

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – October 3, 2006

Chair - Ajay Singh

Acting Vice Chair–Beverley Anderson-Abbs

TAC Chair Ajay Singh opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Henry Lomeli, Michael Fehling, Gregg Werner, Virginia Getz, Olen Zirkle, John Merz, Woody Elliott, Tom McCubbins, Lady Bug Doherty, Burt Bundy, Beverley Anderson, and Ellen Gentry.

Announcements

The SB 1086 20th Anniversary Celebration was held September 18. A Sacramento River float from Red Bluff to Mill Creek occurred that morning and a buffet dinner was held in the evening at the Red Bluff Elk's Lodge. Mistress of Ceremonies Diana Jacobs gave an historical background, Stacy Cepello provided a photo slide presentation, and guests contributed recollections of SB 1086. Sponsors included: Mill Creek Conservancy, TNC, EDAW, Diana Jacobs and Rick Elefant, and the Sacramento River Preservation Trust.

The Sacramento River Preservation Trust 22nd Annual Dinner was held September 21, and included integrated water management discussions. The Return of the Salmon Festival will be held October 21 at the Coleman Fish Hatchery. Contact Roger Shudes at (530) 365-8781 for availability of display areas. The Dairyville Orchard Festival is also scheduled for October 21.

A press release from F&WS Sacramento office reported that they have been instructed to look at the delisting of the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB). Such a process would take several years. VELB remains listed until there is an official announcement. The goal of restoration has been to provide habitat to endangered species. If a delisting occurs, VELB might be considered a success story along the Sacramento River corridor.

Activity Reports

Henry Lomeli, DFG, responded to previous questions regarding locked gates to public access areas (i.e., Rd. 48). With public increase in recreation, some private property owners are looking at private enterprise opportunities. Henry reported that we can expect to see more of this in the future along the river. The Ord Bend east side necessitates crossing private property to get to the gravel bar. At Princeton, Ron Lorenzo charges for access over the levee on his private property. Private property owners can control who crosses their land and charge fees, which may assist with cleaner and safer areas. Landowners are supportive and feel safe leaving vehicles behind locked gates. F&G cannot regulate private property. Definitive information is expected for public access rights along levees.

Henry also reported that consideration of a deer population reduction hunt along the river has been presented to Fish and Game's Fines Commission in Butte County and approved. Presentations will be made to Tehama, Glenn and Colusa Counties. The proposed hunt is in response to successful restoration areas. A crop depredation challenge, as mentioned in the Good Neighbor Policy, will be to reduce the population of deer to an acceptable level. A season or boundaries have not yet been set for the either sex hunt. This is a proactive way to maintain good relations along the river and is sensitive to the needs of neighbors. The Tehama meeting is scheduled for October 10. Gregg Werner suggested including information regarding restoration since there is the perception of more restoration taking place than has actually occurred. John Merz asked about herd size and the relationship to possible predator population. He also suggested a specific caliber and/or bow hunt for public safety purposes. Public access maps are available at www.sacramentoriver.org

Woody Elliott announced that the Big Chico Creek project should be completed by the end of the month.

Gregg Werner and Mike Fehling gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Colusa Sacramento River State Recreation Area Master Plan and Public Access Plan. Information included the hydraulic analysis of the flood control system, hydraulic analysis of wildlife habitat projects, fiscal effect analysis, economic effect analysis, pest effects analysis and regulatory effects analysis.

The CA State Parks' Central Valley Vision included recommended actions, future funding, project objectives, project history, draft master plan diagram, the existing developed recreation area, key development concepts, proposed development, northern area concept and remaining steps in the process. Colusa Subreach public lands, land use and facility options should be available for public review in 2-3 weeks. Henry added that there is active hunting on F&G property north of the northern area concept and that allowance is needed for safety buffers there. The third CSP public meeting will be held in November.

Ajay Singh, reported on Stony Creek which will begin looking at mining the delta and augmentation below the Black Butte dam. The RCD has asked the COE to initiate an 1135 program to see if it is economically viable, reclaiming property that is lost. Excessive bank erosion below the dam allows for taking of the sediment being moved by the water. It was noted that 250,000 tons of gravel is available at M&T.

Current Projects/Updates

Olin Zirkle, Ducks Unlimited, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the M&T/Llano Seco Fish Screen Short-term/Long-term Project (RM192). This is a CBDA funded project sponsored by Ducks Unlimited, Inc. Long-term solution included information regarding the Project conceptual model, ranking criteria, proposed Ranney Well locations, a summary of estimated drawdown, refined well yield estimation, capital cost summary, dredging alternative analysis, spur dike study objectives, and spur dike study conclusions .

The recommended alternatives are: spur dikes/groins and dredging. RM164-215 is being modeled. Phase 2 will look at mitigation of dikes for benefits and modeling next spring to come up with a preferred plan. Burt asked if spur dikes on F&W property were allowed. The consensus is to look at where rock can be pulled off for net gain; then F&W would be supportive. No substantial mitigation is available for dredging, however, it was suggested that gravel could be sold to compensate cost.

The short-term solution included an evaluation of interim bank stabilization alternatives where 700 ft. of reduced length rock toe and brush revetment is preferred. Target date is the end of November. The Draft EIR will be available this week. Some analysis of meander tradeoff has been done. For more information go to the project website: <http://ducks.org/Page2444.aspx>

Cross Boundary Issues Sub-Committee Update

Ajay will report at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next TAC meeting was set for November 7. It was suggested that the meeting be held farther north for upcoming Shasta and Tehama county related projects.