



# County of Yolo

## PARKS AND RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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### CACHE CREEK TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) Summary Notes

DATE: Monday, May 12, 2008

TIME: 10:00am – 12:00 pm

LOCATION:

Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services (DESS)  
25 N. Cottonwood Street, Community Room (# 167),  
Woodland, CA 95695

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 10:10am by Kevin Schwartz

Attendees: Heidi Tschudin, Parks Dept., contractor for Off-Channel Mining Program (OCMP), and In-channel Maintenance Mining Ordinance (ICMMO) review, helped develop/write the Cache Creek Resource Management Plan (CCRMP) and Cache Creek Area Plan (CCAP); Ben Adamo, Granite Construction, Plant Superintendent; Justin Pearce, William Lettis & Associates, DWR Levee Evaluation, Senior Geologist; Shawn Higgins, Kamman Hydrology & Engineering, Inc., Contractor for Yolo Resource Conservation District (Yolo RCD) Cal FED grant geomorphic assessment; Jeanette Wrynski, Yolo RCD, Senior Program Manager, Cache Creek Conservancy (CCC) Board; Tanya Meyer, Vegetation Management Specialist, Yolo RCD; Resources; Tim Horner, TAC Hydrologist, California State University of Sacramento (CSUS) Geology; Erik Ringelberg, TAC, Wallace-Kuhl, Riparian Biologist; Molly Ferrell, CCC Habitat Restoration Coordinator; Lynnel Pollock, CCC, Executive Director; John Watson, CCC; Max Stevenson, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (YCFWCWD); Stefan Lorenzato, YCFWCWD, Department of Water Resources (DWR); Stephen McCord, Larry Walker Associates; Loren Murray, URS/DWR; John Nosacka, DWR; Mark Hirzy, Rinker/CEMEX Plant Manager; Frank Goddard, CCC Board Member; Brian King, Teichert Aggregates; Mark Cocke, City of Woodland; Fran Borcalli, floodSAFEYolo and YCFWCWD; Bob Schneider, Tuleyome

Yolo County Parks and Resources Staff: Chris Alford, Yolo County Parks and Resources, Natural Resources Planner; Tami Leathers, Yolo County Parks and Resources, Extra Help Geology/Hydrology graduate student at California State University of Sacramento (CSUS) with Tim Horner; Keith Wright, Yolo County Parks and Resources, Intern for Yolo County and Student at University of California at Davis (UCD) working with Eric Larsen; Kent Reeves, Yolo County Parks Principal Natural Resources Planner; Holly Malcolm, Yolo County Parks and Resources, Administrative

Assistant; Kevin Schwartz, Yolo County Parks and Resources, Resource Specialist

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Review and consider the minutes for the meeting of March 10, 2008. Approval moved by Larsen and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Horner.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

4. STAFF UPDATE:

**4.1 Introduction of New TAC Riparian Biologist, Erik Ringelberg:** Erik introduced himself to everyone in attendance. Erik is a consultant in West Sacramento with Wallace-Kuhl & Associates and the Director of Ecological Services. Erik has worked mainly in riparian and wetland restoration and more broadly worked in forming public policies that worked both for the public and for ecosystems.

**4.2 Additional Parks and Resources staff updates:** Kevin discussed the controlled burn that took place at the Correll-Rodgers site. The Woodland Community College Fire training program held the fire as a final training exercise for the students that were about to graduate from the program. There were 23 cadets and several different local fire departments that attended the exercise. Developing a relationship with the local fire departments not only helps train new fire cadets, but also helps us more actively manage weeds and native habitat in the area. Kevin thanked the Woodland Community College Fire training program, the Yolo RCD, the CCC, the Rodgers Family, the Harrison Family, and the Schwarzgruber Family for their assistance in making the controlled burn happen. Everyone was very happy with the results of the fire. Kevin also introduced Tami Leathers. Tami is helping the Parks and Resources Department as an Extra Help employee and doing her Master's thesis on the geomorphology of Cache Creek.

**4.3 Cache Creek Conservancy (CCC) staff updates:** Lynnel Pollock welcomed Erik and introduced Molly Ferrell. Molly is the Conservancy's new Habitat Restoration Coordinator. The CCC's spraying program will begin very soon. They will be spraying for Tamarisk and Arundo. Invasive control work will begin in June. The tamarisk leaf beetle is flourishing and moving along the creek. The Cache Creek Discovery Day was held on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> and was sponsored by the Cache Creek Watershed Forum. It was a successful event. Unfortunately, Saturday night after the Discovery Day, the offices were broken into again. Four young men were caught on Sunday Morning. Trespassers continue to be a problem and OHV's can be heard on a daily basis down in the creek.

**4.4 Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (YCFCWCD) staff updates:** Max Stevenson gave a brief overview of the district. The YCFCWCD is an irrigation district that manages dams upstream at Clear Lake and the Indian Valley Reservoir, and the 500' long Capay diversion dam, located in the CCRMP. This dam has an inflatable bladder that is used to divert water to the YCFCWCD's canals and to its irrigation customers. Max said that Capay Dam was built in 1914, and needs some work. The apron downstream has failed and been patched in the past, and the channel has incised downstream by as much as 14 feet. The YCFCWCD is working with an engineering consulting firm to extend the length of the apron by three times so that it goes about 100' downstream rather than the 30-40' it covers now. This is to help absorb the

energy of the creek as it goes over the dam. The assessment and environmental work has already begun and will take 1-2 years to complete.

The Moore Siphon and previous site of the Moore dam is 25 years old and the District is working on possible ways to improve it. It failed recently and the YCFCWCD patched the Siphon, but they are working toward creating a long term solution for this area. The Siphon takes irrigation water from the north side of the creek and moves it to the south side of the creek.

5. REGULAR AGENDA:

**5.1 Update on Off-Channel Mining Plan 10-year review:** Heidi Tschudin briefly explained that the Cache Creek In-Channel Maintenance Mining Ordinance (ICMMO) is a requirement of the Cache Creek Area Plan that was adopted in 1996. The Off Channel Mining Plan (OCMP) and the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan (CCRMP) address excavation of the creek for restoration and maintenance purposes. The CCRMP falls under the State Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). The last time the legislature approved the CCRMP, special language was written into it to ensure that the county would complete and adopt the In Channel Maintenance Mining Plan. The OCMP had 10 year reviews built into all of the permits and plans during the initial adoption in 1996. The first set of ten-year reviews were completed last year. The Planning commission reviewed the ICMMO in April and the Board of Supervisors will hear the first reading of the ordinance in June, and is expected to adopt it in July.

**5.2 Update on geomorphic study by floodSAFE Yolo/DWR in Yolo County and 2008 aeriels:** Fran Borcalli explained that floodSAFE Yolo is working with DWR and Army Corp of Engineers (ACE) to continue the flood management feasibility study. Aerial photos have been flown for much of the Central Valley (including Cache Creek) to help plan for flood safety, and should be available by the end of the calendar year. Kevin Schwartz explained that a number of different agencies that manage different parts of Cache Creek are doing similar studies, and that we all are meeting to share information. This will result in integrated management of the watershed.

**5.3 Update/review of water resources and geomorphic assessment on Cache Creek:** Kevin Schwartz asked members or employees of the Yolo RCD, YCFCWCD, DWR, ACE, City of Woodland, Water Resources Association of Yolo County, Tuleyome, and CCC doing work and/or studies on Cache Creek to attend the May Cache Creek TAC meeting in order to share with others doing work on the Creek the information and resources each has available and the work that each has or is planning on doing on Cache Creek. This update and review was put together in order to help encourage collaboration between all of the above groups and, in turn, improve the ability to manage the Creek and meet our shared goals. FloodSAFE Yolo: Fran Borcalli mentioned that the aeriels flown this year would be very beneficial to all the groups working on Cache Creek and will help with planning and management of the Creek. Yolo RCD: Tanya Meyers explained that the RCD is working from the County line downstream to Capay Dam to look for underlying causes of instability along the creek banks and to create a restoration plan for the creek as a part of their CalFED grant. They are looking for local strategies to reduce erosion and sediment buildup in the creek and ways to improve existing restoration plans, water quality, and education opportunities. Shawn Higgins from Kamman Hydrology & Engineering is doing contract work for the Yolo RCD on this project, and mentioned that they are currently gathering data and information.

YCFCWCD: Stephan Lorenzato indicated that the district is looking at the Capay Dam site. They are working with Yolo floodSAFE to do updated hydrology modeling and hoping to come up with a flood solution for the creek. The district is also doing sediment transport modeling with DWR and is particularly interested in understanding sediment transport better on Cache Creek. The YCFCWCD is not currently working on studying sediment transport on the Creek, but DWR is looking at this more closely, particularly with regards to the Settling Basin. DWR: They are working with UCD to determine trap efficiency of the retention basin. The basin was designed to assume 55% efficiency until 2018. When the efficiency drops below 30%, efficiency requirements will require the weir to be raised. Two additional setback levees will be built, and DWR is in the negotiation stage with landowners. The plans are complete but they are considered a temporary fix to the larger problem. Mark Cocks: The City of Woodland is also working with floodSAFE Yolo. Previously, Woodland looked at whether it was practical and reasonable to do a hydraulic and hydrology model and determined that it was. Kevin Schwartz: The annual aerials will be done using LiDAR (floodSAFE Yolo and DWR will be doing them this year). LiDAR gives a better view of what is happening with the creek. The aerial photos will be available early 2009. Eric Larsen: Eric is interested in how river channels evolve in nature. Eric's research in collaboration with the County and Tim Horner will be looking at the reach of Cache Creek below the dam in order to determine historical channel evolution and bank retreat and is hoping to be able to speculate on future movement of the creek. Tim Horner: Tim, in collaboration with the County and Eric Larsen, would like to see the last 10 years of aerials summarized and compared. Tami Leathers is a graduate student working with Tim and the County on her Master's research which will evaluate channel position and gravel mobility in relation to the CCRMP. Tim is also interested in sediment transport modeling and yearly summaries of the water quality data. Erik Ringelberg: He would like to see restoration work become a priority. YCFCWCD: Max Stevenson described that the YCFCWCD has many resources in terms of historical documents and just recently helped complete work with the WRA cataloging all documents related to the creek that are held by the various entities in Yolo County. The catalog is not a library or open to the public, but its resources can be made available when needed. The YCFCWCD completed a hydrologic balance model that is an integrated groundwater and surface water model that has special resolution in the CCRMP area. Bob Schneider: Tuleyome is working on a weed eradication project in the wilderness area of the creek, including removal of invasive plants along the creek. They are also interested in restoring fisheries along the creek. Justin Pearce: Justin is a consultant with William Lettis & Associates, Inc., and is working on the DWR levee program from I-5 to the settling basin. DWR with the help of the consultant is looking at vertical and lateral changes in the creek. They are ultimately looking at areas where erosion of the levees may cause hazards. They are just beginning to collect historical data from various entities. They are hoping their study will mesh with the other studies on the Creek, as the Creek doesn't know political boundaries. Justin came to the meeting in order to help coordinate with others on the Creek and to inform everyone about what their study is about.

**5.4 Update/review of weed management at Correll-Rodgers:** Kevin Schwartz: Kevin gave an update on the plan for work at Correll-Rodgers and an overview of work that has been completed on the Enhancement Plan for the area. Yolo County is working with the Yolo RCD and Cache Creek Conservancy (An MOU with the Yolo RCD is in process of being finalized) to do weed management on site. The County recently held a controlled burn at one section of the Rodgers' pit. If the fire was successful in controlling the invasive weeds, the area will be planted this fall. The county is working with adjacent landowners to eliminate invasive plants at the pit and on adjacent land. Perennial

Pepperweed is one of the most important weeds to manage prior to doing planting. Jeanette Wrynski: Jeannette mentioned that it would be good to have a site visit in order to come up with a weed management/site management plan. Jeanette thought it would be a good idea to begin ridding the site of invasive plants now and that given the work that has been done this year there is a good opportunity to begin planting in the fall. It is important to have the site physically set up to allow for management in the future. Weed control needs to be planned based on when the rains come in the fall and usually will involve some spraying. It is important to get control of the Perennial Pepperweed. Spencer Defty: He has spent the last 3-5 years trying to get rid of Pepperweed on his 10 acres. He recommended being patient about eradication before you begin to plant. Ben Adamo: Granite had previously agreed to do an analysis of the aggregate sampling from the site and Ben was going to verify this could still be done and work with Kevin to coordinate a time to do the sampling. Tim Horner: Tim requested that he be informed of activities going on at the site such as burns, spraying, etc. as there are some related water quality issues.

6. SET DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

Cache Creek Walks

Monday, June 9, 2008 7am-3pm (Dam to Teichert Plant, Esparto)

Tuesday, June 10, 2008 7am-3pm (Teichert Plant, Esparto to Nature Preserve)

Wednesday, June 11, 2008 7am-3pm (Nature Preserve to I-5)

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 11:40am.