

# NORTH AREA ROUND TABLE

BY: THE SACRAMENTO AREA FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY

## NORTH AREA ROUND TABLE NEWSLETTER—FALL 2010

Welcome to the North Area Round Table (NART) semi-annual newsletter. This newsletter is written by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency to provide updates on ongoing projects as well as information on new, developing projects occurring in the North Area of Sacramento. If there are projects that you would like to see addressed in our next newsletter(s), please contact me at (916) 874-6451 or [crosbiel@saccounty.net](mailto:crosbiel@saccounty.net). Lizette Crosbie, Facilitator

## MAGPIE CREEK MITIGATION

The Magpie Creek Diversion Channel (MCDC) was constructed in 1955 and 1956 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the State of California to provide flood control to the local area by diverting flows away from the lower portion of Magpie Creek into the channel. The project site spans the area just downstream of the bridge crossing for Dry Creek Road to the MCDC's confluence with Rio Linda Creek (approximately 1,040 feet of channel). Prior to this enhancement project this section of the riparian corridor was characterized by many non-native weeds, poor water quality, a linear channel with eroding banks and low quality wildlife habitat. In an effort to improve the habitat quality and stabilize the upper portion of the left bank, SAFCA moved the channel away from the steep levee slope, rebuilt a more gradual slope, and replanted the riparian corridor with native plant species in 2006. The MCDC riparian corridor created by SAFCA now offers meanders, riffles and pool features, stable stream banks, and a larger floodplain. In addition, the constructed channel was designed to incorporate and maintain a native instream freshwater marsh habitat, a native riparian woodland habitat, as well as an open water habitat to mitigate for project impacts.

Pre-construction



Four years post-construction



SAFCA is responsible for maintenance and monitoring of the site to ensure the achievement of the mitigation goals. SAFCA is pleased to report that the site exceeded all of the freshwater marsh habitat goals for absolute cover, cover by wetland indicator species and cover by native species in 2010. The riparian woodland goals of 50% tree and shrub survival, 25% cover of trees and shrubs within the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) and 20% cover of trees and shrubs above the OHWM must be met in 2011. Monitoring in 2010 indicated that we are on target for meeting those goals. SAFCA will continue to monitor the riparian woodland until the goals are met. The site has performed well for flood protection and is also providing habitat for a variety of wildlife including insects, small mammals, rabbits, raptors and numerous other bird species. To obtain additional information and/or view annual reports on this project please go to <http://www.safca.org/protection/NorthAreatest.page.html>



Mission Statement

To reduce flood risk, thereby minimizing the impacts of floods on human safety, health, and welfare; and, consistent with these flood risk reduction goals, to preserve and enhance the environmental and aesthetic values that floodways and floodplains contribute to the quality of life in the Sacramento region.

We're on the web  
[www.safca.org](http://www.safca.org)

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Magpie Creek  
Diversion Channel

**DRY CREEK PARKWAY TRAILS PHASE I**

The Dry Creek Parkway Trails Phase 1 project, developed by Sacramento County Regional Parks (Parks), reached a milestone on August 26, 2010 when the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) approved the final permit needed for Parks to expand recreation trails in the Dry Creek Parkway (Parkway). Primarily financed with \$1,506,625 of Transportation Equity Act-21 funds and \$195,200 of Proposition 40 funds, Parks staff worked diligently to acquire all the required permits to construct the project in 2010 or risk losing primary funding. Numerous agencies, such as SAFCA, the Dry Creek Parkway Advisory Committee, Rio Linda Elverta Visions Task Force Steering Committee and Habitat 2020, to name a few, demonstrated their support of the project by writing letters to the Board. SAFCA staff also spoke in support of the project during the July Board meeting when Board staff began hearing testimony from the public.

Phase 1 of the Dry Creek Parkway Trails project will consist of 2.9 miles each of paved Class I shared-use bicycle/ pedestrian trails and equestrian trails, stretching from Dry Creek Ranch on Dry Creek Road, to the Cherry Island Soccer Complex at 28<sup>th</sup> and U Streets. The trails will be constructed on fallow agricultural land and land owned by Parks adjacent to the south branch of Dry Creek. The paved multi-use trail will consist of a 12-foot wide trail paved with asphalt concrete for bicyclists and skaters, and a three foot wide decomposed granite shoulder on each side for pedestrians. The parallel equestrian trail will consist of a six foot wide dirt path. Additional features include 1) a signaled street crossing at Q street, adjacent to the south branch of Dry Creek, 2) a 25,000 square foot gravel parking lot at Dry Creek Ranch and 3) a 100-foot long by 11-foot wide prefabricated steel bridge with a wood deck where the proposed trail will cross the south branch of Dry Creek near the south end of Cherry Island Golf Course.



The existing band of riparian vegetation surrounding Dry Creek will be preserved to the greatest practical extent. Riparian mitigation will take place at Gibson Ranch Park and oak mitigation will consist of caging existing oak seedlings at the project site. This project began construction on September 7, 2010 and is expected to be complete by mid-November 2010. The 6-mile Parkway in the northern part of Sacramento County is open from sunrise to sunset year-round with available activities including horse-back riding, biking, hiking and bird watching. For more information go to <http://www.msa2.saccounty.net/parks/> and under "Parks" select "Dry Creek Parkway".



Bridge Construction



Trail Construction

Photos courtesy of Sacramento County Regional Parks

## DRY CREEK WATERSHED RED SESBANIA CONTROL PROJECT

Red sesbania (*Sesbania punicea*) is a vigorously growing invasive riparian plant that is native to South America. It thrives in the California Central Valley and spreads rapidly down waterways via floating pods that contain seeds that may be viable for many years. Since its initial detection in Dry Creek, red sesbania has become an aggressive and dominant species, establishing along the banks and on islands, displacing native riparian vegetation, limiting shoreline access, increasing erosion, and affecting flow patterns.



In response to the concern over the affect of this invasive plant on the watershed, SAFCA developed and implemented the Dry Creek Watershed Red Sesbania Control Program (Program), with contributions by the City of Roseville, City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, County of Placer, Sacramento Water Forum, and grant funds. The overall objective of the Program is the complete eradication of red sesbania from the Dry Creek watershed (Watershed). Since 2004, approximately 99% of the mature red sesbania plants, seedlings and resprouts have been removed from the Watershed. Due to the large remaining seedbank, the project area will require additional treatments over the next 10 years to fully eradicate the species from the Watershed. Placer Resource Conservation District currently manages the project and continues to seek funding for the ongoing management of this invasive plant. Despite the large effort needed to successfully eradicate this plant, numerous other red sesbania eradication programs conducted by State and local agencies, as well as volunteer groups such as the Sacramento Weed Warriors, are ongoing and have proven to be valuable. SAFCA will continue to be an active supporter of the removal of this invasive plant from our watersheds.



Photo courtesy of Restoration Resources, Inc. and Ag-



Photo courtesy of Agri Chemical and Supply, Inc.

### Flood Facts

In response to the floods of 1861-1862, the streets east of the Sacramento River to about 12th Street were raised as much as 14 feet.

In response to the 1878 flood, State Engineer William Hammond Hall developed an integrated, comprehensive flood control plan for the Sacramento Valley. The plan subsequently came to include a system of levees, weirs and bypass channels to protect existing population centers.

Congress authorizes Sacramento Flood Control System: After a series of violent floods between 1902 and 1909, the Comprehensive flood control project envisioned by Hall gained federal financial authorization in 1917.

# MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**When:** Third Thursday of every month at 3:00pm

(see SAFCA website for changes)

**Where:** City of Sacramento  
Council Chambers  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814



1007, 7th Street, 7th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814