

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

May 24, 2017
3:00 PM

Rolling Hills HR Center
Corning, CA

Forum Board Chair Leonard Moty called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Michael Vasey was welcomed as the new Tehama County Landowner Representative member. 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>Mat Conant</u>	(Brian Fedora)	
Tehama	<u>Burt Bundy</u>	<u>Michael Vasey</u>	
Yolo	<u>Jeanette Wrysinski</u>	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	
Resources Agency	(John Brennan)		

Department of Water Resources DWR)	(Mike Berry)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)	<u>Sandy Morey</u>
Central Valley Flood Protection 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: Lucas RossMerz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust; Robert Weese, Northern California Guide Service; Lisa Grudzinski, Bureau of Land Management, Redding.

1. Announcements

Robert Weese is a member of Nor-Cal Guides and Sportsmen's Association and has been involved in advocacy to raise more hatcheries salmon and steelhead for release into the rivers. He expressed concern over fish loss because of stranding that took place with this winter flooding. He is also urging CDFW to take action regarding the erosion from range cattle along riverbanks and impact to bank swallow nesting sites. He suggests ranchers be encouraged to fence cattle straight to gravel bars to avoid eroding habitat. He also responded to Board questions and said their organization has tried to increase bass take, but are at an impasse; he will continue work on the depredation from bass issue.

Lucas RossMerz of the Sacramento River Preservation Trust presented a handout and gave information on the proposed new Sacramento River Water Trail, which is a project underway to create a waterproof guide to recreation on the river. His organization has a National Park Service grant and has met with the City of Redding, the Watershed Project, DWR and BLM among others. They have made outings, voice recordings, and have a graphic design team lined up for a print date in 2018. They will keep us updated on this project. Also, a paddle trip is available September 28-October 1. To register, or for more information go to www.paddlcalifornia.org.

2. Meeting Notes

Richard Price moved, seconded by Burt Bundy, to approve the March 22, 2017 meeting notes.

Motion carried.

3. Bureau of Land Management Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan (NCIP)

Lisa Grudzinski, BLM Planning and Environmental Coordinator, gave a PowerPoint presentation on NCIP. This effort is underway for the planning area consisting of 390acs of BLM managed lands, 14.5M total acres is in the planning area, covering eight counties and seven ecoregions. The plan assists with decisions on how BLM lands will be managed, is periodically revised or updated, developed through a defined "land use planning" process and its associated EIS. There are land use plan decisions and project level decisions, which establish goals and objectives for resource conditions and measures needed to achieve these goals and objectives. Currently they are finishing public scoping for planning issues and working on preliminary alternatives. This winter a Draft RMP/EIS will be prepared.

In the decision making process, they look for consistencies in other agency plans (i.e., county general plans) to make sure this plan is in coordination. They have reached out to five counties and are working on establishing agreements. They are looking at 35 resources for desired outcomes in cooperation with the public and agencies. Board member Bundy said Tehama County would welcome a presentation from BLM. Lisa added that the public safety portion of the plan would also cover fire and marijuana problems and that comments can still be provided. For more information, or to be included on the mailing list, contact Lisa at the Redding Field Office at (530) 224-2140, or lgrudzinski@blm.gov. The NCIP website is at: go.usa.gov/xkJYd.

4. Hamilton City Flood Risk Reduction and Habitat Restoration Project

Jane Dolan gave the update for Michael Cook on the Hamilton City Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Damage Reduction Project, Revegetation Phase 1. Progress over the wet winter resulted in work by both River Partners and the levee contractor being delayed two months, due to weather and saturated soils.

The Phase 1 levee was completed in the summer/fall 2016. The levee contractors were able to re-mobilize this month, to complete the gated ag drain culverts through the new levee and to begin removing the J levee. USACE estimates completion of this phase by August 2017.

In April, USACE modified River Partners' contract to include an additional field in this current phase, increasing the total restoration from 770acs to 923acs. Starting May 9, River Partners' subcontractor began removing almond and walnut trees. Biologists had previously surveyed these areas for nesting birds, so that active bird nests were avoided until nestlings have fledged. Field technicians are currently controlling weeds on-site through mowing and herbicide applications.

Michael hopes to attend the next Forum Board meeting to answer any questions.

5. Tehama County Side Channels Reconnection Project

A map of Lake California and Rio Vista sites was made available in a PowerPoint to the board. The Forum is part of a Cooperative Agreement with the US Bureau of Reclamation. The Lake California site project name comes from its location adjacent to a private community with that name. Staff has been working with the the Lake California Property Owners Association to provide information and to achieve access to the project site. The side channel reconnection is to allow for the low flows and fish habitat restoration needs. Construction may begin this year, but the river water is still too high now for planning work to be completed. This site will probably begin in 2018 instead. This year the focus looks to be at Rio Vista, a site name derived from its location near Rio Vista Avenue. Fish resource agencies will only allow construction between November and March. The aim is to get the design and permitting in place by October. Access arrangements have been made through one adjoining landowner. The partners of this project are working on design and permitting now. The construction partner will be RD108.

Jane provided some update on the side channel sites. Land access has been granted by BLM at Rancho Breisgau. This will be a complex project with possible cultural implications, land easement issues, etc.

East Sand Slough, formerly referred to as Lake Red Bluff, has already had some land form changes and excavation from erosion due to the recent winter weather. The nearby Durango RV supports the project as they are interested in expanding recreation, such as walking pathways on their land east of Interstate 5. The slough overflow

has been nearly constant since January. Forum staff will conduct field work to identify constraints. Brin Greer, RCD of Tehama County, is assisting with outreach activities.

6. Board Members Reports

Butte County briefly talked about actions to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), such as work on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) regulations, as well as meeting with ground water independent users. The county has previously elected to become a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA).

Yolo County is finalizing the SGMA JPA and is almost ready to submit their plan. Most participating agencies approved. There are roughly 20 members on this board. Yolo had high damage to orchard lands and trees. Recirculation of the draft environmental document for Freemont Weir fish passage project is in process now. Fish do get stranded there. Also the western area transmission line, proposed across Colusa County, has lots of opposition. The Yolo Bypass, a vast majority of which is farmland, is not going to be planted with crops this year. Yolo HCP is expected to be listed in the federal register soon for the a 90 day comment period. The planning document provides for a 50 year permit.

In Sutter County there was habitat loss caused by the rapid drop in water released from Oroville Dam. Banks of the Feather River fell and silt fell, resulting in tree and orchard loss and large willows and cottonwoods going down river.

Shasta also has a groundwater management plan. The county sits over an aquifer. A lot of ag gets moved downriver. This winter's weather helped fish go where they wanted to go; it was not necessarily for farming.

Tehama County roads are devastated because of Oroville Dam repairs and heavy equipment. Quarry material is mostly out of Tehama County.

7. Executive Director's Report

Jane Dolan provided three handouts to the board. For the Tehama Side Channels, the Outreach Narrative for October 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017. For the Wildlife Conservation Board Safe Harbor Program, the activity report for September 2016 through December 2016, and the report for January 1 through March 31, 2017. She outlined the reports for the group and is making some effort to plan a day trip June 26, to Davis ranches, elaborating on the Safe Harbor Program involved. [This field trip has subsequently been postponed.]

8. 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.

9. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 2017 from 3:00-4:30PM, at Granzella's Inn, Williams.