

**Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Summary**

April 21, 2011  
3:00pm

Willows City Hall  
Willows, CA

Vice Chair Walt Seaver called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. Since a voting quorum was not present, the meeting was convened as a committee of the whole. Self-introductions were made. Names listed with underline indicate present and in parentheses represent absences.

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency (non-voting)</u>
Butte	(Steve Lambert)	<u>John Nock</u>	
Colusa	(Gary Evans)	<u>Walt Seaver</u>	
Glenn	Vacant	Vacant	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	<u>James Gallagher</u>	(Brian Fedora)	
Tehama	(Ron Warner)	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	<u>Marc Faye</u>	
Resources Agency	<u>Jim McKeivitt</u>		
DWR			<u>Curtis Anderson</u>
DFG			<u>Sandy Morey</u>
Central Valley Flood Control Board			(Jay Punia)
USFWS			(Jan Knight)
USACE			<u>Mark Cowan</u>
Bureau of Reclamation			(Don Reck)
Bureau of Land Management			(Mike Pool)
US Forest Service			(Eduardo Olmedo)
Dept. of Parks and Recreation			(Marilyn Linkem)
SRCAF: Manager Jane Dolan, Resource Conservation Assistant Rob Irwin and Administrative Assistant Ellen Gentry.			

Other identified attendees: Amanda Freeman, River Partners; Lee Ann Grigsby-Puente, Reclamation District No. 2140; Tom Karvonen, USACE; Delbert David, Tehama County Planning Commissioner; Dan James, Hamilton City Fire Department; Michael Fehling, CA State Parks; John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust (SRPT); Paul Fujitani, US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR); Peggy Manza, USBR; Natalie Wolder, USBR, Willows; Kirk Coon, Department of Parks and Recreation; Larry Jones, Glenn Co. Sheriff; Ryan Luster, TNC; Chris Barr, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Kelly Moroney, USFWS; William Spears, Willows Police Department.

1. Announcements

John Merz, SRPT, announced A Mother's Day Sacramento River Float, from Jellys Ferry to Bend, Sunday, May 8, from 8AM-6PM. For more information go to: <http://www.sacrivertrust.org/index.php?show=calendar>

SRPT is also working with the Sacramento River Discovery Center (SRDC) for their annual Watershed Celebration and Plant Sale, May 14, 1000 Sale Lane (adjacent to the Red Bluff Diversion Dam), 9:00AM-1:00PM. Contact SRDC directly at 527-1196, or go to <http://www.srdc.tehama.k12.ca.us/>

2. Meeting Notes

Jim McKeivitt moved, seconded by John Nock to approve the February 17 board meeting notes. Motion carried. John Nock moved, seconded by Lynnel Pollock to accept the March 30 Executive Committee notes, as received. Motion carried.

3. Selection of Executive Committee members

The selection of the Landowner position, on the Executive Committee, was continued until this meeting. The Executive Committee recommends John Nock as Butte County Landowner Representative to serve on the 2011 Executive Committee. No further nominations were made. James Gallagher moved, Jim McKeivitt seconded, to approve John Nock as the Landowner Representative on the 2011 Executive Committee. Motion carried.

#### 4. Board Meeting Schedule

At the last meeting, the board voted to approve the alternating monthly schedule (February, April, June, August, October and December) for 2011. A poll was distributed to the board to determine the most suitable day and time for the 2011 board meeting schedule. Although the majority indicated they preferred the current schedule (third Thursday, 3-5:00PM), James Gallagher has suggested the board also consider the fourth Thursday as a possible meeting date. Jane offered to contact board members regarding the possibility of meeting on the fourth Thursday.

#### 5. Board Member Reports

It was suggested that issues of the Sutter Bypass, including the possible changes to the Fremont Weir and impacts of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, be placed on a future board agenda. It was proposed that a presentation be made at the TAC, before bringing to the board.

Curtis Anderson, DWR, reported the statewide snowpack water content is 167% of average for the date and 152% of the average, April 1, seasonal total. This past month, Governor Jerry Brown officially rescinded former Governor Schwarzenegger's emergency proclamations and drought executive orders. DWR announced on April 20, an increase of the 2011 State Water Project (SWP) water allocation to 80% of contractors' requests, up 30% from last year's final allocation. DWR took a tour of the Folsom Dam spillway construction. The new spillway will allow for higher releases to be made thus allowing for more reservoir storage under certain conditions. On April 28 there will be the annual Upper Sacramento River Monitoring Project Work Team meeting. In May, DWR is participating with Golden Guardian, testing emergency responses. Northern Region Office also responded to the Japan tsunami for assessment of local flooding. DWR is also continuing to work with the Sites Joint Powers Authority (JPA). Currently the JPA is partnering with DWR and the USBR to complete a feasibility study and EIS/EIR for the North-of-the-Delta-Off-stream-Storage (NODOS) Investigation.

Kelly Moroney reported US Fish and Wildlife Service, in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), are preparing a joint EIS/EIR for the proposed Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary Unit Restoration and Princeton-Codora-Glenn and Provident Irrigation Districts (PCGID-PID) Pumping Plant/Fish Screen Facility Protection Project, in Glenn and Butte Counties. The proposed project includes riparian restoration of land in the Llano Seco Wildlife Unit and protection of the PCGID-PID pumping plant and fish screen facility. A public scoping meeting will be held May 10, 4 to 6PM, at the Ord Bend Community Hall, 3241 Highway 45, Ord Bend.

#### 6. Manager's Report/Staff Activities

Jane Dolan reported that the request for the SRCAF grant funding extension, to December 31, 2011, has been approved.

Jane reported that consultant work toward the completion of additional analysis for the recommended alternatives, for the protection of the facilities located at RM192.5, is underway and scheduled for completion this summer. Underwater assessments, of the gravel bar and continued encroachment of gravel on the fish screens, are planned when the water has cleared. There may be a proposal for a third suction dredging for removal of the gravel, if it is found to be impacting the function of the pump and fish screen.

Jane has continued efforts to acquire legal review for the Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement, as requested by the board. To that end, she met with the CA Farm Bureau Federation staff attorney, who discussed potential law firms to contact for legal assistance. Jane is distilling the legal issues to be analyzed, contacting those legal referrals in an effort to seek legal assistance that is within the confines of a limited budget, and locating an attorney or law firm with experience in agriculture, environmental laws, and state and federal agency regulations and procedures.

The development of a conservation strategy for the Bank Swallow project, which has been coordinated by the SRCAF, is now a project of DWR in coordination with the FESSRO division of DWR in Sacramento. Beverly Anderson-Abbs is the facilitator. SRCAF will continue to provide assistance to this planning effort, manage the website portal and attend the Bank Swallow TAC meetings to provide technical and logistical help.

Jane is working to meet with the members of the SRCAF Advisory Council and MOA signatories. An Advisory Council meeting will be planned, with a target date this summer.

Copies of the written Manager's Report were included in the agenda packet.

## 7. Staff Activities Report

Staff provided the first quarterly financial reports for 2011, for both the Working Landscapes Grant and the Directed Action Grant.

Updated information on the Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project is available on the SRCAF website: [http://www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf/index.php?id=hamilton\\_city](http://www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf/index.php?id=hamilton_city). The update provides information of the proposed funding in the Federal Budget FY2012 for a phase of the project; the first significant action since the feasibility study was completed.

Staff continues efforts on the Sacramento River Monitoring and Assessment Program, Sacramento River Library, Project Tracker, Conservation Easement Mapping, Sacramento River GIS, and other activities. A full report of staff activities was included with the agenda packet.

## 8. TAC Report

Rob Irwin, SRCAF Resource Conservation Assistant, reviewed the notes from the March 1 TAC meeting. Notes of this meeting were included with the agenda packet. John Nock had a question regarding the State Parks project of restoration of the Singh property, as to whether the topographical design of the restoration would be sufficient for drainage of floodwaters. John also expressed concern for the adjoining agricultural land owner, the Mendonca family. Ryan Luster, TNC, noted that TNC met with the Mendoncas 4-5 years ago regarding the proposed project, discussed their requested changes and stated those changes were made. Ryan also noted two berms will be removed and an existing swale will be maintained. The application for Riparian Habitat Restoration on the Singh Unit of Bidwell-Sacramento State Park, and the Addendum to the FEIR for the Bidwell-Sacramento State Park Habitat Restoration and Recreation Facilities development, is available on the SRCAF website: <http://www.sacramentoriver.org/SRCAF/index.php?id=bidwell>.

## 9. Shasta Dam Releases and Sacramento River Flows

Peggy Manza, USBR Hydraulic Engineer, gave an overview presentation of the Shasta Reservoir Operations with a report and PowerPoint. The USBR operates the reservoir and flood releases with the requirements of the Central Valley Project (CVP). Operational objectives include: flood control, water supply, power generation, instream water quality, fish and wildlife, Delta water quality, recreation, seepage and navigation. Key operating agreements and standards include: Coordinated Operations Agreement, Water Rights Decision 1641, 2008 Biological Opinion for the Delta smelt, 2009 NMFS Biological Opinion, San Joaquin River Agreement, Central Valley Improvement Act and the CalFED Bay-Delta Program. Operations are coordinated with DWR, USACE, State Water Resources Control Board, USFWS, CDFG, NMFS and local stakeholders.

Peggy also reviewed a graph of Shasta Reservoir Operations WY 2011, October 2010 to (projected) September 2011. Factors of reservoir storage take into account flood control rule regarding exceeding storage and actual Shasta Dam storage. There are guidelines for cutting back storage to avoid stranding fish. At present, storage is being recovered. Cutting back on releases is done as quickly as possible, within the parameters of operational objectives. It was noted that the historical formula of operation has not changed since 1978.

Peggy noted she held a meeting of downstream landowners at the request of Congressman Herger's representative, and the discussion included a comment that the formula may need to be updated or reevaluated when there is long range for gradual releases. This is not a quick process. Forecasts are better, but not perfect. This year releases do not affect Hamilton City, for example. USBR works in coordination with DWR at flood stage to reduce stress on levees. The PowerPoint is posted on the SRCAF website.

## 10. Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction Project

Project Manager Tom Karvonen, USACE, was introduced by Mark Cowan, USACE. Tom provided a report and PowerPoint presentation beginning with an overview of the history of the project. Hamilton City is currently protected by the degraded "J" levee, which provides 10 years or less protection. The City has been evacuated six times in 30 years. Various efforts to address this flood protection need have been investigated over many decades. New planning policies for projects created in 2001 offered an opportunity to combine flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration projects in a way that could make this project feasible under federal funding requirements.

Overall project components include the removal of the degraded "J" levee; constructing 6.8mi of setback levee, with the result of a 90% chance of safely passing the 75 year flood event for protection of the citizens of Hamilton City; and restoring 1500acs of native habitats. This is a multi-benefit project with joint use components. The funding proposed provides for a phase of the project; the USACE must construct this phase so as to not induce flooding.

The project was authorized for construction in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007; this is the first appropriation considered for the project. Ninety percent designs were completed in October 2009. This project is designated in the FY2012 President's budget, released in February 2011, as one of only two new construction starts in the nation. The proposed amount is for \$8M.

The first phase, if approved by Congress, will start near Dunning Slough, just before County Rd. 23. Building the setback releases pressure and handles flows better. The cost benefit ratio, showing multiple benefits, justifies the project and is an example of a new planning process and new template.

The House and Senate must still decide the Energy and Water (E&W) Appropriations bill that the President will sign into law, or veto. It is the language in the E&W bill that determines the final appropriations amount in 2012. It is very unlikely that the E&W bill will have a lesser amount for the project than what was in the President's budget. Construction of the project will be phased based on this and subsequent appropriations. Once the E&W bill is signed and funding is received, next steps are to sign the Project Partnership agreement with RD 2140, complete plans and specs to 100% design level and release for Requests for Proposals. Construction is expected to begin late summer 2012.

The following comments are in response to some questions raised by board members: where we can degrade the "J" levee will be looked at each year; the project can't start at the northern end because of requirements to not induce flooding; once there is an initial appropriation, it will increase the likelihood for further funding; an initial investment will generally see additional investments in the future; full funding rarely happens initially.

Project Partners and Stakeholders includes: Reclamation District 2140, Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum, The Hamilton City Community Services District, Hamilton City Citizens in Action, Glenn County, local agricultural interests, US Army Corps of Engineers, Central Valley Flood Protection Board, Department of Water Resources, California Bay-Delta Authority and The Nature Conservancy.

A link to the USACE PowerPoint can be found on the SRCAF website at:

[http://www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf/publications/hamilton\\_city\\_docs/Hamilton\\_City\\_presentation\\_\(Karvonen\\_2011\).pdf](http://www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf/publications/hamilton_city_docs/Hamilton_City_presentation_(Karvonen_2011).pdf)

### 13. Correspondence

Correspondence and items of interest were distributed to board members.

### 14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00PM.