

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

February 25, 2016
3:00 PM

Granzella's Inn
Williams, CA

Forum Board Chair John Nock called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Self-introductions were made. John Brennan, At-Large member, Resources Agency was welcomed. Forum Board status is now 11 appointed voting members and 10 advisory members; a quorum was 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	(Steve Lambert)	<u>John Nock</u>	
Shasta	<u>Leonard Moty</u>	<u>Glenn Hawes</u>	
Sutter	(Barbara LeVake)	<u>Brian Fedora</u>	
Tehama	<u>Burt Bundy</u>	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	<u>Jeanette Wrysinski</u>	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	
Resources Agency	<u>John Brennan</u>		

Department of Water Resources DWR)	<u>Mike Berry</u>
Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)	<u>Sandy Morey</u>
Central Valley Flood Control Board (CVFPB)	(Emma Suarez)
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	(Jan Knight)
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	<u>Mark Cowan</u>
US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	(Paul Zedonis)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	<u>Jennifer Mata</u>
US Forest Service (USFS)	(Eduardo Olmedo)
Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)	<u>Trish Ladd</u>
Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)	<u>Elizabeth Hubert</u>

Forum staff present: Executive Director Jane Dolan, Resource Conservationist Rob Irwin and Administrative Assistant Ellen Gentry.

Other attendees: Richard Price, Butte County Agricultural Commissioner; Mike Cook, River Partners; Associate Professor Anita Chaudhry, Professor Pete Tsournos, Undergrad Student Jake Brimlow and Assistant Ryan Miller, CSU Chico Economic Analysis team members.

1. Announcements

Elizabeth Hubert reported funding was approved for the Willow Bend acquisition, Colusa County. Mike Cook, River Partners expressed thanks to the Forum for support and assistance with the Willow Bend project.

2. Meeting Notes

Ellen indicated that clarification was received regarding the Yolo County report and minutes have been corrected. Lynnel Pollock moved, seconded by Leonard Moty, to approve the December 10, 2015 meeting notes. Motion carried.

3. Habitat Restoration and Economic Analysis Project, Informational Presentation of Literature Survey

Pete Tsournos, CSU, Chico Economist, presented an overview of the literature survey of the Economic Value of Riparian Ecosystem Services. He discussed the method of the survey, seeking peer reviewed research papers. This is a burgeoning area of research and the state of knowledge and implications for the Sacramento River Corridor are still

limited and point to support of the need for further research of this region. The report provides an overview of the current literature on ecosystem services valuation of riparian habitats in other geographical settings, to provide a context for a better understanding of the potential effects of conservation efforts in the Sacramento river corridor on ecosystem services and resulting economic benefits. A few copies of this 36 page literature survey were made available at the meeting. Additional copies and digital copies are also available by contacting Forum staff. Comments and questions are welcome by any of the authors: Pete Tsournos, Joshua Patten or Anita Chaudhry.

4. Habitat Restoration and Economic Analysis Project, Agricultural Landowner Survey Results

Ryan Miller, Research Specialist, provided an overview and a PowerPoint presentation about this survey, the response rate and key results. The survey targeted the owners of all agricultural parcels of the Sacramento River Corridor, which wholly or partially fall within one mile of the river. A review was done to select those properties listed with the respective counties as agricultural, instead of commercial, industrial or residential. The Landowner Survey was a mail-in survey conducted by the Forum and CSU, Chico in the spring of 2015. There were three separate mailings: an initial announcement letter, the survey itself with a business reply mail envelope (BRE) and a reminder postcard. 2,088 Surveys were sent in the seven county area and 399 responded. The response rate was 19%, which is a very high response rate for a mail survey. Of the 170,976 total agricultural acres in the study area, 75,040 acres were reported and the response rate by land area for all seven counties totaled 43.9%. Many of the surveys that were returned included additional pages of comments.

Tests for bias were done and tabulations for age of respondents, gender and occupation characteristics were reviewed. Perceptions and personal attitudes about conservation, impacts of conservation, levee protection and a willingness to sell for conservation were also surveyed.

The Landowner Survey PowerPoint presentation is available from the Forum staff. Copies of the survey results and details are available from Forum staff or the research team.

5. Information on development of the USBR, CVPIA b13 Contract for Project Management of Side Channels Reconnections, Tehama County

The Executive Director gave a PowerPoint overview of this Forum contract that is being prepared with USBR CVPIA 13(b) funding. The contract will fund a project that is for five years, tentatively beginning March 2016. This contract will provide approximately one-half the funding needed for Forum staff and overhead. This added funding will allow the Forum to obtain a no cost extension of the current DWR grant. The Forum and GIC will be Co-Project Directors of the USBR contract, as with the current funding contract. The side channel connection projects are all located in Tehama County. The side channels and timing of planning and completion, by place name, include Lake California in 2016, Rio Vista in 2017, Rancho Briesgau (formally Bloody Island and Gover Ranch) in 2018 and East Sand Slough (Lake Red Bluff) in 2019. Partners include: CSUC GIC, CSUC Research Foundation, CSUC interns, the RCD of Tehama County, GCID, BLM, USFWS, USFS, DWR, the City of Red Bluff and River Partners.

6. Board Member Reports

CDFW released a proposal for fisheries restoration release program(s) to support the recovery of winter, spring and steel head populations. Grant opportunities totaling \$18M statewide are available on their website. Proposals are accepted until March 11.

BLM has finished mitigation planting near Jelly's Ferry. They were envisioning meeting March 18 and 19 in Redding, and will send that information to Jane when the exact meeting dates are known. This was a River Partners acquisition.

John Brennan reported the NCWA flows committee is working on organizing how CVPIA projects are written and which to support in fish passage improvements.

Tehama County has been accepted by DWR as a groundwater sustainability agency under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Yolo County reported that the county IRWM small grants coordinating committee has awarded four more grants. One project funded a demonstration of zebra quagga mussels to be available at fairs, etc., for educational purposes. Yolo County RCD was invited to by the Delta Conservancy to give a proposal for habitat restoration in the Yolo Bypass.

Mike Cook, River Partners, said that tonight at sunset, USFWS is introducing 10,000 juveniles into the river from South Bonnyview.

A DWR update was made available in board folders. For additional copies, contact Ellen.Gentry@water.ca.gov.

Parks and Recreation provide a Notice of Availability and Intent to Adopt an Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area General Plan Draft Program EIR Project. The Draft is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 45 days, beginning February 8, 2016. Written comments should be submitted no later than March 24, 2016 to Cheryl Essex, California State Parks, One Capitol Mall, Suite 410, Sacramento, CA 95814. A Public Meeting to approve the proposed General Plan/Program EIR project has not yet been scheduled.

7. Executive Director Report

DWR is now looking at the funding from the small communities grant program for both investigating flood damage reduction for Gerber and possibly including portions of the stalled Kopta Project. Jane will recommend adding the Kopta Slough stretch to the Forum's Corridor Management Planning Investigation Project, will discuss with the CMP Committee and then come to the board for a recommendation to pursue.

Jane is still in communications with Audubon California and Yolo RCD regarding the Forum entering into an MOU to administer their existing Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreements in Yolo County, with the assistance of Yolo RCD. John Brennan added that SHAs are making a big difference. Burt Bundy suggested USFWS should want to do some funding also. Jane emphasized the importance and value of board input regarding funding opportunities, landowners interest in Safe Harbor and other activities of the Forum.

12. Correspondence and items of interest

A list of items of correspondence, meetings, announcements and other items of interest is available for distribution to the board. Copies of each item are in a folder that is provided at the meeting for review. Copies of any item are available upon request.

13. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 3:00-4:30PM, at Rolling Hills HR Building Conference Room, south of Corning.