



County of Yolo

PARKS AND RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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CACHE CREEK TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) SUMMARY MINUTES For the September 8, 2008 meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Eric Larsen called the meeting to order at 10:15 am and gave a summary of the agenda.

Attendees: Laurie Brajkovich (Granite Construction), Max Stevenson (Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, YCFCWCD), Stefan Lorenzato (YCFCWCD), Lynnel Pollock (Cache Creek Conservancy, CCC), Molly Ferrell (CCC), Yasha Saber (Granite Construction), Brian King (Teichert Aggregates), Dan Efseaff (Yolo County Resource Conservation District), Tanya Meyer (Yolo County Resource Conservation District), Ann Scheuring (Landowner), Erik Ringelberg (TAC Riparian Biologist), Eric Larsen (TAC Fluvial Geomorphologist), Tim Horner (TAC Hydrologist).

Staff: Kent Reeves (Principal Natural Resources Planner), Kevin Schwartz (Resource Specialist)

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

The minutes were approved by the TAC from May 12 and July 14, 2008.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

4. STAFF UPDATE:

4.1 Parks and Resources staff updates:

Kevin Schwartz announced that the California Department of Fish and Game and the Yolo County Parks and Resources Department had entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with regards to the Cache Creek Resource Management Plan (CCRMP), the Cache Creek Improvement Program (CCIP) and the Streambed Alteration Notification and Agreement. This MOA will be posted on the Yolo County website. Exhibit A of the 1602 Agreement will need to be filled out by the landowner and/or party

legally responsible for carrying out the work and contractors performing the work.

The Capay Open Space Park Grand Opening occurred Friday, August 8, 2008 and was successful. Chico State's Recreation Administration program's students have done the educational signage for the park which will be installed in the next couple of months. The disabled access to the creek will also be constructed in the next couple of months.

Kent Reeves updated the progress the County is making in determining an effective means for managing Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) damage and trespassing on Cache Creek and property surrounding the Creek. Kent is working with the Yolo County Sheriff's Department to figure out a way to effectively enforce and patrol OHV use. They are looking at the possibility of adding an OHV patrol and will look at getting OHV State Grants to help fund this. Some things, however, need to be put in place 1st before the County would be able to get enforcement funding. Public education and outreach will be an important part of controlling OHV use.

Kent mentioned that there are several training opportunities coming up. The Salmonid Restoration Federation is having a bioengineering training October 6-9. The Department of Conservation is also holding a free training September 18 and 19 in Mt. Shasta, CA on the policies and practices related to financial assurances and reclamation plans for the State Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).

4.2 Cache Creek Conservancy (CCC) staff updates:

Lynnel Pollock, the Executive Director for the CCC, mentioned that Chris Alford would be officially recognized by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors (BOS) at the Tuesday, September 9, 2008 Board meeting for her hard work and dedication. The CCC received a \$22,500 Rose Foundation grant for restoration work that will be done on the south bank of Cache Creek across from the outlet of Gordon Slough. Lynnel mentioned that meteorological data is available from the weather station that is in the Cache Creek Nature Preserve (CCNP). Molly Ferrell, the Habitat Restoration Manager for the CCC, has worked with the Xerces Society to plant the new demonstration hedgerow area at the CCNP. The CCNP had its 3rd break-in in the past couple of months, but luckily nothing was stolen, but a window was broken. The CCC has installed a security alarm system since the last break-in and they believe that this alarm system is largely responsible for preventing further theft. In total over \$10,000 in equipment has been stolen from the CCNP, including: cameras, GPS units, a digital projector, and computers. In addition to break-ins, the CCC has had a number of problems with illegal OHV riding and other trespassing on their property. They did a fence repair and within 2 days the fence was cut again.

The CCC continues with invasives work on Cache Creek. Ravenna grass

(*Saccharum ravennae*) is an increasing problem and they are beginning to try to control it. The Salt Cedar Leaf Beetle (*Diorhabda elongata*), a non-native beetle defoliates invasive tamarisk plants in both its larval and adult stages has been released in the watershed, and the CCC has been involved with distributing beetles to a site downstream.

- 4.3 Yolo County Resource Conservation District (Yolo RCD) staff updates:
Tanya Meyer (Vegetation Management Specialist) introduced the new Executive Director for the Yolo RCD, Dan Efseaff, who comes to the Yolo RCD from River Partners. The Yolo RCD completed another float trip to assess the progress and damage to Tamarisk (*Tamarix parviflora*) of the Tamarisk Leaf Beetle down Cache Creek from its initial release point. The beetle has found its way 20 miles down the Creek all the way from Bear Creek to the Cache Creek Casino's Golf Course. The Yolo RCD has sprayed Tamarisk at a restoration site and it has also continued its spray program of Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) and Ravenna grass (*saccharum ravennae*). As Ravenna grass is becoming a serious problem on Cache Creek, the Yolo RCD has been spraying it for 3 years and planning for its management with the Cache Creek Watershed Forum. At the end of October there will be a scouting trip together with the Bureau of Land Management and other CCWF partners in the Clear Lake area in order to target the source populations of Ravenna Grass that are sending seed down the creek. Kamman Hydrology & Engineering, Inc. gave a report at the last TAC Geomorphology meeting on the background information that it has collected on Cache Creek. The Yolo RCD will together with Kamman Hydrology & Engineering, Inc. have 3 educational field days: October 21, 22, and 24th with the Center for Land-Based Learning staff. At the September 30, 2008 BOS meeting, a new Memorandum of Understanding between the Yolo RCD and the Yolo County Parks and Resources Department will be up for approval and will allow the County to work with the Yolo RCD on projects more easily. Tanya mentioned that the California Invasive Plants Council (Cal IPC) will be holding its 2008 Symposium "The Future of Invasive Plant Management" from October 1-4 in Chico, CA. The Yolo RCD also just hired a Watershed Coordinator (Heather Nichols-Crowell) who started on Monday.

- 4.4 Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District staff updates:
Max Stevenson, YCFCWCD, stated they are nearly out of water and will be stopping irrigation allocation from the Indian Valley Reservoir this week. The reservoir will drop down to only 7% of its capacity. While the allocations will stop, Max mentioned that the groundwater supply is still good for farmers to use for irrigation. Max gave an update on the Capay Dam repair project. The YCFCWCD wishes to extend the apron 60' downstream and add a grade control structure another 100' downstream. The YCFCWCD also needs to examine more closely the sweeping curve the creek makes right before the dam. The YCFCWCD has had several public meetings regarding the dam design and has proposed 5 alternative

designs for the dam, but the process is still in the feasibility phase. The design planning for the dam will begin this winter and they are hoping to begin the construction after the next irrigation season. The CCRMP TAC members mentioned that they need to be included more in this process as the dam construction is within the CCRMP area and affects areas downstream in the CCRMP. Tim Horner mentioned the TAC should be included in the design review of the project. Erik Ringelberg mentioned that there needs to be coordination between the YCFCWCD and the Yolo County Parks and Resources Department with regards to permits. Communication with entities both in and in adjacent lands to the CCRMP is critical. The communications system out at the Indian Valley Reservoir has been fixed which had been substantially damaged in the fire this year.

5. REGULAR AGENDA:

Draft 2008 Creek Walk Summary and Recommendations

The 2008 Cache Creek Walk took place on June 9, 10, and 11, 2008 and was an inspection that included evaluations of channel changes and notable erosion that occurred during the 2007-2008 winter flows as well as evaluations of projects completed to date. The 2008 Creek Walk Summary is created by the TAC members and the Parks and Resources Department's Resource Specialist as a summary and overview of the Creek Walk, the inspections, observations, and recommendations.

The TAC and Resource Specialist organized a public meeting in order to discuss the 2008 Creek Walk Summary as the TAC is regulated by the Brown Act and as a means for the three TAC members to discuss their recommendations and get public input during the process. The Draft 2008 Creek Walk Summary will be released publicly at the October 13, 2008 TAC meeting. Given the duration of the meeting it was unreasonable to be able to review the entire 66 page document created, but the TAC and the County wanted to use this opportunity to make general comments on the document and also to discuss and flag priority actions. Eric Larsen recommended that the minutes created from TAC meetings print in **bold** items that require action and to add timelines to those items.

General Comments

The TAC sees the annual Creek Walk Summary as an additive document and that as more and more information is gathered about the Creek over subsequent years that this information gets added to the Summary.

TAC members felt that more time was needed on future walks in order to adequately evaluate the Creek. By making the walk have longer days and also adding 1 additional day, the TAC members felt they could more accurately evaluate the Creek. The time of year was also discussed for the Creek Walk. June is not a good time to evaluate the biological resources of the Creek and the manner of the Creek Walk is not a scientifically sound methodology for empirically

evaluating the biological resources of the Creek. We discussed having the Walk in May which would generally make the Walk cooler in temperature, but less reliable in terms of being able to predict the weather. It will be important for the TAC members, particularly, the TAC Riparian Biologist to get out on the Creek at different times of the year.

Because the Creek Walk Summary is prepared shortly before the October 31 deadline by the DFG to terminate projects in-channel, priority recommendations by the TAC need to be made within 30 days after the Creek Walk in order to ensure better response time. The Summary can then be prepared afterwards, but the Summary doesn't need to be completed before action is taken on priority items.

Editorial Comments (ACTION ITEMS)

1. **The TAC wants to see the summary in the Font "Times New Roman".**
2. **Add a Table of Contents at the beginning of the summary.**
3. **Stephan Lorenzato (YCFCWCD) would like all the citations assembled and sent to the YCFCWCD so that they can include them in the new Cache Creek Catalog.**
4. **Tim Horner will write an introductory summary on the hydrology and soils of the CCRMP area. (Timeline: 2 weeks)**
5. **Eric Larsen will write an introductory summary on the sediment transport mechanisms and geomorphology of the CCRMP area. (Timeline: 2 weeks)**
6. **Tim Horner's expertise is in the interaction of surface and groundwater. He will edit the document so that the descriptions and use of the terms "Gaining Reach" and "Losing Reach" are appropriately used and technically accurate. (Timeline: 2 weeks).** Erik mentioned that the biological comments using these terms predate his being on the TAC.

Project Action Items

PG&E Pallasades

Between 2007 and 2008, a good deal of erosion has occurred that is undermining the pillow blanket that was put in place in order to protect the International Pipeline. Tim would like to see this fixed before October 31 as he believes a wet winter could easily blow this out. He thinks a more long term solution needs to be created, but for right now the upstream side of the concrete pillow blanket needs to have increased armoring. The TAC members do not believe the beaver dam has done anything in order to increase erosion at the site. **PG&E needs to be contacted in order to alert them of the TAC's concern.**

Abandoned vehicles at River Mile (RM) 26.6

Tim Horner saw a major water quality hazard at RM 26.6 in there being >20 vehicles less than 100' from the high water bank on private property in a make-shift junk yard. **Tim recommending contacting the landowner and work with the landowner in order to remove or move these vehicles.**

County Road (CR) Bridges 85, 87, 94B and CalTRANS I-505 Bridge

The TAC discussed that they are not licensed professional engineers with the

ability to evaluate the structural integrity of the bridges that cross the creek. Coordination with the department of Public Works and CalTRANS will be integral to ensuring that adequate inspection of the integrity of the bridges is done systematically and annually.

The TAC has no concerns with CR 85. At CR 87, the active channel is about 150 m wide at the bridge, and erosion has cut the toe of the fill material near the right (south) bank. The TAC would like erosion to be carefully monitored after each future high flow event due to the mobile bed and highly erodible bed material, but there do not appear to be significant erosion problems at this time. In the future, channel migration is likely to cause erosive pressure along the left (north) bank as high flows focus on the outside of a meander bend as it approaches the bridge. It may be necessary to do some preventative maintenance or gravel skimming to remove the mid-channel bar directly above the bridge, allowing flow to pass directly down the center line.

At I-505, the channel is constricted by a factor of 0.5 to 0.7 times the normal width as it passes under the bridge, resulting in increased stream velocity. This bridge has a longitudinal pier construction on the abutments that interferes with any flow that is not perpendicular to the bridge. As a result, extensive scour pools up to 5 ft deep have formed around each abutment. This structure should be monitored during and after high flow events to assess damage to the bridge support structures.

Jensen Property

The TAC members are concerned with the concrete and rebar in the creek and poised to fall into the creek. After the high flows of 2005-2006, Granite Construction and the CCC had been working along with the County and the Jensens to create a design solution for the property that is currently at the outside of a meander bend in the Creek. Granite Construction had surveyed the Test 3 line on the Jensen Property. There had been a bioengineered design along with spur dikes created for the purpose of protecting the Capay Bridge from scour, but the project was washed out by the 2005-2006 winter flows. Granite is interested in this project because they have land across from the Jensens. The designs considered so far would be very expensive. Kent mentioned looking at grants with the Jensens that would pertain to this land.

ACTION ITEM: Erik Ringelberg is going to research references regarding cement in waterways and the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) policies regarding cement. The County will contact the landowner about coordinating efforts and looking at options for this area. (Timeline: 2 weeks)

Teichert Aggregates Esparto Plant Levee

The levee at Teichert's Esparto plant looks especially vulnerable at RM 22.8. Loamy soil has been added recently as a cap on the levee, and the soil looks loose and unconsolidated. This is also a low spot in the levee. The loosely consolidated soil would not be resistant to erosion at higher flows, and the low

elevation makes the area vulnerable to overtopping. The main channel hugs the north bank at low flows, and meander patterns suggest that higher flows would be directed at the weak spot in the bank. **This area should be protected before winter rains arrive, and is one of the more pressing problems observed on the creek walk.** In addition, there was a road near the top of the soil berm that appears to be too close to the top edge of the berm and promotes soil erosion and an unstable area.

The TAC addressed questions to Brian King who was at the TAC meeting representing Teichert. Brian mentioned Teichert had placed the soil at the top of the levee in order to bring it to the appropriate height to protect against the 100-yr flood. The soil cap had not been placed when the levee emergency repair was done in the previous year because of the timing of the construction. Brian mentioned that Teichert was going to seed the slope, use straw mulch, cover the slope with jut erosion control fabric and use irrigation if the fall rains weren't adequate. **The TAC wants to see the original plans from Questa Engineering for the levee and also the HEC-RAS model that should have been done in order to determine the design and height of the levee. The TAC believes that the soil cap will be vulnerable to extensive erosion and should incorporate engineered structure to protect against high flows. Erik Ringelberg would also like to see the Storm Water Pollution and Prevention Plan for the levee.**

CEMEX

The TAC has made strong recommendations for the past >1 year to CEMEX in order to complete its bank stabilization. The bank stabilization plans that were submitted do not include the entire area that the TAC is concerned about. This is a high priority item and CEMEX was deemed as non-compliant by the Yolo County Planning Commission for failing to address the TAC's concerns. The CEMEX levee is the worst on the creek and in dire need of repair. **CEMEX still needs to submit its Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan in digital format so that the TAC Hydrologist can review it.** Once this is completed the Flood Hazard Development Permit will be approved and can be sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE). **CEMEX needs to submit plans to repair the rest of the levee upstream from the current submitted bank stabilization plans. The HEC-RAS model needs to include the area from I-505 and downstream 1000' past the required 100-yr flood levee as necessary to maintain on CEMEX's property according to the development agreement. Each of the TAC members will submit letters to the Parks and Resources Department detailing their concerns about the non-responsiveness and non-compliance of CEMEX. The Parks and Resources Department will review the Planning Commission's determinations regarding CEMEX in order to determine how to proceed.**

Huff's Corner

The TAC, the City of Woodland, and floodSAFE Yolo are very concerned about the structural integrity of the bank stabilization that was done at Huff's Corner. **ACTION ITEM: Comments regarding Huff's Corner from the**

2008 Creek Walk Summary will be submitted to the department of Planning and Public Works. Upon inspection during the 2008 Creek Walk Erik Ringelberg determined that the revegetation effort would not meet any success criteria. The TAC saw radial cracks which would indicate the possibility of failure on top if it were to be saturated by high flows. There is an enormous amount of hydraulic force being exerted against the bank and Tim Horner believes there are major safety concerns regarding the road and that the road is a safety hazard.

The TAC questioned why the tree island at Huff's Corner is no longer an island, but had been filled in when it served as a staging area for the repair.

The CCC is working on invasives removal in this area which should increase the flood capacity of the channel in this location.

6. SET DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

Monday, October 13, 2008 at the County Department of Employment and Social Services Community Room (# 167), 25 N. Cottonwood Street, Woodland, CA 95695

7. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.