

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

February 28, 2013  
3:00pm

Willows City Hall  
Willows, CA

Vice Chair John Nock called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. Self-introductions were made. Board status was reported to be 11 voting members, nine members and three agency representatives present at the meeting. A quorum established. Names underlined indicate present; names in parentheses represent absences.

<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	Vacant	
Glenn	Vacant	Vacant	
Shasta	<u>Pam Giacomini</u>	<u>Glenn Hawes</u>	
Sutter	<u>James Gallagher</u>	(Brian Fedora)	
Tehama	<u>Ron Warner</u>	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	<u>Jeanette Wrysinski</u>	<u>Marc Faye</u>	
Resources Agency	<u>Jim McKeivitt</u>		
DWR			<u>Aric Lester</u>
CDFG			<u>Sandy Morey</u>
Central Valley Flood Control Board			(Emma Suarez)
USFWS			(Jan Knight)
USACE			<u>Mike Dietl</u>
Bureau of Reclamation			(Don Reck)
Bureau of Land Management			(Mike Pool)
US Forest Service			(Eduardo Olmedo)
CA Department of Parks and Recreation			(Denise Rist)

Staff: Executive Director Jane Dolan, Susan Strachan, Program Manager, Resource Conservationist Rob Irwin, Administrative Assistant Ellen Gentry,.

Other attendees: Chris Scheuring, Forum attorney; Bob Williams, Tehama County Supervisor; Tony Danna, DWR.

1. Announcements

New SRCAF board members were introduced.

2. Meeting Notes

Jim McKeivitt moved, seconded by Ron Warner, to accept the December 6, 2012 meeting notes. Motion carried.

3. PSHA Draft and Status of VLPA

Jane Dolan provided copies of the Administrative Policy for Implementation of the Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement, as adopted by the board December 15, 2011. This Policy directs how the Forum will administer the Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement. The most recent draft of the Agreement was distributed, along with a summary outline of what has changed in the report. This draft has changed significantly since the September draft, and shows, using track changes, amendments and comments from staff, Board Attorney Chris Scheuring and Rick Kuyper, Safe Harbor Coordinator at US Fish and Wildlife.

The draft Agreement in total is reduced to 32 pages . The agreement is on pages 1-12, and pages 13-14 includes literature cited and signature page, and pages 15-25 are worksheets, and pages 26-31 are species

information and page 32 is Forum staff information. All language in reference to the State Voluntary Local Program has been removed from this document due to the decision that the significant differences of the State and the federal program will warrant a possible, future, separate agreement. Amendments to the draft include changes, primarily for the benefit of landowners, were reviewed. Details for surveys were stricken by Rick Kuyper, since the USFWS interest is chiefly in annual reports which will be prepared between cooperators and Forum staff. USFWS has indicated preliminary acceptance of the amendments.

Discussion ensued regarding various aspects of the agreement and program accidental take pursuant to routine practice and incidental take, flood management activities, baseline details and how to handle interest in participation by landowners in Colusa and Glenn Counties. Jane Dolan expressed her appreciation to board members for their input and work involving landowner concerns, and to amend the agreement to highlight the protection of continued farming and ranching practices. Jane also reported she met with Senator Nielsen and provided him with an update. Contact Jane or Chris Scheuring, between now and the next SRCAF board meeting, if there are questions or comments. USFWS and SRCAF will bring back a final draft at that time.

#### 4. Board Member Reports

Mike Dietl, USACE, reported they are not sure how sequestration, as reported in December, will play out. USACE continues to work on authorization for next year. They are still working on the feasibility study being done for Sutter County.

Aric Lester, DWR, reported two IRWM Strategic Plan Workshops will be held in Red Bluff on May 15 and 16 respectively. Three others will be held as well to develop the vision and long-term goals for the future of IRWM. Additional information is posted online at: <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/stratplan/workshops.cfm>

DWR has released Grant Application Scores for the Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Program. Approximately \$4.7M in grant funding is available. The grant applicants request a total of \$22.3M. Additional information is available at: <http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/assistance.cfm>

A half-day Integrated Water Management summit is being held in Sacramento, April 3. The Summit provides an opportunity to build understanding about California's commitment to improve public safety, foster environmental stewardship and support economic stability. For more information on the Summit go to: <http://www.watereducation.org/doc.asp?id=2713&parentID=849>

A two-day Integrated Regional Water Management Conference is being held in Sacramento, April 4-5. Participants will further explore how to transform the water management culture and advance integrated water management in CA. For more information go to: <http://www.watereducation.org/doc.asp?id=2712>

The Proposition 84 Implementation Round 2 Proposal Solicitation Package has been released. Applications are due before 5:00 P.M. on March 29, 2013. IRWM regions must have an adopted IRWM plan by award date (approximately September 2013) to be eligible. The final round of Prop 84 Implementation Grants is anticipated to begin in 2014.

The Urban Streams Restoration Program provides grants to local communities for projects to reduce flooding and erosion and associated property damages; restore, enhance or protect the natural ecological values of streams; and promote community involvement, education and stewardship. All interested parties are encouraged to apply for the next round of grant funding, which is expected to total approximately \$9M from remaining Prop 84 and Prop 13 allocations. A draft Proposal Solicitation Package will be available for review this spring.

The 2012 Inspection and Local Maintaining Agency (LA) Report is available for viewing or download. The report serves as information on DWR levee inspections, LMA reports, DWR and USACE erosion and USACE's periodic inspections, as well as a general assessment and recommendation for individual LMA on where to focus maintenance efforts on levees.

DWR has also released grant application guidelines for the Flood Emergency Response Projects program. The funding is available to improve the preparedness and response of local emergency responders. Application deadline is April 5. Guidelines only cover projects outside the Delta.

Aric also reported DWR has submitted the Kopta Slough Draft Feasibility Study and continues to wait for authorization to proceed. They hope to have directed action funding from FESSRO in July.

#### 5. Executive Director Report

Jane provided information and a PowerPoint presentation on both the 2012 closeout report for the former, DFG

grant and the start-up activities of the new, three year, DWR grant, which fully began January 2013. CSUC Research Foundation continues to provide administrative services of the grant on behalf of the Forum at a rate negotiated by the funding agency. Start up involved revising or writing new job descriptions; creating and filling the new position; coordination with DWR as funding agency; development of the work plan; initiating work on revising, improving and expanding the database, and continued effort of implementing the Forum Strategic Plan. The Forum now has four staff: three are less than full time and one is full time (Rob Irwin). Jane introduced the new Program Manager Susan Strachan, whose focus will be the Corridor Plan Investigation Task and introduced Jack (Tony) Danna, DWR, as the granting agency contact for the Forum. Jane gave an overview of staff job descriptions and tasks. The grant funds three tasks: the investigation of corridor management planning, outreach and coordination, and implementation of the Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement in compliance with the Administrative Policy of the Board.

Jane also reported the CEQA/NEPA environmental assessment for the potential of two future gravel removals and the extension of the rock toe on the west bank is underway at RM192.5. A Public Scoping meeting has been held. A copy of The Summary Report: M&T/Llano Seco Fish Screen Facility, Short-Term/Long-Term Protection Project: Alternatives Evaluation Report (dated June 29, 2012 and released December 2012) was distributed and is available on both the Ducks Unlimited website at: <http://www.ducks.org/california/california-projects/m-t-llano-seco-fish-screen-project> and on the SRCAF website at: <http://www.sacramentoriver.org/SRCAF/index.php?id=MT>. The report describes potential alternatives, challenges and issues of long-term solutions to the infrastructure. Two meeting have been held with stakeholders and USFWS and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW).

The State Department of Parks and Recreation, in cooperation with the City of Colusa, has begun an update of the Colusa Recreation Area General Plan. An initial informational meeting is scheduled this evening, following today's SRCAF board meeting.

No meetings have been scheduled with the TNC facilitator since the meeting held in 2012, to attempt to resolve issues of the proposed restoration at the State Parks Singh Unit, on River Road, Butte County. The Department of State Parks has a new Director, Anthony Jackson, who has stated the department will review all operations projects. Further information will be forthcoming.

#### 8. Correspondence and items of interest

A list of items of correspondence, meetings, announcements and other items of interest is prepared and full copies are placed in a folder that is distributed at the meeting for review for review. Copies of any item are available if requested.

#### 9. Adjournment

The Forum meets quarterly and the next meeting was scheduled for May 28, 3-5:00PM, at Willows City Hall.