

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

August 25, 2016
3:00 PM

Rolling Hills HR Training Center
Corning, CA

Forum Board Chair John Nock called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Self-introductions were made. 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	<u>Richard Price</u>	<u>John Nock</u>	
Shasta	<u>Leonard Moty</u>	<u>Glenn Hawes</u>	
Sutter	<u>Barbara LeVake</u>	<u>Brian Fedora</u>	
Tehama	<u>Burt Bundy</u>	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	<u>Jeanette Wrynski</u>	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	
Resources Agency	<u>John Brennan</u>		

Department of Water Resources DWR)	<u>Mike Berry</u>
California 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)	(Mark Cowan)
US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	(Paul Zedonis)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	(Jennifer Mata)
US Forest Service (USFS)	(Eduardo Olmedo)
Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)	(Trish Ladd)
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: Mark Young, Westervelt Ecological Services.

1. Meeting Notes

Leonard Moty moved, seconded by Jeanette Wrynski, to approve the May 26, 2016 meeting notes with one correction - change last word of the heading of Item 2 to County, not CA. Motion carried.

2. Draft report of the project, Research of the Conversion of Agricultural Land to Habitat and from Privately Owned to Public Lands along the Sacramento River and the Associated Economic Change

This Draft is written to provide a summary description of the many aspects of this comprehensive project. The project is a cooperative project of the Forum, CSU, Chico GIC and faculty of CSU, Chico Economics and Agriculture departments. The board was asked to provide comments and input to this Administrative Draft Report. Each of the many faculty research papers are to be attached to this summary.

Suggestions included to state this as an Executive Summary, to also add just a two-page summary, to summarize key points, what did we learn, results, add a FAQ and some minor edits. Board members either received this by email or hard copy and are asked to continue to email comments and suggestions to staff.

3. Information of Start-up of Tehama Side Channels Reconnection Project

The Notice of Intent to Award has been published and a copy was provided in board folders. A binder of

information and documents for this project is being created. Four potential sites are to be investigated, all located in Tehama County, from the Shasta/Tehama border to the location of the former Red Bluff Diversion Dam at the new Tehama Colusa Canal Authority Intake facility. CSU, Chico Research Foundation is the recipient and, as in prior years, will administer this grant agreement and the multiple sub-agreements of this project. The next step will be the completion of the final agreement with the US Bureau of Reclamation. The funding in this agreement for the Forum will provide for half of the compensation of four staff members, the three current staff and the hire of a half-time position.

A Tehama Side Channels Project Team has been formed to oversee the project: John Hannon, USBR, Seth Lawrence and Mike Berry, NRO-DWR; Helen Swagerty, River Partners, Vicky Dawley, RCD of Tehama County; Susan Strachan, CSUC GIC and Jane Dolan, Forum. There will be other committees and work groups specific to task and the potential sites as this project gets underway

4. WCB – Programmatic Safe Harbor

A recommendation from WCB staff for funding for the Sacramento Valley Safe Harbor Program is on the August 30th WCB agenda. If approved, this will provide a grant to the CSU, Chico Research Foundation for funding of the Forum for the administration of the Safe Harbor program. Any board member is welcome to attend. WCB has received letters and/or emails of support of this grant. If approved, an agreement will be written for a term of three years. However, the funding amount to be recommended provides for approximately two years of funding for one-half of the operational expenses of the Forum. The Forum holds a PSHA and has executed one agreement, entered into an MOA with Audubon California to administer two agreements in Yolo County and there are a number of ranches that have indicated interest and are ready to begin baselines. This is an important program that is good for ag and species, with potential for private efforts of habitat restoration along the river corridor.

5. Board Member Reports

Mike Berry reported DWR received a Prop 1 grant to map all Arundo in the Sacramento valley. They are in the process of mapping, prioritizing, then reaching out about how to remove it, long term effects, etc. They have talked to RCDs, CalFire, and others on how to remove the invasive. For every acre removed you gain 25 af of water. They are looking at height resolution maps and looking for mother plant(s). They will count on counties to talk to landowners. Actual removal is a couple of years out.

Glenn Hawes reported Randy Smith of Redding, has been working with NRCS to eradicate Arundo. Although it has changed Still Water Creek flow, this “Arundo Warrior” is dedicated to the cause. He is also doing clean up on several properties in Shasta County.

Jeanette Wrynski said that the Yolo RCD and Cache Creek Conservancy has been working on Arundo mapping for 10-15 years. It is still on creek edges. The RCD developed an Invasive Weed Management Plan. The Conservancy has completed a mapping effort downstream of the Capay Dam and the RCD is doing mapping above the Capay Dam. The Conservation District started mapping upstream. They are getting permission to walk it and would like to communicate with DWR about it. Cache Creek is part of their projects. Yolo County continues to work on SGMA issues. They are on track and it is going well. Team Arundo Del Norte was a big area of the Upper San Joaquin mapping and eradication. They used some different software.

Richard Price noted SGMA groundwater issue deadlines are coming up. Butte County is trying to make the system work. Leonard Moty reported Shasta County is working on groundwater management and how they’re going to cover groundwater management for 10 months.

Bullock Bend is under construction opening back water channels. They are opening up the region beginning September 27. We’re all invited. If interested let Greg DeYoung, Westervelt, know. The board was thanked for their support. Also, some of the soil material to RD 108 is being donated from Westervelt for levee improvements and increasing the canal. This has been a challenging project for them and Forum support has really been appreciated.

The Governor’s allocation for emergency smelt action is taking advantage of the Yolo Bypass floodplain to improve conditions for a species near extinction. State, federal and local water district officials partnered to send water through a wetland and tidal slough corridor of the Colusa Basin Drain into the Delta. The redirection of water provided optimal conditions to create the critical food source for Delta smelt.

6. Executive Director Report

Jane Dolan reported she was asked to provide information about the Forum at the annual meeting of NCWA which was well received and members expressed interest in both Safe Harbor and the Side Channels project. The Forum will be a partner with many other entities in an overall effort named Sacramento River Salmon Recovery Project.

Jane further reported some movement in the long-standing issue of determining a long-term solution for the M&T/Llano Seco Fish Screen Facility. A letter from Forum Chairman John Nock was sent in response to the Notice of Preparation of an EIS/EIR for this Project. The letter stated the importance to farming and environment for the function of the facility and that the pumping plant is recognized as a “hard point” per *The Upper Sacramento River Fisheries and Habitat Management Plan of 1989* and the *Sacramento River Conservation Area Handbook 2002*. A copy of this letter was included in board folders. The full 10-page NOI/NOP published in the June 13 Federal Register, is available to any board member interested.

Jane also distributed a written report from her describing the Forum’s background, strengths, challenges, finances and future. The forum is recognized as the strongest avenue to communicating and working with agricultural landowners on a regional basis, with good relationships in both federal and state agencies, which the Board greatly appreciates. She recommends that the Board assist in challenges to be addressed in the future, including a renewed effort of inclusion of representatives from Colusa and Glenn County and Board member attendance. She notes that the one Cooperative Agreement is located on a large ranch in Colusa County and other ranches in this county have indicted interest. The Executive Director will work with the Executive Committee and develop recommendations to the board on a strategy to seek secure funding.

John Nock reminded the Board that the Executive Committee acts as of the nominating committee for the election of officers, which now occurs on a two-year cycle and needs to be accomplished by the December meeting of this year. Also, Forum staff will communicate with the four counties to appoint or reappoint a landowner or public interest person

7. Correspondence and items of interest

A list of items of correspondence, meetings, announcements and other items of interest is available at this meeting. Copies of all items are in a folder that can be reviewed. Copies of any item are available upon request.

8. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 3:00-4:30PM, at Rolling Hills Human Resources building, in Corning.