Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – February 1, 2005
Chair – Anjanette Martin Vice Chair – Stacy Cepello

The Vice Chair opened the meeting with self-introductions and asked the SRCAF Manager to conduct the meeting. The following were in attendance: Tom Kisanuki, Kevin Niemela, Gregg Werner, Kelly Moroney, Vickie Newlin, Bill Poytress, Myrnie Mayville, Douglas Killam, Woody Elliott, Greg Golet, Dan Efseaff, John Merz, Michelle Stevens, Fraser Shilling, Stacy Cepello, Diane Coulon, Paul Ward, Tracy McReynolds, Burt Bundy, Beverley Anderson-Abbs and Ellen Gentry

Announcements
John Merz announced the Snowgoose Festival held last weekend was a success and urged everyone to mark their calendars for the last weekend in January next year.

Beverley Anderson-Abbs reported 35 projects have been entered on Project Tracker to date. Corrections can be made if necessary with your email password for the project (found at the bottom of the verification email). Nine PSPs have been entered along with one science PSP. Older projects still need to be entered if completed or updated by addressing milestones. Contact Beverley directly at 528-7414 or email banderso@water.ca.gov for suggestions or assistance in implementation.

Activities Reports
River Partners – Dan presented a PowerPoint summary of the Draft Pumping Plant Protection Feasibility Study, which is available online: http://riverpartners.org/riparian/documents/Draft_Feasibility_Report_Llano_Seco_12-15-04_w_appendices.pdf. River Partners is collaborating with stakeholders on 950 acres of riparian sanctuary on Llano Seco to identify solutions to meet habitat restoration, flood control and facility protection objectives, and integrating monitoring questions into the project. The Draft Riparian Restoration FS will be out in March and a Public Meeting will be held late March-April.

CSP – Gregg announced the Colusa Subreach Advisory Workgroup (CSP AW) will be meeting Monday, Feb. 7, 10:00am, at Colusa Farm Bureau. The AW is identifying research and planning projects. The first issue of the CSP newsletter will be mailed this week. A Public Meeting will be held Feb. 17, 6:30pm, at the Colusa Indian Center Community meeting room located south of the Colusa Casino.

Current Projects/Updates
M&T/Llano Seco Fish Screen Facility – There will be a three-day Project Alternatives and Feasibility Workshop February 16-18 regarding the long-term solution.

Colusa Boat Ramp Study - DWR is providing a geomorphic study at Colusa for siting a possible boat ramp location further downstream. Please contact Patty Hickle (458-5622 or cityofcolusa@colusanet.com) for information. The study is also on the CSP February agenda as an informational topic.

New Projects or Proposal Review

Projects presented to the TAC will be reported to the SRCAF Board as being reviewed, with comments or questions raised. A letter discussing presentations reviewed by this committee will be drafted for CALFED. The SRCAF Handbook, Chapter 9, indicates the need to support monitoring and research.

A special thanks was given to Rebecca Fris for assistance with the ERP website: HTTPS://solicitation.calwater.ca.gov/solicitations/2004.02/responsive_proposals?proposal_regions=Sacramento%20Region. The following PSP summaries were presented for review:

Tom Kisanuki, US Fish and Wildlife Service – ***Estimating the abundance of Sacramento River juvenile winter Chinook salmon with comparisons to adult escapement*** - Rotary-screw traps at Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) have provided estimates of abundance and outmigration timing of downstream migrating salmonids since 1994. The primary objective of this project is to develop juvenile winter Chinook production indices and to correlate these indices with estimated escapement from adult counts at RBDD and the winter-run carcass survey.

Paul Ward, CA Dept. of Fish and Game – ***Butte Creek spring-run Chinook salmon life history investigation*** - A partnership between CSU Chico Research Foundation and the CA Dept. of Fish and Game will continue the Butte Creek spring-run Chinook salmon (SRCS) life history investigation for an additional three years. This project is located on Butte Creek, in Butte County, CA, near Chico. The objective is to continue development of an SRCS adult escapement estimate that will serve as a reliable and more precise "recovery-metric" providing a measure of overall restoration effectiveness and as a measure of recovery for the listed SRCS.

Dan Efseaff, River Partners – ***Vegetation and wildlife response to native grass restoration on the Llano Seco Unit, Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge*** - This project will examine the performance of a riparian savanna and grassland restoration. The monitoring effort will focus on key wildlife and vegetation responses. In 2000, River Partners initiated restoration on 206 acres of the Llano Seco Unit (Tract 4 and Tract 8) of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge. Tract 4 and Tract 8 are located approximately 10 miles southwest of Chico, in Butte County, CA. Funding was provided under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA).

Assessment of vegetative and wildlife responses to innovative restoration design on the Beehive Bend Unit - This project will monitor the restoration responses of project ERP-97N03B (the Dept. of Fish and Game's "Sacramento River Floodplain Acquisition – Riparian Forest Restoration"). This project will lead a collaborative effort to examine the responses of wildlife and vegetation to the restoration project and test some of the underlying assumptions that went into the project design on the Beehive Bend Unit.

VELB Colonization of Planted Riparian Restoration Projects along the Middle Sacramento River - Since 1993, riparian restoration has occurred on 3,600 acres of the USFWS Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge. This project will survey eight selected refuge units spanning 73 river miles (RM 167 to 240) in the middle reach of the Sacramento River. These units represent a golden opportunity to study the recovery of VELB populations and how this recovery is influenced by both local site characteristics and proximity to existing natural beetle populations.

Sub-surface water quality monitoring on restored riparian sites along the middle Sacramento River - This project will monitor the sub-surface soil water under planted riparian restoration sites adjacent to the Sacramento River between Red Bluff and Chico. The restoration plantings were originally carried out with the goal of improving wildlife habitat and populations (ERP Goal 3). This project will monitor the sub-surface groundwater at three historic restoration sites for concentrations of nitrates, redox potential, dissolved oxygen content and isotopic ratios of water.

Vegetation, Flood Flows and Erosion *(Science Program)* – This proposal will explore the hydraulic effects of vegetation in the floodway at different scales beginning with a modern evaluation of an adaptive management experiment set-up by the Reclamation Board in 1978 on the Sacramento River. The proposed action is to measure current bank erosion and characterize vegetation at 38 MBK sites from Tisdale Weir to Hamilton City. Handbook consistency provides a scientific basis for assessing critical vegetation and flood control issues. For more information on the CALFED Science program go to: http://science.calwater.ca.gov/scitools/performance_measures.shtml. Anticipated timeline for review or comments is April/May.

Fraser Shilling, UC Davis - ***Sacramento River Riparian Monitoring and Assessment Project*** – This project will measure a range of physical and biological indicators for ERP and AFRP-funded projects within the Sacramento River Ecological Management Zone (Red Bluff to Colusa) and compare them to previous conditions and reference systems in order to test whether restoration actions have been successful in improving riparian forest conditions and forest interactions with aquatic processes. Because local and regional perceptions of restoration can affect the implementation and effectiveness of ecosystem improvements, we will also test the effects of these restoration efforts on human attitudes towards ecosystem restoration.

Doug Killam, CA Dept. of Fish and Game – ***Upper Sacramento River Basin Chinook salmon escapement monitoring program*** – The CALFED ERP, the CVPIA Program, and other programs, have provided millions of dollars for the restoration of Chinook salmon habitat in the Upper Sacramento River Basin (USRB), including the mainstem Sacramento River, Clear Creek, Battle Creek, Deer Creek and Mill Creek. The primary objective of this proposal is to continue to monitor the annual abundance, migration timing, and distribution of adult winter, spring, late fall and fall-run Chinook salmon returning to spawn in the USRB for the next three years. Streams and species/runs to be monitored include: Sacramento River – winter, fall, and late fall-run Chinook; Clear Creek – fall-run Chinook; Battle Creek – fall-run Chinook; Mill Creek – fall and spring-run Chinook; Deer Creek – fall and spring-run Chinook; Beegum Creek – spring-run Chinook; Antelope Creek – spring-run Chinook.

Cross Boundary Issues

Beverley is coming up to speed in Cross Boundary Issues. The Cross Boundary subcommittee will resume after the completion of this round of proposal review.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, March 1, 9:30am, at Willows City Hall.