

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

August 23, 2017  
3:00 PM

Granzella's Inn  
Willows, CA

Forum Board Chair Leonard Moty called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Self-introductions were made. Forum Board status is 11 voting members and 9 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	(Burt Bundy)	(Michael Vasey)	
Yolo	<u>Jeanette Wrysinski</u>	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	
Resources Agency	<u>John Brennan</u>		

Department of Water Resources DWR)	(Mike Berry)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)	<u>Sandy Morey</u>
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)	(Elizabeth Hubert)

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

Mat Conant moved, seconded by Glenn Hawes, to approve the May 24, 2017 meeting notes.

Motion carried.

2. Tehama County Side Channels Reconnection Project

Jane reported that although the planning, permitting and site engineering work is near completion for the Rio Vista site and this project was planned for construction during Winter this year, it will now need to be delayed. At this point, the adjoining property owner has withdrawn permission for access. It is hoped, but unknown if this can be regained. Other potential landside access will also be investigated for this site. In the meantime, all effort has transferred to the Lake California site. This effort may result in all planning, site design, engineering and permitting being completed for construction this Winter. The allowable construction period is from late October and March, and depending on fish passage and water levels. The Side Channels Project Team has discussed what occurred and how to potentially restore the relationship with the landowner and/or to avoid this occurring with future projects.

3. Safe Harbor Cooperative Agreements with Fair Ranch and Doherty Ranch

Jane reported that two Cooperative Agreements are ready for Board consideration. The first is the Cooperative Agreement with Doherty Ranches, consisting of 2,175 acres along the Yolo and Colusa county boundaries. There are three ownership entities farmed by the ranch. The land is primarily planted in rice with crop rotation to field crops.

The ranch owners have already been planting native hedgerows. A baseline assessment and management plan has been completed. The Cooperative Agreement would cover GGS and VELB.

The second is known as Fair Ranch and is 7,386 acres within the larger River Garden Farms, located on Highway 45 north of Knights Landing, with river frontage and is in Yolo and Colusa Counties. Rice is the predominant crop. It borders on the Sacramento River; river right, is riparian forest. Staff has completed a baseline assessment and management plan. The Board Safe Harbor Committee has discussed and recommends the Board approve execution of these agreements.

John Nock moved, seconded by Richard Price, to authorize the Forum to execute Cooperative Agreements with Doherty Ranches and Fair Ranch. Motion carried.

Jane again commented on her desire that the Board consider combining one of its meetings with a field trip, perhaps in February 2018, to be able to view the ranches. She will work with the ranches on logistics and bring forward a proposal.

#### 4. Board Member Reports

Richard Price talked about the Oroville Dam spillway incident. Butte County is working on its Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan including the importance of water pumping and supply. Regarding the Singh Unit of State Parks along River Road in Butte County, he reminded the Board of the process of State Parks and its hired facilitator of more than a year ago, with no conclusion. Now it appears State Parks wishes to proceed with restoration and the county is likely to again not support this.

Lynelle reported that Colusa and Yolo have their groundwater (SGMA) permits and letters done. Work continues on the fish ladder at Colusa Weir. Yolo County has filed a CEQA lawsuit regarding the state proposed twin delta tunnels. The Yolo stormwater plan is progressing. The Yolo HCP/NCCP is moving along with the end of the public comment period at the end of this month. There has been no opposition. The permit will be issued in 2018 and they will be looking for an executive director at that time. In parallel, the same group is putting together guidelines for species not covered by NCCP.

Jeannette reported that DWR has received a WCB grant and is looking to subcontracting through the CA Invasive Plant Council for Arundo mapping and eradication. They are looking at a planning grant to get the landowner permission for work along the creeks. Arundo is present in all seven counties of the Forum. It affects the water supply, and can use 24 acre feet per year. Riparian vegetation uses about 4 acre feet per year. Maps of Arundo were made available to the board.

Sutter County reported there is a three mile stretch of levee through downtown Yuba City that has been under threat of breaching for 3-4 years. Finally, after further damage this past wet season, permits were issued, and levee repairs are to be completed this summer, with a large effort to get most of the work done by December. John Brennan added that Wallace Weir was completed this month.

#### 5. Executive Director Report

Jane reported the Forum, in cooperation with the GIC and College of Agriculture, submitted a Conservation Innovation Grant and an Agricultural Research Institute proposal. Both were to plan and implement carbon sequestration projects on private farm land. Neither were successful.

Also, in cooperation with the GIC, a CDFW Prop 1 Proposal was submitted on September 6 for completion of the planning and permitting of the Kopta Project. Participants in the project would include Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the Northern Region Office of DWR, the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge and River Partners. The decision is expected before the end of 2017. In 2019, the Forum will secure funding to continue the Safe Harbor Program that is now funded by a grant agreement with WCB.

Ellen reported that the Amazon Smile Foundation confirmed donations were being made to the Forum, based on 0.5% of the purchase price, to those who requested to participate. The link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0461944> can be bookmarked to allow Amazon shoppers to support the Forum. Disbursements over \$5.00 will automatically be made quarterly. We would ask anyone to indicate the Forum when making any purchases and we thank everyone for your support!

#### 6. Correspondence and items of interest

A list of items of correspondence, meetings, announcements and other items of interest was included with the agenda. Full copies of these items are available in a folder at this meeting. The items can be reviewed and copies any item are available upon request.

7. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2017 from 3:00-5PM, at Rolling Hills, HR building conference room, south of Corning. [This meeting was subsequently cancelled.]

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