



sacramento river
conservation area
forum
a voice for all interests

Open Forum

where ideas flow

Spring, 2011

SRCAF welcomes new year, new Board and new Executive Director



Jane Dolan
Executive Director

We welcomed new Board members from Butte County; Supervisor Steve Lambert, Public Interest Representative, and John Nock, Landowner Representative, in January. In December the Board of Directors ratified the selection of Jane Dolan as the SRCAF Executive Director. The Chairman of the Hiring Committee,

Brendon Flynn, said, "Jane Dolan brings years of helpful experience to the Forum, and will provide the organization with strong management and leadership to help address the concerns of landowners and communities along the Sacramento River."

The strength of the SRCAF is coordination and outreach of numerous projects and issues along the important Sacramento River corridor. 2011 will continue to be an active, engaged time of identifying key issues and seeking balance based upon the six Guiding Principles of the Forum: ecosystem management, local concerns, flood management, bank protection, voluntary participation and information/education.

A voluntary Safe Harbor has been under consideration for many years and throughout much of 2010. This possibility of the SRCAF holding a programmatic permit with both US Fish & Wildlife and State Fish & Game, for voluntary participation by potentially interested landowners within the conservation area, began as ONE tool to assist landowners who have habitat on their lands and/or wish to restore habitat. The SRCAF Board has requested a legal review to assist in this decision. The SRCAF will seek to balance concerns of landowners and agencies as this process moves forward.

Other important projects include promoting flood protection for Hamilton City, solutions to the gravel bar affecting the function of the irrigation and sewer service facilities at River Mile 192.5, resuming the Kopta Slough Flood Damage Reduction and Habitat Restoration Project, balancing the needs of agriculture and communities with the goal of habitat restoration - and many more.



The SRCAF Board meeting in February ended with lots of smiles. Members pictured are (back l to r) Mark Cowan, USACE; Steve Lambert, Butte Co.; Aric Lester, DWR; Sandy Morey, DFG; Brendon Flynn, Tehama Co.; Gary Evans, Colusa Co.; (front l to r) Jim McKeivitt, Resources Agency; Stan Cleveland, Sutter Co.; Walt Seaver, Colusa Co.; Ron Warner, Tehama Co.; and Glenn Hawes, Shasta Co.

Brendon Flynn steps down as Ron Warner steps up



Outgoing SRCAF Chairman Brendon Flynn (r) was honored, with the presentation of an aerial photograph, by incoming Chairman Ron Warner at the SRCAF Board meeting in February. Brendon serves as the Landowner Representative for Tehama County and continues to serve on the SRCAF Executive Committee. Thank you Brendon and Ron!

TAC Updates

The following are some of the projects, updates and presentations that were made at the TAC, since the last newsletter.



Tom McCubbins
TAC Chair

March - Sacramento Ecological Flows Tool 2, Population Status of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo in the Sacramento Valley: Results of 2010 surveys, Codora Unit Habitat Restoration and Public Use Project Restoration Project, and the Singh Property Restoration.

December - Willow Bend Restoration Project, Sacramento River side-channel restoration projects, and the Flood Protection Corridor Program.

October - Battle Creek Wildlife Area (Tompkins Parcel) Riparian Restoration, Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project, and the CA Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program.

September - Sacramento River Monitoring and Assessment Project (SRMAP): Geomorphologic Analysis of the Sacramento River, Vegetative Analysis of the Sacramento River, Sacramento River

(see **TAC**, page 3)



Ellen Gentry arranged for a SRCAF presentation to Beverley Anderson-Abbs at a DWR All Employees meeting in September. Then Chair Brendon Flynn presented a certificate of appreciation for her role as past SRCAF Manager/Executive Director. Beverley took a position with DWR Northern District Office as an Environmental Scientist July 21, 2010.

Forum unanimous on hard point determination

The relocation of the M & T/Llano Seco Ranch Pumping plant from Big Chico Creek to the Sacramento River predates the actual formation of the SRCAF. However, many of the community leaders and organizations that now make up the Forum were involved with this effort for many years. The relocation of the pumping plant provided improvement to fisheries on Big Chico Creek, a firm water supply for the Llano Seco Wildlife Refuge and irrigation for the diversified farming operation of the M & T Ranch, and improved the water flow of Butte Creek to benefit fisheries.

One of the first actions of the SRCAF in 2000, was to direct assistance and coordination to the needs of this project. Over the last several years this pumping plant, as well as the outfall facilities for the City of Chico Wastewater plant, has been in jeopardy due to a large, migrating gravel bar and the westward movement of the river. Numerous meetings and analysis have occurred to identify solutions. Three hundred thousand tons of the gravel bar, seen as a temporary measure, were removed in two different projects and yet the water and sewer facilities remain in jeopardy.

The SRCAF Board of Directors voted unanimously to determine these facilities as a Hard Point pursuant to the Basic Principles and Inner River Zone Management Guidelines of the Sacramento River Conservation Area Handbook. This action was requested by the City of Chico and both ranches, including extensive, conserved habitat at Llano Seco. This Board's decision was supported by agriculture, landowners, counties and water districts. The SRCAF will work closely with landowners, the City of Chico and agencies to achieve a long-term solution. A comprehensive study of alternatives, hydrology and environmental impacts is underway and expected to be released the end of 2011.

**The SRCAF
proudly recognizes**

Shirley Lewis

**for her outstanding leadership
as the Butte County landowner
Representative on the
SRCAF Board of Directors
2000-2011**



**Water
Wise:**

Q. What is hard water?

When water contains a lot of calcium and magnesium, it is called hard water. Hard water is not suited for all purposes.

SRCAF's Sacramento River Library is largest repository of info related to Sacramento River

Rob Irwin, SRCAF Resource Conservationist, has been working intensively on developing the Sacramento River Library and the SRCAF website for the past five months. The Sacramento River Library is a web-based repository of documents, photographs and digital resources pertaining to the river.

SRCAF began developing this resource in response to a need for a centralized library aimed at allowing public access to the vast amount of accumulated knowledge from biologists, conservationists, geographers, hydrologists, journalists, and many others. Library con-

tent can be browsed or easily searched to locate and download maps, reports and other information.

The SRCAF will be continually adding to the library, and invites suggestions on how this resource can be expanded, or made more accessible. If you have documents or information for the library, please feel free to contact Rob Irwin at rirwin@water.ca.gov, or at (530) 528-7401.

You can also visit the library available on the SRCAF website anytime at www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf/library.



Rob Irwin works out of his new cubicle at the SRCAF office. As a signatory on our MOA, DWR provides office space for SRCAF in their Northern District Office building in Red Bluff.

(TAC, continued)

Monitoring Plan, and the Sacramento River Ecological Scorecard.

August - Central Valley Gas Storage Project, Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant update, Proposed content for the CA Water Plan Update 2013, and Sturgeon monitoring in the Upper Sacramento River using DIDSON (Dual Frequency Identification Sonar).

July - Aerial Photo Interpretation - SRMAP, Furlan Mitigation Project, and Colusa Boat Ramp.

May - Role of Map Validation in Riverscape Ecology, Management Planning for the Colusa Basin Watershed, Overview and Status of North of the Delta Offstream Storage Planning, and the Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project.

For complete TAC meeting minutes go to www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf

Events & actions to monitor

Delta Stewardship Council

FloodSAFE Northern Sacramento Valley Workshops

Integrated Regional Water Management Planning

Sacramento River Bank Protection Project

Central Valley Flood Protection Board Permitting

SRCAF participated for the sixth year at Coleman Fish Hatchery



Gone fishin'...

Cousins Steven Johnson, Jazmyn Snell and Aiden Johnson had a good time catching fish for their mason jar aquarium. The kids participated in the SRCAF booth at the Coleman Fish Hatchery, Return of the Salmon Festival last fall. After the boys survived, little Jazmyn caught one too!

SRCAF 2011 Board of Directors

- **Glenn Hawes**, *Public Interest, Shasta County*
- **Dan Gover**, *Landowner, Shasta County*
- **Marc Faye**, *Landowner, Yolo County*
- **Steve Lambert**, *Public Interest, Butte County*
- **John Nock**, *Landowner, Butte County*
- **James Gallagher**, *Public Interest, Sutter County*
- **Brian Fedora**, *Landowner, Sutter County*
- **Gary Evans**, *Public Interest, Colusa County*
- **Jim McKeivitt**, *Resources Agency*

Ron Warner ~ *Chair, Public Interest, Tehama County*
Walt Seaver ~ *Vice Chair, Landowner, Colusa County*
Lynnel Pollock ~ *Sec./Treas., Public Interest, Yolo County*
Brendon Flynn ~ *Past Chair, Landowner, Tehama County*

Non-Voting Members:

Don Reck, *Bureau of Reclamation*
Jan Knight, *USFWS*
Alicia Kirchner, *Corps of Engineers*
Sandy Morey, *Department of Fish & Game*
Jay Punia, *Central Valley Flood Protection Bd.*
Curtis Anderson, *Department of Water Resources*
Mike Pool, *Bureau of Land Management*
Eduardo Olmedo, *US Forest Service*
Marilyn Linkem, *CA Dept. of Parks & Recreation*

Calendar of Events

TAC meeting

Meets the first Tuesday of each month
9am to 11am
Willows

SRCAF Board meeting

Meets the third Thursday
Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., Dec.
Location may vary



Staff:

Jane Dolan, *Executive Director/Manager*, (530) 528-7411, jdolan@water.ca.gov
Ellen Gentry, *Administrative Assistant*, (530) 528-7435, egentry@water.ca.gov
Rob Irwin, *Resource Conservation Assistant*, (530) 528-7401, rirwin@water.ca.gov



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