



# County of Yolo

John Bencomo  
DIRECTOR

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

292 West Beamer Street  
Woodland, CA 95695-2598  
(530) 666-8775 FAX (530) 666-8728  
www.yolocounty.org

## Cache Creek Technical Advisory Committee Summary Minutes April 9, 2007

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<b>Members in Attendance:</b>	Kevin O'Dea, Jeff Hart and Geoff Schladow
<b>County Staff:</b>	Chris Alford and Jill Baty
<b>Others in Attendance:</b>	Ben Adamo, Laurie Brajkovich, Barry Cavanna, Duane Chamberlain, Glen Jensen, Mary Kimball, Tami Leathers, Lynnel Pollock, Fulton Stephens, Max Stevenson, Andrew Stresser, John Watson, Jack White
<b>Members Absent:</b>	none

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chris Alford at 10:07 AM.

### 2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Kevin O'Dea motioned to adopt the minutes from the March 5, 2007 meeting.

### 3. REGULAR AGENDA:

**3.1 Vegetation Opportunities and Constraints Analysis for Future Habitat Improvement and Restoration:** County staff has directed Riparian Biologist TAC member Jeff Hart to evaluate the CCRMP area to determine which sites are best suited for restoration. He will be looking at factors including proximity to water, soil type, and slope to analyze these sites. Mary Kimball (Center for Land Based Learning) asked whether Jeff will choose specific sites, or create criteria for evaluating sites. Jeff said he would be doing both. He will create criteria to be used in identifying appropriate sites for restoration. The criteria developed would then be used to assess appropriate project areas and could also be used to determine whether a proposed project site brought forward for TAC review is an appropriate one for restoration. Geoff Schladow (TAC member) pointed out that this was a departure from the previous triage-like approach taken in regards to choosing priority restoration projects. Ben Adamo (Granite Construction) asked whether the County would still use the approach of prioritizing sites in need of work. County staff member, Chris Alford, clarified that projects determined to have the greatest need would still be given high priority; the new approach would be done in tandem with existing practices such that the County can also take a proactive approach to implementing restoration projects.

Additionally, Jeff Hart explained that he would also like to develop plant lists for species based on specific site conditions found at various points along the creek. Mary Kimball asked whether Jeff's plant lists would affect current, on-going projects like the Capay Open Space restoration project. Jeff replied that yes, it could provide input for current projects that might show that adjustments to existing plans would provide benefits.

**3.2 Off-Highway Vehicles:** Chris Alford (Yolo County) stated that Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use has been an on-going issue in and along Cache Creek. County staff has been working with the Sheriff's Department and County Council to see whether this is an activity that can be better regulated in order to reduce trespass, property damage, and environmental damage. Since OHVs are not considered a "traditional use" on lands in the Public Trust, there is room for Yolo County to implement stronger regulation regarding this activity. County Council has created a draft ordinance that will allow the Sheriff's Department to regulate in-stream OHV use. Chris stated that County staff are interested in getting input from property owners and individuals that have witnessed or have been effected by OHV activities in order to get a better understanding as to the extent in which this activity is occurring and which areas are experiencing the heaviest use in the County.

Lynnel Pollock (Cache Creek Conservancy) stated that she had visited with the Sheriff's Department and had written a letter to the County suggesting that "No Parking" signs be posted near Rd 94b. This may be difficult to enforce, but it may discourage riders from accessing the creek at this point. Another member of the audience stated that he had seen many vehicles parked near the Esparto Bridge on Rd 87 where the County still owns the land at the site of the old bridge. Geoff Schladow asked if most of the trespassers and OHV users on Cache Creek were local citizens. A landowner in the audience stated that he had come across OHV users from as far as Marysville and the Bay Area. He said that many of the riders are also hunting dove, deer and turkey. Ben Adamo wondered as to the legality of hunting on privately owned public trust lands.

Duane Chamberlain (Board of Supervisors) wondered if the County was considering providing another area for legal OHV use. Chris said that County staff, while in the process of determining the best way to regulate OHV use in areas such as Cache Creek, are also taking into consideration the need to provide alternative areas where OHV use would be permitted. The County applied for a planning grant in 2006 to fund an assessment of potential OHV sites across the County, but was not awarded the funding necessary to implement the intended planning process.

**3.3 Creek Walk:** Chris Alford stated that due to the extremely dry conditions this winter, and due to TAC and staff turn over County staff would like to hold the annual Creek Walk at the end of May. The tentative dates are set for May 30 – June 1 however the actual dates will be posted through the CCRMP distribution list once they are finalized.

**3.4 Jensen Erosion Site Visit:** Following the in-house portion of the TAC meeting, two site visits, one at the Jensen property and one at the Granite Construction facility, occurred as part of the TAC meeting to view and discuss current erosion concerns.

The Site visit at the Jensen property was conducted to evaluate past and present bank erosion and bank stabilization efforts as well as to assess the site conditions in the context of the trends of the Hungry Hollow Subreach. It was noted that the Hungry Hollow reach is a loosing reach with wide banks and a channel that actively shifts its course within the channel banks. An erosion control project with spur dikes and willow stakings was installed in 2004 but subsequently washed out during the heavy 2005/2006 winter flows as a meander moved down the bank.

Kevin O'Dea provided a summary of the previous project, the subreach conditions, and some background regarding the "Test 3 Boundary Line." He stated that the Test 3 Line was more or less defined by the 100-year flood boundary in the Hungry Hollow portion of the creek. He pointed out a ridge slightly above the upper terrace that the group stood on was the approximate location of the Test 3 Line. He mentioned that the upper terrace was so high in this area that there was little opportunity for fine sediment deposition; therefore, most of the ground was gravel and supported no plant life.

Glen Jensen stated his concern that the creek is eroding the steep bank leading from the terrace 20 feet straight down to the creek. Outside of the Test 3 Line, his almond orchards would be at risk in a major flood event. He would like the bank protected to ensure that erosion and flooding will not threaten his trees. It was agreed that creating structures in the creek itself, where the previous project was and where the active channel currently flows is not a productive or feasible way of accomplishing this. TAC members Jeff Hart, Kevin O'Dea, and Geoff Schladow discussed possibilities for creating intermediate terracing and swales, possibly depositing some topsoil to allow plants to establish. They suggested considering digging trenches and planting vegetation in those trenches. Once the vegetation was established, the remaining gravel materials could be removed, perhaps with the help of Granite Construction's neighboring crews, to create intermediate terraces. Established vegetation would help protect the slope and slow flows to allow the opportunity for fine sediment deposition.

**3.5 Granite Construction Site Visit:** The visit to the Granite Construction site occurred immediately after the visit to the Jensen property and was conducted to view and evaluate the bank erosion at the toe of the reinforced bank along the Granite facility. Plant manager, Ben Adamo, pointed out to the group a location where a meander currently moving downstream had eroded a portion of the toe of Granite's reinforced bank. He stated that overall the bank toe had done its job of protecting the rest of the bank but had been damaged in the winter of 2005-2006. He stated that Granite Construction recognizes that this will be an ongoing maintenance issue as long as the active channel flows along the bank adjacent to Granite's property. TAC members and County staff agreed that since the structure already existed and re-constructing the bank would essentially be a maintenance repair rather than a new project, no new HEC-RAS was necessary. Granite Construction however, would still have to submit a Flood Hazard Development Permit application to the County to do the repairs.

#### **4. STAFF UPDATE:**

**4.1 Staff Positions:** The recruitment period for the two vacant Cache Creek Management staff positions has closed. Interviews will start next week and new staff should be hired before the Creek Walk in May.

**4.2 Technical Advisory Committee Members:** TAC member contracts will expire at the end of this month. The contract for the Riparian Biologist TAC member has been extended one year to provide some continuity of TAC member knowledge and to shift one of the contract terms such that the TAC contracts will no longer expire all at the same time. County staff noted that all of the current members have served as TAC members for approximately ten years and have contributed a great amount of expertise in their involvement with the CCRMP. Supervisor Chamberlain presented a proclamation of appreciation to each of the TAC members on behalf of the Board of Supervisors. Members of the audience additionally stated their personal appreciation for all that the TAC members have done for Cache Creek.

#### **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Lynnel Pollock (Cache Creek Conservancy) stated that the Cache Creek Conservancy and the Yolo County RCD are sponsoring a joint Riparian Weed Control event. Lynnel stated that event fliers are currently available and that participants should pre-register for the event. She also said that in honor of May as Water Awareness Month, the Cache Creek Watershed Forum would be hosting an event on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Cowboy Camp. The event will have activities for adults and kids that are geared towards discovering the watershed.

#### **6. SET DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:**

The next regular meeting of the TAC is tentatively scheduled as the Creek Walk and will be held over three days at the end of May. Tentative dates are May 30 to June 1.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

The in-house portion of the meeting was adjourned by Chris Alford at 10:50 AM and the meeting continued as two site visits in the Hungry Hollow Subreach (See items 3.4 and 3.5).