

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

May 21, 2009
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, CA

Chair Jim McKeivitt called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., followed by self-introductions. It was determined there was not a quorum of voting members present (underlined). Names listed in parentheses represent absences. A conference call line was made available.

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency (non-voting)</u>
Butte	<u>Jane Dolan</u>	(Shirley Lewis)	
Colusa	(Gary Evans)	(Walt Seaver)	
Glenn	(Leigh McDaniel)	(Don Anderson)	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(James Gallagher)	(Russell Young)	
Tehama	<u>Ron Warner</u>	<u>Brendon Flynn</u>	
Yolo	(Lynnel Pollock)	<u>Marc Faye</u>	
Resources Agency	<u>Jim McKeivitt</u>		
DWR			Glen Pearson
DFG			Kent Smith
State Reclamation Board			Lady Bug Doherty
USFWS			Kathy Wood
USACE			Alicia Kirchner
Bureau of Reclamation			Basia Trout
SRCAF: Executive Director Beverley Anderson-Abbs			

Other identified attendees: Aric Lester, Bruce Ross, Todd Hillaire (DWR); Dave Zezulak(DFG); Scott Rice, Denise Reichenberg (DPR); Robert Capriola (Westervelt); Dan Welsh (USFWS); Ashley Indrieri; Gregg Werner (TNC); Tony Chappelle (WCB); Mike Deitl (USACE)

1. Unscheduled matters

Ron Warner, Tehama County public interest representative, asked for information regarding a resident of Red Bluff in Tehama County. The Sacramento River is eroding the bank into his property and he would like to get a property reassessment. Can he get an opinion saying it is impossible to protect the residence because of the height and steepness of the bank. Alicia Kirchner indicated that the Corps cannot respond to a single entity with respect to erosion of property. Glen Pearson indicated that he knew the property Ron was talking about and would try to go take a look at it.

2. Consent Calendar

There was not a quorum. Consent items will be moved to the July 16, 2009 meeting.

3. Board Member Reports

Alicia, USACE, gave a brief update on the Hamilton City set back levee project. No construction money was authorized by Congress for this year so construction will have to wait. The Corps will be involved in upcoming flood planning workshops being held by DWR.

Glen Pearson, DWR is retiring and this will be his final SRCAF meeting. He has asked Aric Lester to sit in as the DWR board representative until a new district chief is appointed. Offstream storage work is continuing to move forward. DWR is looking at the Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs) in a regional acceptance process to determine which Plan is most inclusive. Water allocations for the State Water Project have been increased to 40% and Central Valley Project allocations are expected to be increased similarly. There is an expected 70% run-off year for the Sacramento River.

Basia Trout indicated that the Bureau of Reclamation received the invoice from SRCAF for a donation to help cover expenses while bond funding is frozen. The Red Bluff Diversion Dam interim pumping plant is expected to be on line by June 1, and Judge Wanger will rule on whether the gates can be closed. The final pumping facility is to be complete by 2012 after which time dam gates will not be able to be closed.

Scott Rice gave information about the upcoming Floodsafe workshops. The first one is scheduled for Chico at the Chico Masonic Center, June 3 from 1:00-4:00 and again from 5:00-7:00pm. The next north state workshop will be in Sacramento on June 10. The Local Groundwater Technical Assistance panel meeting is scheduled for June 1st at the Bonderson building in Sacramento. June 5th is the final day for comments on the California Water Plan. The Central Valley Delineation Program will have building code standard updates in July. Letters have been sent to residents living in levee floodplains identifying risks. DWR is currently collecting new hydraulic and hydrology data to outline flood risks and will provide that to FEMA for insurance purposes. The new delineations will impact how state agencies respond to development proposals in the future.

4. SRCAF Current Financial Situation

Beverley is continuing to volunteer her time trying to secure other funding and keep things moving forward where needed.

Letters and invoices were sent to all signatory agencies, currently DWR has responded with a check for \$3000. DFG, State Lands Commission, and Wildlife Conservation Board will also be sending checks.

Beverley has been hired as a private contractor through the Tehama County RCD to provide meeting facilitation services for the US Army Corps of Engineers. The contract is specific for Bank Swallow Working Group meetings and attendance at other project meetings that might affect or be affected by the Sacramento Bank Protection Project.

5. Kopta Slough Project

Aric Lester, Bruce Ross, and Todd Hillaire gave an update on the Kopta Slough/Woodson Bridge project. The Kopta Slough project has five main goals: 1) to provide flood damage reduction to the Woodson Bridge area including the county park, state park, and HWY 32; 2) provide advance mitigation for DWR flood protection projects; 3) provide ecosystem benefits by allowing the river to occupy historic meander zone; 4) establish long term public ownership of the Kopta Slough property with the transfer of the 708-acre property to the State of California for management by California State Parks; 5) expand recreational opportunities.

Work on the feasibility study is continuing and the final report will be available by the end of September. Ayers Associates has been contracted for the engineering analysis and will develop conceptual designs and cost estimates for each project component and alternatives. A 2-dimensional hydraulic model is being partially calibrated to the 1997 flood event and will be used to establish existing conditions for velocity, water surface elevation, and shear stress. This information will be used to evaluate effects of the various project components, including removal of the rock revetment at RM220.5, pilot channel connection to Kopta Slough, bank protection at Woodson Bridge and the

City of Corning sewer outfall, and riparian habitat restoration on the remaining 125 acres of the Kopta Slough property.

Bruce Ross gave details about the geomorphology and meander in the Kopta Slough area showing that removal of the existing revetment should allow the river to retake historical floodplain but would be contained by geologic control.

The rock revetment was placed by the USACE as part of the Chico Landing to Red Bluff project. USACE was the lead on the Kopta Slough project several years ago until funding was reallocated, and has been invited to work on the project again. USACE may be able to remove the rock revetment at this location as mitigation for protection needed elsewhere under the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project. The Sac Bank project manager will be attending future meetings.

6. Bay-Delta Plan – Fremont Weir/Yolo Bypass Inundation

Dave Zezulak gave a presentation outlining the Bay Delta Conservation Plan at the request of SRCAF Board member Lynnel Pollock at the March board meeting. He outlined the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, an NCCP. Although little of the planning area is within the Sacramento River Conservation Area, as indicated in the power point presentation, it does extend to Fremont Weir and the Yolo Bypass. There is also a possibility that conservation actions may be implemented upstream, affecting the Conservation Area more directly. The Conservation Plan includes increasing the frequency and duration of inundation in the Yolo Bypass and would include berms or low levees to confine flows.

Dave pointed out that the Conaway Ranch is the largest landowner in the Bypass with an easement in place and the Vick Fazio wildlife area would not be destroyed under the current plan.

7. Sacramento River Bank Protection Update

Mike Deitl, US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), gave a presentation about the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project (SRBPP) authorized by Congress. The Corps is responsible for implementation of the SRBPP in conjunction with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. Phase I included 430,000 linear feet with no mitigation requirement; Phase II initially included 405,000 linear feet with mitigation requirements, 13,000 linear feet remain under this authorization. The 2008 erosion survey identified 154 sites, eight sites were repaired in 2008, another 9000 linear feet is scheduled 2009.

The Corps is preparing a programmatic environmental impact statement/environmental impact report for an additional 80,000 linear feet of bank protection under Phase II, authorized through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007.

An Interagency Working Group has been formed as a condition of Biological Opinions issued by USFWS and NMFS for Phase II. The purpose of this group is to develop products for SRBPP planning and determine project impacts on listed species. Eleven working groups have been identified to help determine the impacts: SAM-ESA; Economics, to develop economic justification for continued federal involvement in remedial bank protection; Real Estate, to resolve real estate issues to facilitate construction at repair sites and mitigation; Mitigation, to determine mitigation requirements and develop mitigation banking strategy; GIS, coordinate and develop geospatial products without duplicating efforts by other agencies; Bank Swallow, develop a mitigation strategy for this state listed bird; Hydraulics and Geotech, develop standard operating procedures for varying levee conditions; Operations and Maintenance, develop Operations Maintenance Replacement, Repair, and Rehabilitation manuals; Fish, oversee fisheries monitoring efforts; Cultural, prepare an inventory of eligible historic properties under Section 016 of the National Historic Preservation Act; Site Selection, determine a framework for site prioritization.

8. Activities

Due to time constraints discussion of the annual BBQ and the offer of office space at a newly acquired BLM facility near Red Bluff was postponed for an Executive Committee meeting scheduled for June 4, 2009 at 2:00pm.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for July 16, location to be determined. Ron Warner offered to check for availability at the Tehama County Administration Building in Red Bluff.

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