Final Colusa Subreach Advisory Workgroup Review. A subcommittee is assisting with the workplan regarding endangered and nuisance species and regulatory limitations on farmers that may result when agricultural lands are replaced by habitat in the Colusa Subreach.

Stacy reviewed the SRCA Cross-Boundary and Associated Special Status Wildlife Species Issues Draft Matrix. USF&W assisted on Task 1- providing background information on the identification of endangered species in the Conservation Area. The Good Neighbor Policy, information from the Colusa Sub-reach Study, and supplemental information from the Legaci Project were used to develop the landowner activities and potential conflict categories of the draft matrix.

It was determined that private structure maintenance should be included with public structure maintenance and is not necessarily a cross-boundary issue. Dan Efseaff suggested certainty or probability characterization and a documented conflicts column, which would show focus on certain species and help to eliminate fears since not all species will pose problems. Burt noted management is separate from endangered species. Stacy added that Cross Boundary information is needed for the Working Landscapes PSP. Bonnie Ross, Flood Management, offered agency cooperation.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next TAC meeting was set for Tuesday, October 4, 9:30AM, at Willows City Hall.

The SRCAF board meeting is scheduled for September 15. Because of the PSP, there may be an October board meeting. Big Chico Creek and M&T are on future agendas. An early meeting in December is also being considered.