

**Agenda Item # 3**  
**April 26, 2012**

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

February 23, 2012  
3:00pm

Willows City Hall  
Willows, CA

Chair Walt Seaver called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. Since a voting quorum was not present, the meeting convened as a committee of the whole. Names underlined indicate present; names 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	Vacant	<u>Walt Seaver</u>	
Glenn	Vacant	Vacant	
Shasta	<u>Glenn Hawes</u>	Vacant	
Sutter	(James Gallagher)	(Brian Fedora)	
Tehama	(Ron Warner)	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	(Marc Faye)	
Resources Agency	(Jim McKevitt)		
DWR			<u>Aric Lester</u>
DFG			(Sandy Morey)
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>Mike Fehling</u>
SRCAF: Manager Jane Dolan, Resource Conservation Assistant Rob Irwin and Administrative Assistant Ellen Gentry.			

Other attendees: John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust.

1. Announcements

Jane reported a status of Directors: due to schedule conflicts, Curtis Anderson, DWR, has designated Aric Lester as the DWR Representative. Dan Gover, Shasta County Landowner Representative, has resigned and has moved out of state. Shasta County has indicated it will make an appointment for that position. Two Board members cannot attend due to personal/family and two others cannot attend due to their work. Due to vacancies the voting members of the Board are 11; however at the conclusion of this meeting, the number will be 10.

2. Meeting Notes

The December 15, 2011 meeting notes will be carried over to the April meeting agenda for approval.

3. Update of Bylaws

Jane Dolan provided information of proposed revisions to the Bylaws that she recommends: format and style revisions such as adding titles to Sections, breaking out sections so that each describes one item, adding a Table of Contents and adding an informational appendix listing dates and a brief summary of the adoption and amendments of the Bylaws. She further recommends the addition of a sentence to three sections to clarify that

board officers duties may be handled, as they currently are, by staff and to state that the board may hold closed sessions according to law. Since bylaw amendments require a 2.3 vote, or 7 votes, this will need to be placed on the next agenda for action. Emma Suarez noted that many organizations provide for the ability for voting board members to conduct certain votes via email. It may be that we would need to add such a revision to the bylaws and to clarify that we do allow members to participate via conference calls. Staff will draft these possible changes and bring all revisions to the next meeting.

#### 4. Report of letter from Colusa County

Staff received a letter January 27 from Colusa County stating they have voted to withdraw from the SRCAF Board. The letter gave 30 days notice. SRCAF Board Chair Walt Seaver is a Colusa County appointee.

John Knox suggested that the SRCAF Bylaws be updated to include an option where if counties elect not to appoint, the board may fill the vacant positions. The Manager was asked to seek legal advice on this and to draft proposed language. If such a change were to be approved, the selection could take many forms: identify a person and recruit, give notice of availability form a Nominating Committee to recommend candidates to the board for their approval.

Those present agreed to direct the Manager to answer the letter from Colusa County, acknowledging their decision and stating we will keep them informed of Forum activities and would invite their renewed participation. In response to a question from John Merz, staff answered that this item regarding SRCAF was on the Colusa Board agenda, but the SRCAF was not provided notice. John Merz expressed disappointment at not having an opportunity to address their concerns. All agreed that the SRCAF will continue to communicate and to assist with projects in all counties.

#### 5. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Jane reviewed the purpose and schedule of the TAC, the lack of identified membership and the low attendance. She was directed to communicate with staff of counties, agencies and organizations, to request input on how to revise the TAC, what issues or regional meetings might be helpful and to look at the efforts of the TAC as a means to provide informational presentations on the Northern Sacramento River region, and to look to coordinate and seek co-sponsors of the presentations and to provide public information and discussion. Monthly meetings will be discontinued pending this outreach and review.

#### 6. Strategic Plan Update

Jane recommends the Board look to schedule a time to focus on a review and need to update the Strategic Plan. She suggests contracting with John Blacklock to assist in facilitating this work because of his facilitation experience and familiarity with the SRCAF. The suggestion is this be organized as a separate board workshop of perhaps three hours, or add on a regular board meeting, keeping the typical agenda very brief. Board members will be asked for their preference and a schedule determined hopefully at the next meeting. Cost will be kept to a minimum as the funds in the training budget are meager.

#### 7. Board Reports

Yolo County is concerned with the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP); the draft plan has been released and calls for expanding bypasses and impacting Yolo County. The Yolo County Board of Supervisors and many county representatives have sent letters expressing opposition to aspects of this Plan, especially the widening and expanding of the Fremont Weir. Jane and Emma Suarez serve on the CVFP Board, and shared that copies of the draft plan are available on the DWR and Flood Board website and numerous meetings and hearing will be held.

The California Farm Bureau has criticized the process of preparing the CVFPP and there are concerns of how other plans regarding the Bay Delta and fisheries will interact with the Flood Plan. There are many issues and impacts with Salmon in the bypass, permits that may or may not be required, and the need for extensive environmental review regarding the multiple impacts.

Cache Creek Conservancy and the Yolo County Resource Conservation District are hosting the annual Riparian Restoration Workshop, on the latest restoration techniques of local riparian ecosystems, Wednesday, April 18, 8 AM-12:30PM, at the Cache Creek Nature Preserve, 34199 County Road 20, in Woodland. For more information, contact Gina Martin at (530) 661-1070, or [gmartin@cachecreekconservancy.org](mailto:gmartin@cachecreekconservancy.org).

Emma Suarez reported that DWR presented the Public Draft 2012 CVFPP at the January 27 CVFP Board meeting. For information on the schedule of public and agency comments, visit the Central Valley Flood Protection Board's (CVFPB) website. The CVFPB will post a webcast of this session and at its meeting on Friday, Feb. 24, 1PM, in Sacramento, a portion of the meeting will focus on the draft 2012 CVFPP. The Draft Program Environmental Impact Report of the Draft CVFPP is scheduled for release on March 6.

DWR also reported the dates have been set for the meetings of Water Plan: the Tribal Advisory Committee will meet Thursday, March 22, and the Public Advisory Committee will meet Wednesday, April 4. Both meetings will be held in Sacramento. Additional details will be posted on the DWR Water Plan's meeting page when available.

The Draft State Water Project Delivery Reliability Report 2011 and Technical Addendum have been released. This report updates estimates of the current (2011) and future (2031) State Water Project (SWP) delivery reliability and incorporates regulatory requirements for SWP and Central Valley Project (CVP) operations in accordance with USFWS and NMFS biological opinions. Estimates of future reliability also reflect potential impacts of climate change and sea level rise. Comments are due by March 12, and can be sent to DWR, PO Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236-0001, or emailed to [comments-on-2011drr@water.ca.gov](mailto:comments-on-2011drr@water.ca.gov).

On February 22, DWR reduced its estimate of the amount of water the State Water Project will deliver this year. DWR dropped its projected delivery total, or allocation, from 60 percent to 50 percent of the requested amount of slightly more than 4 million acre-feet.

DWR is currently accepting applications for the last round of Prop 84 planning grants. Based on feedback from workshops and emails, a question and answer page has been developed. The topics include matching funds and the criteria for determining a disadvantaged community. Details on the grant funding, including the proposal solicitation package, are available on the Integrated Regional Water Management Grants webpage: <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/>.

Fifteen panelists have been chosen to serve on DWR's Climate Change Technical Advisory Group. The group will begin meeting next month to work on incorporating climate change into water resources planning and management. Panelists and climate change information are available at [www.water.ca.gov/climatechange/](http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange/).

Michael Fehling, CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation, reported executive staff is holding state-wide seminars regarding the State Parks closures. Stakeholders are being brought together as partners for a creative solution to keep parks viable, and to seek alternative to closure. State Parks is looking at funding what can be provided on a limited basis (i.e., running parks during peak season, bundling certain parks, such as Woodson Bridge, with other parks for joint operation proposal), and there is a variety of efforts aimed at keeping the Bidwell Mansion open. The deadline for an organization's notification of intent to enter into a Cooperating Agreement is April 1. State Parks seeks and wishes to work with donor partners before proceeding with a closure plan. Discussions include what fees that can be generated and made available, cutting operating and personnel costs. \$22M is the amount that is needed. Park closures end up costing more money to bring them back to standards (i.e., shut down water systems will need replacements at today's standards).

Michael gave brief reports on the following projects: Butte County Brayton restoration and the Glenn County Gianella properties have current farmers who will continue farming this year; State Parks is trying to work with USFWS and Caltrans to identify funds and to manage the parcel under Butte City Bridge causeway, a central access to State Parks and USFWS property; the City of Colusa will now manage the state day use and camping areas. State Parks will provide assistance with work and permits for dredging the boat ramp, which is tied with the Ward property restoration and State parks is working with DWR to take over the restoration site and the proposal to finalize the maintenance of the restoration site. Work is being done for a new Colusa boat launch (go to [http://www.sacramentoriver.org/SRCAF/publications/TAC/2011-01-11\\_TAC\\_notes.pdf](http://www.sacramentoriver.org/SRCAF/publications/TAC/2011-01-11_TAC_notes.pdf) for details). The City of Colusa is planning to get the first phase completed with local assistance for construction. State Parks will enter into an agreement to operate the ramp as a State Recreation Area (SRA).

Emma Suarez, Central Valley Flood Protection Board member, welcomed Jane to the board and reported the board has scheduled four Public Hearings of the Draft Central Valley Flood Protection Plan: Thursday, April 5, 9AM-5PM,

1419 Ninth St., Sacramento; Friday April 6, 9AM-5PM, 915 8<sup>th</sup> St., Marysville; Monday, April 9, 1-9PM, 2101 East Earhart Ave., Stockton; and Wednesday, April 11, 1-9PM, 625 Court St., Rm. 206, Woodland.

8. Manager's Report

Jane reported on communications from NorthStar Engineering, regarding the work that is now funded and will provide a seismic retrofit of underpinnings and abutments to Ord Ferry Bridge. The construction will occur over three years and will require the closure of the boat ramp on the west bank for a time.

Jane participated with others including John Nock, Larry Mendonca, Steve Lambert, and Butte County Public Works Director Mike Crump in an interview conducted by the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP), which was retained by TNC, regarding the TNC and State Parks proposed Singh Unit restoration project on River Road, Butte County. Others who may be interviewed include staff from CVFPP and John Merz. Updates on this issue will continue.

DFG and USFWS have agreed to proceed with a joint NEPA/CEQA process for potential of two future gravel dredging and the extension of rock toe on the west bank (unless an administrative process is possible for the extension, as the short-term solution for protection of the pumping plant and fish screen facilities at RM192.5. The report of long-term solution alternatives is still being drafted and is not yet available.

Amendments to the two existing Forum grant contracts have now been executed extending the term to December 31, 2012. The revisions to the budget will not be processed and it is anticipated funding will carry SRCAF through August 2012. The budgeting of existing funds has been prepared and submitted to DFG and it can be approved as a "memo to file." The extension of the contract to the end of the year, which is longer than the funds will provide, was done to allow for any new funds, an unknown as of now, to be identified and budgeted without requiring additional contract amendment for time extension.

Jane requests the Executive Committee to serve as a Budget and Funding Committee to review grant possibilities and proposals as they become more specific. The Board Workshop to update the Strategic Plan, as discussed earlier, is timely and ideas which come forward can be incorporated into a grant proposal.

9. TAC Report

Due to time constraints, the TAC notes were not reviewed. Copies were made available to the board and are available online: [http://www.sacramentoriver.org/SRCAF/publications/TAC/2011-01-11\\_TAC\\_notes.pdf](http://www.sacramentoriver.org/SRCAF/publications/TAC/2011-01-11_TAC_notes.pdf).

10. Correspondence

A list of correspondence and items of interest will be prepared and copies are available upon request.

11. Closed Session

The members of the Board present held a brief closed session at the request of the manager. The Board members present reconvened and rerouted that the Manger, for both budget and personal reasons is reducing time and salary by 10%.

12. Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 3-5:00 PM, at Willows City Hall.