

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

August 25, 2011
3:00pm

Willows City Hall
Willows, CA

Chair Ron Warner called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. A quorum of voting members was present (underlined). Names listed in parentheses represent absences. Self-introductions were made.

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency (non-voting)</u>
Butte	<u>Steve Lambert</u>	<u>John Nock</u>	
Colusa	(Gary Evans)	(Walt Seaver)	
Glenn	Vacant	Vacant	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	<u>Stan Cleveland</u>	(Brian Fedora)	
Tehama	<u>Ron Warner</u>	<u>Brendon Flynn</u>	
Yolo	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	<u>Marc Faye</u>	
Resources Agency	<u>Jim McKevitt</u>		
DWR			<u>Curtis Anderson</u>
DFG			<u>Sandy Morey</u>
Central Valley Flood Control Board			<u>Emma Suarez</u>
USFWS			(Jan Knight)
USACE			(Mark Cowan)
Bureau of Reclamation			(Don Reck)
Bureau of Land Management			(Mike Pool)
US Forest Service			(Eduardo Olmedo)
Dept. of Parks and Recreation			<u>Michael Fehling</u>

SRCAF: Manager Jane Dolan, Resource Conservation Assistant Rob Irwin and Administrative Assistant Ellen Gentry.

Other identified attendees: John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust (SRPT); Doug Ross, Sacramento Valley Mirror; Tom McCubbins, Tehama County RCD and SRCAF TAC Chairman; Christy Dawson, NorthStar Engineering/Gallaway Consulting.

1. Announcements

Jane Dolan shared information of a Ducks Unlimited public scoping meeting, August 30, 4-6PM, at the Holiday Inn, in Chico. The purpose of the meeting is to learn about and provide input on the Llano Seco Ranch Water Conveyance System Improvement Project, also known as the siphon replacement project.

The Friends of Butte Creek hosts the 5th Annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival Friday, September 16, 5PM, in the Sierra Nevada Brewery's Big Room, Chico.

The 21st Annual Corning Olive Festival will be held Friday and Saturday, August 27 and 28. The parade is scheduled for Friday.

The 30th Annual Tehama County Museum Jubilee is scheduled for Saturday, September 10. Also, the Butte County Fair starts today, Gridley.

The CA Cooperative Rice Research Foundation's Rice Field Day will be held the 31st, at the Rice Experiment Station, Biggs, CA.

2. Meeting Notes

Lynnel Pollock moved, seconded by John Nock, to approve the June 23 board meeting notes and accept the July 28 Executive Committee meeting notes as received. Motion carried.

3. Report of State Parks and Recreation Project, Butte County: Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park Habitat Restoration and Outdoor Recreation Project

Jane gave a brief history of this project. The proposed permit for restoration of a 43 acre parcel now owned by State Parks known as the Singh unit was the subject of a June 24 informational meeting of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. The CVFPB Board requested State Parks and its partner of this project TNC to go back and work with adjoining landowners and the County of Butte to see if a solution could be brought forth. TNC has indicated it plans to proceed with hiring an outside facilitator or mediation service to conduct meetings. Jane recommends that the Board approve notifying State parks and TNC that the SRCAF is well-suited and capable of fulfilling its role of providing cooperation and collaboration to resolve concerns and seek a solution acceptable to everyone.

Marc Faye moved and Jim McKeivitt seconded, that the board approve the recommendation and notify State parks that the Board does authorize the Forum to serve as the facilitator in order that a consensus can be achieved.

A discussion followed regarding the conflicts associated with this project: the County of Butte believes that the restoration project does not have a sufficient plan to provide ongoing maintenance for flood protection; adjoining landowners feel that viable ag should be allowed to continue, and that the parcel adjoining to the south should be included in the project and flood plan. Emma Suarez pointed out that in the past, the issue of long term maintenance was not an issue because of state assistance; with the current state budget situation however, the CVFPB has raised the issue with projects that there may not be enough to cover long term maintenance.

John Merz noted there is a long history on this project which went through appropriate meetings, review, as well as the SRCAF TAC review process, having been found to be within the guidelines of the SRCAF handbook. He noted that, with regard to providing a service to facilitate, a disinterested third party should be involved. And it is up to State Parks and TNC to decide what they want to do. The SRCAF principles do not require landowner agreement, but landowner notice.

John Nock noted he had been listed as a landowner in the permit to the Flood Protection Board, and at a recent meeting it was indicated that meetings had been held with landowners. Nock said he had never been included in a landowner meeting nor given any notice. He added that if the process is to meet only with some landowners, you can't expect all landowners to go along with what is being proposed.

Brendon Flynn called the question: should the Forum ask to be the facilitator for this project?

Jim McKeivitt reported that if this project has been brought before the board already, we couldn't be considered a disinterested party. If not, we could be.

Ron Warner said property owners' concerns fall directly within the purview of one of the SRCAF's guiding principles; to give full consideration to landowner, public and local government concerns.

Motion carried; John Nock abstained.

Lynnel Pollock added that historic information should be compiled and made available to the Board.

4. Board Member Reports

Sutter County has been involved in numerous riparian flood issues, being within the confluence of the Feather and the Sacramento River. The Lower Feather River corridor group is looking to cut costs as yearly permitting and mitigating requirements are very expensive. A five year renewal program is being considered to allow a more in depth review of details, and then have more money to be put into maintenance; it is viewed as a wise use of taxpayers' money and mutually beneficial for everybody. River Partners is involved.

Yolo County reported that the Colusa Basin Drainage District (CBDD) received a presentation on the proposals regarding the Yolo Basin by the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan and drafted letter to the Resources Agency, expressing concerns. That letter was delivered today and signed by PCGID, RD108, and several districts. Most were unaware of implications which may have impacts upstream. The planning process is moving quickly. Lynnel, who serves on the CBDD Board, will forward a copy of the letter. She attended the Delta Conservancy Public meeting along with Jane Dolan. Emma Suarez requested a copy of the letter for the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.

Tehama County reported today is the last day for Lake Red Bluff as the gates of the Red Bluff Diversion will be raised permanently. Also, 'Operation Full Court Press' in Mendocino US Forest lands resulted in 132 arrests and the seizure of 632,000 marijuana plants. The Department of Fish and Game is also involved in that enforcement.

The State Water Board reported Prop 204 funding has been approved to the Sites Project Joint Powers Authority (JPA) for the environmental documents for the reservoir project. Also Curtis Anderson attended a Coho

salmon summit at the State Capitol last week. Numbers are dismal and the species are not recovering. Coho spend 18 months in fresh water and have a strict three year life cycle, so it takes time to recover species. Discussion takes too long to get Coho projects through the process, there is inadequate funding, etc.

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board reported updating Title 23 regulations dealing with encroachment standards, including permitting. Emma Suarez offered to share with SRCAF staff, an early draft detailing what has been done. The draft will be in front of the CVFPP board for approval soon.

5. Manager's Report

Jane Dolan is working on the possibility of submitting an amendment to re-budget the existing grants to allow funding into the next year. This may allow SRCAF to be funded into a few months in 2012 to allow our work to continue and to help prepare for long term funding. Jane met with Assemblyman Nielsen who shared that he is supportive, reengaged and willing to help. The Assemblyman offered to set up meetings with Secretary of Resources John Laird to investigate long term funding.

Jane has included in Board packets a copy of a letter by Kent Smith, Regional Manager, DFG, with the finding that dredging of gravel at RM192.5 will not be necessary this year. Over the next several months, DFG will discuss how to continue to move forward with coordination efforts and the environmental review process for both short-term and long-term solutions to the protection of the operation of the fish screen and pumping plant facilities at this river location.

Rob Irwin presented a brief PowerPoint to introduce to the Board information he is compiling regarding mapping of acreage, restoration, conservation and land ownership history and changes along the Sacramento River. The time period will focus on the last decade, and back to 1995; this is a work in progress.

SRCAF will be a key partner, and partner with the Northern Region Office of DWR by providing outreach, facilitation and coordination as the Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough feasibility study proceeds.

The 2011 Summer Newsletter has been prepared for distribution. This newsletter is in a new format. We are experimenting with a transition to email distribution. Included in the new format are direct links to more information, a specific website or a PowerPoint presentation. The newsletter will mainly be sent via email, but will also be mailed to those who prefer hard copies.

The 2011 Second Quarter Financial Reports have been prepared, based on CSU Chico Research Foundation fiscal reports, and were provided to the board

6. Staff Report

An activity report was distributed. Staff continues to collect information and provide coordination for the Bank Swallow Technical Advisory Committee.

An online glossary of terms, words and acronyms frequently encountered in river literature has been developed. The glossary expands on the SRCAF Handbook glossary and is available on the SRCAF website.

Staff has completed rectifying 1947 aerial imagery of the Sacramento River and published the dataset on the CA Spatial Information Library to make publicly available. Efforts to rectify 1964 imagery are underway.

7. TAC Report

Tom McCubbins reviewed projects and presentation from the August 2 TAC meeting. Included was information on the La BARRanca Unit; Shasta Tehama Watershed Coalition (STWEC); Bank Swallow Conservation, Population and Habitat Trends; and Regional Advance Mitigation Planning (RAMP).

8. Correspondence

Correspondence and items of interest were distributed to board members.

9. Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for October 27, 3-5:00PM, at Willows City Hall.