

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – June 6, 2006

Chair - Ajay Singh

Vice Chair - Stacy Cepello

Vice chair Stacy Cepello opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Kelly Moroney, Ladybug Doherty, Gregg Werner, Tom McCubbins, Dan Efseaff, Rob Irwin, John Hunt, Jamison Watts, Henry Lomeli, Kelly Williams, Scott Clemons, Ernie Ohlin, Shirley Lewis, Burt Bundy, and Beverley Anderson-Abbs.

Announcements

Henry Lomeli, CA Fish and Game, announced that Diana Jacobs will be replaced on the SRCAF Board of Directors by Sandra Morey, the Regional Manager for Region 2.

Activity Reports

SRCAF – The SRCAF annual BBQ and Board meeting took place May 25 at the Llano Seco Ranch. Dan Efseaff (River Partners) and Kelly Moroney (USFWS) led a tour of the Riparian Sanctuary with Lance Boyd and John Garner from PGCID. The Good Neighbor Policy was adopted as a White Paper with recognition of concerns about section 5, a good neighbor fund. The committee is prepared to meet with those people expressing concerns to develop a policy that is acceptable.

Department of Water Resources – – There is a lot of funding and positions for the Division of Flood Management in the Governor's May revise, allotting additional money for accelerated flood projects, levee repairs, Delta projects, and Tisdale Weir. DWR and DFG are reinitiating the Sacramento River Flow subcommittee (NODOS) to look at broader flow issues along the river. Stacy Cepello will be the liaison between the subcommittee and SRCAF.

Glenn County, Hamilton City – The US Army Corp of Engineers (COE) has received funding for Preliminary Engineering and Design for the Hamilton City levee and habitat restoration project. The SRCAF has been working with the COE to coordinate meetings and will be helping to coordinate contact of landowners for access to allow preliminary studies to be done. Core sample boring, environmental surveys, and more refined alignment surveys will be starting this summer and coordination with farming activities will be crucial. COE is trying to obtain additional Congressional funding in order to move forward more quickly on the project.

Tehama County, Woodson Bridge – Tehama County has become increasingly concerned with the river cutting around the bridge and is investigating a possible sheet pile wall to protect it before damage is done. The County is also working on a new parking lot for the boat ramp and is looking for partnership with Wildlife Conservation Board or Boating and Waterways for this project.

Ernie Ohlin also reported on the studies being done on the lower Tuscan ground water aquifer. There is a lower Tuscan recharge investigation underway on the east side of the Sacramento River where test wells and monitoring wells will be drilled to determine recharge and to look at the ground water versus river water components in some areas. The lower Tuscan aquifer is pumped for agricultural use as well as for City of Chico water. Several future developments in Northern Tehama County will also be drilling from the Tuscan (Del Webb- 3000 homes, Morgan Hills- 4000 homes) but it has been determined that arsenic levels are too high for use as potable water.

Tehama County, Jelly's Ferry Bridge – Tehama County has full funding for the replacement of the single lane bridge at Jelly's Ferry. The day use site that is currently located west of and underneath the bridge will be relocated to the east side of the new bridge, allowing continued access to the Bend Area BLM ACEC.

The Bend Area ACEC has been proposed as the Sacramento River National Recreation Area (SRNRA) in the most recent Wilderness Bill authored by Senator Barbara Boxer. Congressman Herger has indicated that he will introduce the SRNRA as a stand alone bill. This designation has received support from Tehama and Shasta counties as well as the Cities of Redding and Red Bluff

Current Projects/Updates

Colusa Subreach Planning (CSP) is in the process of doing the research and planning for the properties in Colusa County. The first public input meeting for the Recreational Planning study was held May 11, the second meeting will occur July 20 where EDAW will return with a conceptual plan. The Nature Conservancy is donating a 230 acre property to State Parks for recreational use and part of the planning process will look at long term needs for this property and changes to the current State Park to allow for the proposed new boat ramp.

Additionally, the Pest and Regulatory Assurances Study (PRES) and the Hydraulic Analysis are moving forward. An initial public meeting to refine the project scope for the PRES was held May 3. The next CSP Advisory Workgroup meeting will be in September.

In response to concerns about depredation by wildlife near restoration sites, DFG is considering a special hunt zone along the river corridor for an either sex deer hunt. This will still be at the discretion of the counties and details have not been fully worked out yet.

New Projects or Proposal Review

Wilson Landing (RM 203-205L) (Glenn County) – This 338 acre property was purchased by DFG in 1986 to become part of the Sacramento River Wildlife Refuge. River Partners will be working with DFG to remove non-native plants and restore habitat on higher ground where natural recruitment has not occurred. They have also been working with local landowners to address access concerns. It was determined that this project met the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF handbook with the following comments and questions raised for further investigation. 1) Is there a chance of planting elderberry bushes on this site? 2) Contact with neighbors across the river needs to be made (PGCID specifically). For more information on this project, visit #116 at www.srcafprojectracker.org.

Jelly's Ferry Habitat Restoration (RM 266-267) (Tehama County) – The restoration is planned for 201 acres of BLM land near the Jelly's Ferry Bridge that serves as one of the main entrances to the Bend Area ACEC. CSU Chico, River Partners, and BLM will collaborate on the project. The surviving plants from a prior restoration attempt by CSU Chico will be irrigated and new plantings will be added to create a self-sustaining native habitat that establishes connectivity between the riparian and upland regions. This property may be set up as a CSU Chico research site where monitoring will be continued. It was determined that this project meets the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF handbook with the following questions and comments raised for further investigation 1) Tehama County should be contacted to discuss possible impacts on Jelly's Ferry Road and the planned new Jelly's Ferry Bridge, or their impacts on this project. For more information on this project, visit #117 at www.srcafprojectracker.org.

Cross Boundary Issues

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has contracted with EDAW under the Colusa Subreach Planning to investigate pest species impacts and regulatory impacts on working lands adjacent to habitat restoration sites. The preliminary plan for the study is available through TNC.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next TAC meeting was set for Tuesday, July 11 in Willows.