

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – October 4, 2005

Acting Chair – Stacy Cepello

Acting Chair Stacy Cepello opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Henry Lomeli, Butch Hodgkins, Kelly Moroney, Myrnie Mayville, Gail Sevrens, Dan Efseaff, Shirley Lewis, Marc Faye, Les Heringer, John Merz, Olen Zirkle, Chris Leininger, Woody Elliott, Matt Teague, Scott Clemons, Kelly Williams, Vickie Newlin, Ajay Singh, Burt Bundy, Beverley Anderson-Abbs, and Ellen Gentry.

Announcements

Anjanette Martin resigned as TAC Chair at the last SRCAF board meeting. Nominations are being accepted for the Board Development meeting next month where recommendations will be made for new officers and committee appointments. Contact board members, Stacy, Burt or SRCAF staff if you would like to volunteer or make a nomination.

John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, distributed their 2005 Fall Events Calendar. The 6th State of the Sacramento River Watershed Conference is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, October 27-28, at the Red Bluff Community Center, 1500 South Jackson St., in Red Bluff. More information is available by calling the Trust or by visiting www.sacriverttrust.org.

Stacy noted recent changes in the State Reclamation Board. Burt, former board member for seven years, was initially appointed by then Governor Wilson and later reappointed by then Governor Davis. Burt introduced and congratulated Butch Hodgkins as a new member who is especially knowledgeable of flood control. The Reclamation Board serves at the will of the Governor, so the change was not unexpected. Butch stated the previous board showed courage and leadership. He noted the risk of flooding is a valley wide issue and the valley is what makes the quality of life as great as it is. He offered to do what he can to help all interests here.

Activity Reports

Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge – Kelly Moroney distributed flyers announcing the grand opening celebration for the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, Saturday, October 15 at the Ord Bend Unit, 8AM to noon. For directions and to sign up for free tours, contact the Refuge at 530-934-2801. Kelly also announced the environmental compliance portion of the assessment is now open for public comment regarding the restoration of La Barranca, below the Red Bluff diversion dam. Also, the Rio Vista project is 98% completed.

BLM Bend Area - Kelly Williams, BLM, gave an update on the Bend Area recreation proposal which was passed by both Tehama and Shasta County supervisors. As a result of Wally Herger working with Barbara Boxer for bipartisan effort, it will be introduced to congress.

Current Projects/Updates

River Partners - Dan Efseaff gave an update on the field trip they hosted October 1 for the Turtle Bay walk through restoration. Details of next stages will be provided at the next TAC meeting.

Wildlife Conservation Board - Scott Clemons asked to coordinate with the SRCAF regarding the Llano Seco Conservation Easement (Project Tracker #94). Because there will be no board meeting in November, Scott asked to schedule an information period at the board meeting October 20, after which he will make a presentation to the TAC.

Colusa Subreach – Butch reported the CSP has scheduled a November 7 fieldtrip/meeting to various projects they are working on.

New Projects or Proposal Review

Big Chico Creek – Matt Teague, district civil engineer, presented the Parks and Recreation Big Chico Creek access project (Project Tracker #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 and hiking trails. Matt said the area will be handicap accessible. The environmental camping areas were removed from the project; however Matt noted that everything in this project is removable. The public comment period is forthcoming. A request for action was made. A recommendation to the SRCAF board that this project is consistent with the guidelines and principles of the handbook will be presented for review at the next board meeting, October 20.

M&T/Llano Seco – Olen Zirkle gave a PowerPoint presentation for the M&T/Llano Seco Fish Screen Short-term/Long-term Project (Project Tracker #93). The following alternatives were reviewed: Extended Intake-Down the River, Extended Intake-Across the River, In-Conduit Fish Screen, Dredging/Stillwater Screen, Groins, Multiple Production Wells, Ranney Collectors, and a Combination of one Ranney Collector/Dredging. Proposed interim alternatives included: no action, tree revetment, trench fill revetment, windrow rock, rock toe and brush revetment, and reduced rock toe and brush revetment. The M&T steering committee and panel of experts recommends approval of the interim action protection measure to combine longitudinal stone toe and brush revetment (700 ft.). John Merz stated the Sacramento River Preservation Trust is not willing to support this project at this time because potential impacts, including costs, need to be further analyzed. Merz also requested being able to read the environmental impacts, which were unavailable. Chris Leininger commented that once the environmental document comes out, the TAC will have an opportunity for review. Based on today's report, a recommendation to the SRCAF board that this project is consistent with the guidelines and principles of the handbook (noting the EIR/EIS was not yet available for review, and there were questions raised about alternatives that need to be broadened), will be presented at the next board meeting, October 20. Additional information may be viewed at <http://www.ducks.org/Conservation/Projects?Western/mandt/mt.asp>

Cross Boundary Issues Sub-Committee Update

Stacy reviewed the SRCA Cross-Boundary and Associated Special Status Wildlife Species Issues Draft Matrix. He has developed a bifurcated system. One set includes nuisance, pest, and good neighbor related species. The second set includes species that have a regulatory or special status listing. The consequence of activities is very different. Burt noted identifying specific issues is important in dealing with management problems. He added this will be part of the proposal for the CalFed Working Landscapes grant.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next TAC meeting was set for Tuesday, November 1, 9:30AM, at Willows City Hall.