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Cache Creek Technical Advisory Committee Summary Minutes August 1, 2005

Members in Attendance: Jeff Hart and Kevin O'Dea.

County Staff: Dimitrios Georges, Brett Williams, and Petrea Marchand.

Others in Attendance: F. Stephens, John Watson, Janet Levers, Zoltan Matica, Dave Pratt, Jack White, Ben Adamo, Duane Chamberlain, Bryan Plude, Lillie Noble, Bob Schneider, Maria Wong.

Members Absent: Geoff Schladow.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair O'Dea at 10:02 AM

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 6, 2005 meeting were adopted.

4. STAFF UPDATE

4.1 Deputy Director position update: Staff announced that Linda Fiack has resigned as Deputy Director of Parks and Natural Resources, and has accepted a position as Executive Director of the California Delta Protection Commission, a State agency.

4.2 Update on the suspended sediment and turbidity contract renewal with Geoff Schladow: Geoff will be submitting a final report soon on the first year study, and will begin the second year as soon as the contracts are finalized by the County purchasing Department.

4.3 Update on the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) Mercury TMDL process: Staff advised that the RWQCB has extended the public comment period until August 30th, and will be releasing updated requirements in November, 2005.

4.4 Update on the Capay Open Space well project: Staff coordinated the contract for drilling a new well on the site (located at CR 85, just north of the town of Capay and north of the creek) in anticipation of the upcoming phase 1 construction project. The well will supply the domestic and irrigation needs on the site.

4.5 Update on the Capay Open Space park plans, specifications, and bidding process: Staff advised that the Board of Supervisors approved the plans at its regular meeting of July 19. Staff is coordinating with the consultant to make final preparations for bidding.

4.6 Update on partnerships with the Center for Land Based Learning (CLBL) and California Audubon: Staff has been discussing the possibility of working with CLBL and Audubon on several projects, including additional revegetation at the Jensen bank stabilization/habitat site, and the Gruber/Payne property.

4.7 Cache Creek Conservancy project updates: John Watson, Project Coordinator advised that the conservancy would soon be spraying invasives along the creek as part of the grant from the Cache Creek Rancheria. John also advised that the Conservancy would have a display booth at the Yolo County Fair.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

7. REGULAR AGENDA:

7.1 Cache Creek fish presentation by Dr. Peter Moyle and Dr. Darell Slotton: Dr. Moyle and Dr. Slotton presented a PowerPoint presentation on the types of fishes present in the Cache Creek Watershed and the type of habitat that some of the fishes prefer. Dr. Slotton identified the following fishes and noted their relative location within select sections of the watershed:

SPECIES OF FISHES SURVEYED IN SELECT SECTIONS OF THE CACHE CREEK WATERSHED		
MAIN CACHE CREEK NATIVE FISHES	NON-NATIVES (SMALL)	NON-NATIVES (LARGE)
Sacramento Sucker (SS)	Red Shiner (RS)	Bluegill Sunfish (BS)
Sacramento Pikeminnow (SP)	Fathead Minnow (FM)	Green Sunfish (GS)
Speckled Dace (SD)	Mosquito Fish (MF)	Black Crappie (BC)
Hitch (H)	Inland Silversides (IS)	Carp (C)
Hardhead (HH)	Threadfin Shad (TS)	Channel Catfish (CC)
California Roach (CR)	Bigscale Logperch (BL)	Brown Bullhead (BB)
Prickly Sculpin (PS)		Smallmouth Bass (SB)
Rainbow Trout (RT)		Largemouth Bass (LB)

LOCATION OF FISHES SURVEYED IN SELECT SECTIONS OF THE CACHE CREEK WATERSHED							
Type	Bear Creek	North Fork Cache Creek	South Fork Cache Creek below Clear Lake Dam	Smaller Tributaries (Davis Creek, etc)	Cache Creek at Rumsey	Cache Creek Below at 94B	Cache Creek Conservancy Nature Preserve 2001-2005
Native fishes	SS, SP, CR	SS, SP, PS, RT	SS	SS, SP, CR	SS, SP, SD, H, HH, ST	SS, SP, SD, H ¹	NONE
Non-native fishes	GS	SB	LB, CC, C	NONE	C, CC, BB	C, CC, SB, GS ¹	RS, GS, M, FM, BS, BC, TS, IS, C

1. was present after the higher flows of May 2005.

Dr. Moyle stated that increasing habitat is an important component of increasing the populations of fish in the creek, as fish populations will increase and fill the habitat once it is there. Dr. Slotton stated that his resear team seemed to find Tamarisk roots hanging into the creek as a location where a lot of fish could be located. He said that calmer water generally tended to promote the presence of non-natives, and higher flows promoted native fishes. Dr. Moyle stated that native fishes preferred the higher flows with varied habitat such as riffles, structure, and cover, especially for spawning habitat. He said that oxbow lakes and areas such as the Conservancy wetland were ideal for non-natives, and that no native fishes were found in the preserve wetland. Both Dr. Slotton and Dr. Moyle agreed that areas with higher dynamics such as the Jensen Ranch bank stabilization/habitat restoration site were ideal areas for native fishes because of the structure that is created.

F. Stephens asked if run-off water from farm fields could be used to add additional water to the creek. Dr. Moyle said that adding run-off water to the creek is helpful if it increases advantageous flows.

Petrea Marchand stated that if salmon were desired to be in the creek, then a fish ladder would need to be installed at the Capay Dam. She said it is unknown if juvenile salmon could survive the higher temperatures in the lower creek, and she felt it was better to concentrate on helping the native fishes already found in the creek. She asked for an advisory committee, consisting of the TAC and the public is formed to continue to work with fish issues on the creek.

Dr. Moyle and Dr. Slotton concluded their presentation by showing a variety of slides depicting the types of structure and habitat that would promote native fishes along the creek, and a final slide (attached) that presented good options for fish habitat restoration.

7.2 Discussion of three possible Mercury related proposals for monitoring along Cache Creek: Petrea Marchand advised that she is coordinating the following activities related to Mercury.

7.2.1 *Survey of soil conditions:* Staff is reviewing a proposal by Chair O'Dea to study the possible mercury levels in the soil off channel.

7.2.2 *Human fish consumption survey:* Working with County Environmental Health to organize a study (through UC Davis) on what types of fish are being caught by fisherman, and what types of fish taken from the creek are being consumed by people.

7.2.3 *Bald eagle diet survey:* Reported that a US Fish & Wildlife Service study of fish consumption by bald eagles did not include the Cache Creek watershed. Petrea advised that she has solicited a proposal from UC Davis to perform a similar study for Cache Creek, and the results could be entered into the RWQCB's TMDL report for the Delta.

7.3 TAC annual report format: The TAC advised that they are working with County staff to finalize the final format and prepare the annual report.

7.4 Vegetation and riparian habitat mapping task by Jeff Hart: Jeff reported that he will be attempting to map the vegetation on the creek using the County's current black and white aerial orthophotograph's flown by Ayers. He said he would secure a few sample aeriels from County staff, and ground truth the images to see if this method is accurate enough to map the vegetation. Jeff also presented a vegetation assessment proposal to County staff for review, and a CD with his documentation of the 2005 creek walk.

7.5 HEC/RAS project scope of work & timeline: Tabled to a future meeting due to Geoff Schladow's absence.

The next regular meeting of the TAC is tentatively scheduled for September 8, 2005.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 PM