

## **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – January 10, 2006**

Acting Chair – Stacy Cepello

Acting Chair Stacy Cepello opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Ajay Singh, Don Anderson, Tad Alexander, Kelly Williams, Dan Efseaff, Lady Bug Doherty, Brendan Reed, Gregg Werner, Shirley Lewis, Ernie Ohlin, Patricia Bratcher, Beverley Anderson-Abbs, and Ellen Gentry

### **Announcements**

Stacy Cepello shared slides of a flood patrol flight taken on Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

### **Activity Reports**

Kelly Williams reported on the legislation for national recreation BLM land in Tehama County. Congressman Wally Herger is currently working on legislative language for the bill. Initially the bill was to create a National Conservation Area (NCA) on the Area of Critical Concern Bend BLM land, in Reach 1 north of Red Bluff; this has morphed into a National Recreation Area (NRA).

Brendan Reed reported on the CBDA proposal solicitation with working landscapes. Fourteen proposals were received for the Sacramento Valley. These will be reviewed, selected from and made available for public comment.

### **Current Projects/Updates**

*Brayton Unit* - Dan Efseaff commented that the Riparian Sanctuary review and Brayton property were supposed to come before the SRCAF board. He suggested a flow chart indicating when items are entered into Project Tracker to assist in project status and transition between the TAC and Board. Unless a funding mechanism is involved or specifically asked for, a project doesn't go before the Board. Beverley Anderson-Abbs will manage TAC information to the Board meetings.

*Llano Seco Conservation Easement* - Ernie Ohlin asked about the status of the initiative discussed in November regarding the Llano Seco unscreened diversion. Beverley reported that Burt has talked to Paul and is looking at possible solutions. Stacy added that the unscreened pumps are not currently being used, that Llano Seco water comes from M&T pumps. Their water right is truly riparian with no obligation to track water use, but it has been tabled until these issues are resolved. It was asked that this topic be revisited at the next TAC meeting.

*Colusa Subreach* – Gregg Werner gave a PowerPoint update on the Colusa Subreach Project, covering 21 river miles from Princeton Ferry to Colusa Bridge, and eight potential wildlife habitat restoration tracts. The Advisory Workgroup (AW) met yesterday where a recent resolution from the Colusa County Board of Supervisors was discussed and some members decided they do not want to continue. The majority wanted to move forward. They are now addressing a suite of planning and research projects chosen by the AW to address landowner concerns:

1. Hydraulic analysis of existing flood flow capacity including large woody debris and seepage with peer review,
2. hydraulic modeling of habitat restoration proposals,
3. analysis of fiscal impact on local agencies,
4. analysis of economic effects on the local economy,
5. public access improvement plan for the entire subreach,
6. master plan for expanding and improving the Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area,
7. analysis of regulatory effects on adjoining lands,
8. analysis of pest species effects on adjoining lands.

Gregg reviewed the Colusa County Board of Supervisors resolution to suspend all funding directed to the SRCAF, CSP and any restoration project work within the scope of the SRCAF in Colusa County until the Good Neighbor Policy (GNP) has been adopted and implemented in its entirety. Ajay noted the list (above) answers GNP questions in response to Colusa County and Ben. Gregg added that the projects provide opportunities that have not existed before for Colusa County. Stacy added the broader issues of the GNP have not been implemented primarily by agencies. Ernie Ohlin pointed out that the TAC and SRCAF is a great avenue to go through projects. On the policy side, Ernie stated agencies' signatories need agreement on adopting the GNP. He noted it is important to make that distinction. Gregg stated CSP is not a restoration project, but a planning effort. Don added once the landowner assurances have been adopted this will be resolved.

River Partners – Dan Efseaff reported the final for the riparian feasibility study is on their website (see Project Overview at [www.riverpartners.org](http://www.riverpartners.org)).

DWR – Stacy gave a copy of the new Sacramento River atlas to Lady Bug Doherty. Please let Stacy know if you need a copy prior to SRCAF website availability. Photography Air Photo USA rights were purchased by DWR. GIS sharing will be a possible future TAC agenda item.

#### **Update on SRCAF Working Landscapes Grant Proposal**

Beverley gave an update on the proposal submitted December 15. The GNP and strawman developed by the LAC and LEGACI group were the basis for the grant proposal, to provide regulatory assurances for landowners and incentives for conservation on their land. Five county RCDs in the area were contacted to discuss collaboration. The grant includes: upgrading the Project Tracker website to make it more user friendly, determining an overall baseline and conservation benefit for the SRCA, developing a Safe Harbor type of program to provide regulatory assurances, and working with various groups to put together an incentive package for landowners. Beverley expressed the need to work with private landowners and protect them from issues that might arise from habitat restoration. The Cross Boundary Matrix, and the regulatory effects study being done by the Colusa Subreach will help determine what listed species occur within in the SRCA and for which species we need regulatory assurances. Part of the grant is provided for three landowners, who signed on as interested in getting involved: one for invasive plant removal with subsequent habitat restoration, and two others interested in mitigation and conservation banks. She explained that, under a programmatic agreement, baseline and monitoring information can be pooled for several properties and landowners can work through the agreement holder, thus providing a buffer between them and governmental agencies. Additionally, private consultants can be hired to gather data. This PSP also deals with issues arising from restoration on adjoining land and landowner protection for removal or incidental take, a large issue for the GNP. Gregg added CSP is pursuing some of the same items and will work closely with the SRCAF.

#### **Cross Boundary Issues**

The effort here has been to provide support to SRCAF for that portion of the Working Landscapes Proposal. DWR has a lot of data and consultants to come up with a product for the whole area. Stacy will provide information to Gregg for a CSP fit.

#### **Next Meeting Date and Location**

The next TAC meeting was set for Tuesday, February 7, 2006, 9:30AM, at Willows City Hall. Please send projects slated for the next TAC meeting to Beverley.