

North Area Round Table Meeting

October 10, 2007

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees:

- Carol Stubbs (Resident)
 - Ed Cox, City of Sacramento
 - Erwin Hayer (Rio Linda/Elverta Chamber)
 - John Bassett (SAFCA)
 - Kristin Teddy (Jones & Stokes; resident)
 - Lizette Crosbie (SAFCA)
 - Mary Tappel (Hagginwood Resident)
 - Paul Devereux (RD1000)
 - Ramona Robison (Sacramento Weed Management Area)
 - Rick Bettis (League of Women Voters; Urban Creeks Council; Sierra Club)
 - Tim Washburn (SAFCA)
 - Will Craig (Natomas Journal)
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Bikeway Issues in Natomas (Ed Cox, City of Sacramento)

- Last year city adopted master plan for bikeway and pedestrian plan
- Identified areas to focus effort and amenities
 - Premium districts – experience or expect large numbers of pedestrians in these areas
 - want increased lighting, benches
 - identify pedestrian corridors (ex: adjacent to shops)
 - Walkway, tree canopy
 - Basic district
 - At least get side walks on every street → make city walkable
 - Exception
 - Streets too narrow
- Bikeway master plan
 - Offstreet bike trails
 - Working with developers to build trails as condition of city approval of new construction
 - Ueda Parkway – completed 2006
 - Start at Sotnick road (n. of Main) down to El Camino bridge
 - Unfinished
 - between El Camino and Sac Northern bike trail
 - robla and arcade creek
 - east side of creek connecting Arcade to Robla creek
 - On street bike lanes

- Bike routes – provides connectivity with signs to guide people through
 - Current design: try to align trails to canals
 - Design trails at toe of land side of levee
 - Leave top for RD1000 maintenance
 - Questions
 - Can you describe Safety issues in C1 canal?
 - Fences for land owners and canal– bikers can be in a trapped situation where between two 6-foot fences
 - Have these been put to City planning?
 - Not a city planning issue→ it's county
 - Connection between city and county master plan but county needs to follow through with it
 - Have Natomas bikeway amendments changed?
 - As adopted, No – still in effect
 - Issue with Airport road –
 - Had envisioned trail where airport road is today
 - Now an onstreet bike route
 - Acted on by city council
 - Who advocating for advancement of bike trails
 - TMA's, SABA (sac area bicycle advocates)
- Two rivers trail
 - Sac River on Left Bank to Hwy 160 on American River
 - Want to continue to Sutter's Landing but have crossing issues at N. 12th, N.16th
 - completed Oct. 31, 2006
 - applied for funding for phase 2
 - land purchases - Land trust, UPRR and Blue Diamond
 - Challenges with surveillance and connectivity in Cul-de-sacs
 - Questions
 - How do you determine if there is significant bike traffic?
 - Determine if significant enough car traffic to designate a bike lane
 - What happens to e. levee road?
 - Add striping and put bike route designation signs up to Elkhorn
 - Are we achieving connectivity in new developments – is the plan working?
 - Hard to tell since not fully implemented
 - Do think bike trails should only be operational during daytime?
 - 1995 policy – used during day-time only
 - reality is they are being used at night, especially during the early/late commute
 - have not made a policy to officially make them 24 hour use

Spreading of Desert False Indigo; a non-native invasive

(Ramona Robison, Ph.D., California Botanical Surveys and Tours)

- plant discovered Spring 2007
- Species name: *Amorpha fruticosa*
- Background
 - Pods smaller than Red Sesbania
 - Distribution
- Where found:
 - along 1.3 miles of Steelhead Creek, just north of Sac County line, centered around Riego Road
 - Isolated so far
 - Looks like may be coming out of someone's yard
 - Observed as large woody plants and seedlings
 - Saw dead ones that were resprouting
 - Don't know if died from frost or from mowing
- Don't want it to become the next Red Sesbania so want to eradicate it early
- Questions:
 - Is it listed as problem in Sac County?
 - Haven't seen that and this would be in Sutter County
 - How aggressive is it?
 - Not as wide spread
 - Comparing to Red Sesbania - in 2000 only a few plants in Hansen, now there are thousands being removed each year.

Pritchard Lake update (Paul Devereux, RD 1000)

- 2006 – significant seepage and boils
 - had to do flood fight
 - removed pump station
 - installed blanket to prevent seepage carrying levee material
 - stabilized over winter
 - fall 2006
 - drove steel sheet piles up to 110 feet deep to reduce seepage
- 2007
 - physically removed levee to its foundation
 - removed old pipe from levee foundation
 - preconstruction submittals were not submitted in time and it was already September. Therefore, had to restore site and is now in better condition since they reworked levee and dyke
 - will come back in spring or summer 2008 to complete work
- The California Department of Water Resources used electromagnetic imaging to get a better look at the entire Sacramento River levee
 - don't have results yet – probably will be here in 2-3 months
 - data is especially important if it shows differences from geotechnical borings
 - won't just rely on new info but will gather more info
 - can identify magnetic anomalies (pipes) where we don't have records

- Questions:
 - What were the sources of problems, was it the pipes?
 - Not sure but old pipes can be a source
 - Could new technology help with early warning?
 - High water events are the best detector
 - Is it being pushed to prioritize projects for urban areas
 - It covered the entire Sacramento urban area

Natomas Cross Canal update (John Bassett, SAFCA)

- Phase 1
 - existing levee built in 1915
 - seepage berm constructed by RD1000 and SAFCA in early/mid 90's
 - this project:
 - started at Sankey road, around corner to about 1st pumping plant (Bennett Pump Station)
 - installed ~5800 lineal feet of cutoff wall
 - constructed deep cutoff wall through sand, gravel and tied into clay about 70-75' below top of levee
 - degraded top 1/3rd, stockpiled, constructed wall, rebuilt levee with new material from borrow site
 - Implementation schedule
 - Section 104 credit request issued January 2007
 - Plans issued for bid March/April 2007
 - Reclamation Board permit issued August 2007
 - Section 104 letter issued July 2007
 - Section 408 letter issued July 2007
 - Construction contract awarded July 2007
 - Construction begins August 2007
 - Cutoff wall completed September 18, 2007
 - Levee reconstructed October 8, 2007
 - Phase 1 Project completed December 15, 2007

- Questions:
 - Are soils mostly gravel along Cross Canal?
 - Mostly hardpan in cross canal when built
 - Soils between levees is different
 - Once the NLIP is complete, does it now 200 year level protection?
 - NCC will have to be raised and widened → will go back in 2008
 - Was it the same method as the American River slurry wall?
 - Different mixer – Deep Soil Mixer (DSM) first used on levee just south of I-5
 - Fixed in 2002-2003
 - Corps then accepted methodology
 - 2004 used DSM in Pocket and refined specifications
 - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers used in the Pocket area in 2006

Natomas Levee Improvement Program update for 2008

(John Bassett, SAFCA)

- Underseepage Vulnerability
 - Some along Pleasant Grove Creek Canal
 - NCC
 - Intermittent along Sac River
 - Need cutoff wall or seepage berms
- Instead of addressing water-side encroachments
 - Build new adjacent levee on Sac River east levee
 - Can leave vegetation (little will need to be removed) on water-side and avoid land-owner conflicts
 - From Powerline Road downstream thru I-80 to subdivisions right up to levee
- Infrastructure constraints
 - Airport planning for existing runway and new runway
 - Irrigation supply canals (NMWC)
 - Golf course
- Borrow Sites - need 5 million cubic yards of material
 - Excavate and convert Airport lands
 - From rice into managed marshland (GGS improvement moved further north) and grassland (SWHA habitat improvement)
 - Avoid bird strikes for Airport
 - Excavate areas where placing woodland corridor and use soil to build up levee
 - RD 1001 – two properties
- Construction schedule
 - End of 2012 for 200-year level work done
- Questions:
 - What kind of resistance are you getting to the proposal?
 - Better now that saving stands of trees with seepage wells or cutoff wall to minimize immediate impacts
 - Plant new trees and remove stands later once new ones removed
 - What will become of the borrow sites when they become pits?
 - Convert into managed marsh