

**Yolo County Cache Creek Technical Advisory Committee
Summary Minutes
August 28, 2002**

Members in Attendance: Kevin O'Dea, Geoff Schladow, Jeff Hart
County Staff: Linda Fiack
Others in Attendance: John Watson, Jan Lowrey, Sally Oliver, Jack White, Lillie Noble
Members Absent: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting commenced at 9:10 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sally Oliver requested that Item 7.3 be placed toward the end of the agenda to allow participation by George Oliver who would be arriving late. Chairman O'Dea granted the request.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 8, 2002 meeting were adopted with the following change: Item 4, par. 3, line 2 – delete “at an accelerated rate.”

The minutes of the February 27, 2002 meeting were adopted with the following changes: Item 4, par. 1, line 2 – insert “by” between completed and the; Item 4, Discussion of erosion/bank stabilization/habitat enhancement at I-505 sites, line 1 – change unsuccessfully to successfully; Item 4, Discuss and consider proposal for relocation of Sequoia test sites, line 6 – insert was after it; and Item 5, par. 5, line 1 – insert site after I-505.

The minutes of the March 27, 2002 meeting were adopted with the following changes: Item 4, par. 1, line 1 – change band to bank, line 5 – change than to that, par. 2, line 4 – insert Flood before Hazard; Item 6, par. 2, line 2 – correct spelling of Cosumnes.

The minutes of May 26, 2002 were adopted as presented.

The minutes of May 28, 2002 were adopted as presented.

4. REGULAR AGENDA

7.1 It was reported that the monitoring report for invasive vegetation removal prepared by Darrel Slotton was presented to the County on May 5, 2002. The report has been provided to the TAC and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. It describes the monitoring that was performed before, during and after the non-native vegetation removal in the Fall of 2001 within the lower Cache Creek area consistent with the CCRMP.

The report indicates the difficulty in applying the established protocol due to the difficulty in implementing a feasible turbidity monitoring technique given the conditions of the Creek. The results indicate a significant decrease in turbidity downstream which is surprising and unusual in that it is usually expected there would be an increase even with no project.

Geoff Schladow provided clarification that monitoring up and down the Creek have no direct relation other than two different readings that are just two numbers. He indicated that what is being asked through the protocol is impossible and that measurements taken as suggested cannot support what they are being requested for. The TAC is supportive of the adaptive approach taken by Darrel (one of the authors of the protocol), as had been discussed at several TAC meetings and with the input of Chris Foe of the Regional Board.

The problem of determining the appropriate methods for monitoring, in a way that will produce meaningful data, is ongoing and the TAC would like to continue working through the process of coming up with adaptive ways to address the situation.

Chairman O'Dea suggested that a future meeting include Darrel Slotton and Sean Ayers to further discuss the ongoing development of feasible adaptive methods. It was also suggested that the transects, DTM, and Wildlife Conservation Board/CCC Monitoring are all resources that should be considered as input for developing appropriate monitoring. It was suggested that a discussion of these items be scheduled as a future agenda item.

Sally Oliver expressed that it was her understanding that the Settlement Agreement indicated a need for removal of the sandbar at the Oliver property in order to establish a baseline. She questioned how you could measure sedimentation without having established a baseline for comparison. Geoff Schladow indicated that despite the protocol process being irrelevant, it would continue to be imposed to each individual project.

Mrs. Oliver asked if the MBK modeling considered pit recapture because the Correll Pit is an example of what is happening on the Russian River and that the water from Correll would impact the Oliver property downstream. Chairman O'Dea indicated that the modeling done by MBK did consider off-channel recapturing. Chairman O'Dea reiterated that the modeling indicates that the flow in the 95 event was largely due to the large vegetative masses that occurred in the streambed.

Mrs. Oliver asked the TAC if it is impossible to have a scientific method to measure turbidity. Chairman O'Dea indicated that generally there are methods used as a standard for taking single measurements but not for taking measurements up and down a water body. The Regional Board has attempted to develop a method following the theory that if you take enough measurements eventually the variability is decreased. However, this approach could actually show results that are the opposite of what you would expect.

Geoff Schladow again emphasized that you can take individual samples but that it is virtually impossible to relate between points. To make this meaningful you would also have to measure bed load and even then there would be uncertainty.

Kevin O'Dea indicated the need for a meeting of minds as to what approach to take and what you are trying to accomplish in order to move toward a viable and feasible method for collecting meaningful data. Geoff Schladow indicated that there are restraints such as trying to maintain equipment on bridges, which he has found to be virtually impossible.

Jan Lowrey reiterated that as one of the authors of the protocol, Darrel Slotton tried to make the monitoring meaningful by comparing measurements to conditions prior to the project which required a creative and programmatic approach. In such a random system as Cache Creek, Mr. Lowrey agreed with Geoff Schladow, it is difficult to identify what event (erosion, bed load, sediment, and or upstream conditions) is causing the impact. Chairman O'Dea mentioned, as the TAC has in the past, that the Regional Board is addressing the situation as a basic problem without realizing that the attempt to develop criteria for the basin plan is not good science. Mr. Lowrey indicated that it has become quite apparent that the removal of tamarisk and arundo is having a significant positive impact on the flow of the creek.

Chairman O'Dea indicated that the TAC has and will continue to abide by the protocol. the TAC and County will continue to look at ways to perfect monitoring to provide meaningful data as projects arise that indicate the need for monitoring to be applied.

7.2 This item was discussed in conjunction with Item 7.1.

7.3 The TAC reported that the MBK report reflects the TAC discussions with MBK and input received during the TAC meetings. Chairman O'Dea stated that the report and modeling verifies that vegetation is a significant roughness factor influencing the capacity of the creek and flood elevations.

Sally Oliver indicated frustration in that the Settlement Agreement has expired but there has been no sediment removal. In her opinion, the County agreed to remove the sand bar but now it appears only the vegetation removal will take place and not the sand bar. Chairman O'Dea urged everyone to review the Settlement Agreement as it warrants clarification in that different people look at it from different perspectives. It is the TAC's interpretation that it only indicates that sand bar removal would be considered. However, the modeling by MBK provides documentation that vegetation removal is far more effective than would be sand bar removal.

Mrs. Oliver indicated the Settlement Agreement should be considered to be precedent setting as to the removal of vegetation and sediment. She feels that without it, there would be no intention of holding the gravel industry responsible for the condition of the creek due to past mining practices.

Chairman O'Dea requested that the Cartwright cross sections for the Oliver area be discussed at a future meeting.

7.4 The TAC will be involved in the drafting of an In-stream Ordinance to comply with the mitigation provided for in the CCRMP. In order to comply with this mitigation provision, staff anticipates have an Ordinance for adoption by the Board of Supervisors by the end of the year.

7.5 The TAC will be involved in providing clarification of the water quality monitoring program as discussed during the certification of the CCRMP SEIR. This task is to be accomplished by the end of the year.

5. **STAFF UPDATE**

A report by the Resource Manager on relevant staff activities and meetings.

5.1 The SEIR was certified by the Board of Supervisors on July 23, 2002 and the changes to the CCRMP/CCIP were adopted as well.

- 5.2 The Resources Manager reported that the wetland delineation information requested by the Corps of Engineers has been completed and submitted in order to continue the application process for issuance of the Corps General Permit.
- 5.3 There continues to be confusion as to the specific location of the sites to be tested by Sequoia Analytical. A map was provided to the TAC for clarification. Sequoia will be accompanied by the Resources Manager during the next testing session.
- 5.4 The Resource Manager confirmed that Geoff Schladow will continue to look into options for turbidity monitoring devices that would be appropriate and feasible for Cache Creek and that would provide meaningful data.
- 5.5 Nothing to report on salmon presence in the creek.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports by Committee members on information they have received and meetings attended which would be of interest to the Committee or the public.

Jeff Hart reported that he saw an article on the Herbicide Application Field Training Workshop that was conducted at the Cache Creek Nature Preserve on the front page of "Estuar" which is a publication of the San Francisco Bay Estuary Institute.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at noon.