

North Area Round Table Meeting

April 9, 2008

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees:

- John Bassett (SAFCA)
 - Lizette Crosbie (SAFCA)
 - Jay Davis (Gualco Consulting for SAFCA)
 - Paul Devereux (RD1000)
 - John Graham (Hagginwood Resident)
 - Bill Keegan (Syblon Reid)
 - Mary Tappel (Hagginwood Resident)
 - Kristin Teddy (Jones & Stokes; resident)
 - Frank Wallace (CNPS)
 - Seth Wurzel (EPS for SAFCA)
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Robla Creek Watershed - Red Sesbania removal (Frank Wallace, Sacramento Weed Warriors)

- Start 4/22/08- Dec.2009
 - 60 hours of herbicide removal time and additional time for hand removal – will complete approximately four complete applications
- Locations: Robla Creek and Magpie creek
- Grant award of \$33,000 for 13 months
 - Originally planned to do upper Steelhead also; requested \$60K but only go \$33,000
- Most substantial stands at confluence with Steelhead in Hansen Ranch
 - Plan is to use boats in this area to access plants in floodplain
- Growth form of species is changing from shrubs to tall stem growth in clusters
- SAFCA helping to facilitate permits and permission to treat in easement areas
- Work with community groups to “adopt a mile” for Red Sesbania removal maintenance
 - Hand removal of seedlings up to 4-5’ tall
 - No herbicide treatment with community group
- Creek Week removal
 - 60 high school students involved around Steelhead and Dry creeks
 - Ueda family working on Hansen Ranch side
- Regrowth is not substantial this year as compared to last year and they not seeing any flushes
- Can borrow up to 40 weed wrenches from BLM
- Contacted Department of Water Resources regarding Steelhead Creek – they realize they should be spraying the corridor (ARFCD does one side and RD1000 other) – will hopefully begin 2008

Sac River RM 75.1 Construction Update (Paul Devereux, RD 1000)

- Used to be called pumping plant #2
- In 2006, the district did flood fight due to seepage and boils
- Emergency repairs schedule:
 - 2006 – sheet piles on waterside to remediate underseepage
 - 2007- excavation to dig out deep pipes and culverts in foundation of levee to fill them – unable to complete in 2007
 - 2008 – will start in May and complete by Aug. 15th

Natomas Levee Improvement Program – Development Fee update (Seth Wurzel, EPS)

- Development Fee Concept
 - Off-set increases in Expected Annual Damage due to new development by reducing the chances of an uncontrolled flood
 - Secure state funding for early implementation of Natomas levee improvements
 - Secure federal and state cooperation for ongoing flood risk reduction in the Sacramento area
- Fee Program Rate Schedule
 - Residential - Cost per Damageable Square Foot*
 - Single-Family One-Story = \$1.79
 - Multifamily One-Story = \$ 1.00
 - Single-Family Two-Story = \$1.72
 - Multifamily Two-Story = \$1.06*Represents 1st (2) Floors of Residential

 - Non-Residential - Cost per Damageable Square Foot*
 - Commercial = \$2.69
 - Industrial = \$1.79*Represents Ground Floor of Non-Residential

 - Costs Includes Administration of Fee Program
 - Base Year of 2009 Rate
- Fee Administration
 - Fee will be collected by the land-use agency when a Building Permit is issued.
 - Fee may be deferred by SAFCA when allowed by the land-use agency.
 - Exemptions and Credits Allowed
 - Exemptions
 - Structures on Ag property
 - In-kind replacements due to damage
 - Structures raised above 200-year floodplain elevation
 - Structures located in Old Sacramento
 - Minor single-family residential additions (proposed 300 Sq. Ft. or Less)

Natomas Levee Improvement Program – Development Fee update – continued
(Seth Wurzel, EPS)

- Credits
 - For pre-existing structures within two years of demolition
 - For pre-existing structures in a Redevelopment Area after January 1998
- Timeline for Fee Program Implementation
 - Informational Presentation to SAFCA Board February 21, 2008
 - Public Review Draft released March 7, 2008
 - Public Workshop March 17, 2008
 - Public Hearing before SAFCA Board on March 20, 2008
 - Public Hearing before SAFCA Board on April 17, 2008. Staff will request Conceptual Approval.
 - Collection Agreements presented to Sacramento and Rancho Cordova City Councils and Sacramento and Sutter County Boards of Supervisors April and May 2008
 - Public Hearing before SAFCA Board on May 15, 2008. Staff will request Adoption of Development Fee Resolution.
 - Fee Program begins collection January 1, 2009
 - Continues until 2020 or until 200-year projects are complete
 - Fee Program re-evaluated periodically to account for changed conditions, including Federal Authorization and Appropriation

Natomas Levee Improvement Program - Project update (John Bassett, SAFCA)

- 2007 – Natomas Cross Canal (NCC) cutoff wall in westernmost section
- 2008 –
 - NCC - another 4300' this summer
 - degrade levee, put in wall and rebuild levee at existing height and cross-section
 - PG&E powerpoles next to levee need to be moved
 - Pumping plant 2 and Teal Bend Golf Course
 - Later summer/early fall – relocate existing irrigation canal at toe of levee to construct improvements before taking old canal out of service
 - Development in eastern basin – area is being taken out of rice production for development. This means there will be less water in the canals which is a problem for Giant Garter Snake (GGS) populations becoming disconnected. Therefore, a GGS canal is planned to be built in areas where no canal is present and to enhance areas where there are canals
- 2009 –levee work
 - south of Teal Bend
 - NCC
 - Pleasant Grove Creek Canal
 - Natomas East Main Drainage Canal

- 2010
 - finish levees from
 - Powerline to I-80
 - Garden Highway along restaurant row and along American River north levee
- By end of 2010 will have reached 100 year level protection
- 2011-2013 – will work on achieving up to 200 year level protection

Natomas Levee Improvement Program - Environmental Enhancements

(Peter Buck, SAFCA)

- During the initial planning
 - Looked at opportunities and constraints of project
 - Constraints
 - Development
 - Managing drainage water and canals
 - Airport –
 - Bird strikes
 - Basin Habitat Conservation Plant
 - Gathered data on baseline resources in Natomas basin
 - Developed program to:
 - Minimize disturbance of existing habits
 - Improve habitats and increase connectivity
 - Reduce hazards to aviation safety
- Goals:
 - Use flood control projects to enhance habitat quality and values by increasing the extent and connectivity of the lands in the Natomas Basin being managed to provide habitat for giant garter snake, Swainson's hawk, and other special-status species.
 - Use flood control projects in the vicinity of Sacramento International Airport to facilitate better management of Airport lands to reduce hazards to aviation safety.
- Program elements
 - Giant Garter Snake (GGS)
 - Swainson's Hawk (SWHA)
 - Woodlands
 - Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB)
- Feature locations:
 - GGS canal and Irrigation canal
 - GGS/Drainage Canal –
 - North/South Connection Corridor – aka 'GGS Highway'
 - 8 miles of new canal that functions as both habitat & interior drainage
 - GGS connect Fisherman's lake population to central basin populations (Pritchard lake)– 4500' linear feet
 - Canal and marsh features
 - Dirt from GGS canal will be used to build up the irrigation canal

- Marshland concept –
 - Involved: Eric Hansen, NBC, ecologists
 - Banks cut to specific slopes to mimic preferred habitat in area currently occupied by GGS
 - Approximately 250 acres created
 - SWHA
 - Preservation of waterside vegetation by construction of adjacent setback levee.
 - Landside Nest Impacts – 1 active nest 1998.
 - Creation of approx. 1000 acres of managed grasslands/crop lands.
 - Preservation of field crops (50 acres).
 - Improvement in aviation safety.
 - Grasslands
 - Seepage berm
 - Revegetate with grasses
 - Not looking for DFG credit since not sure if perennial grasses can be established
 - Woodlands
 - Connectivity corridor to join woodland nodes and augment waterside riparian forest.
 - Bolster nodes of existing high quality woodlands through tree relocation and new forest planting.
 - Restore habitat complexity and spatial distribution.
 - Improve SWHA foraging potential.
 - Improvements outside SMF/SCAS Critical Zone
 - Created woodlands 75-100 acres; Preserved woodlands 10 acres
 - Acquire several properties
 - Come contain existing high quality woodlands
 - Connect with corridor especially where have limited woodlands on waterside of levee
 - Borrow material from areas North of airport
 - Many airport properties are within 10,000 foot critical zone are in rice-lands and attract waterfowl
 - Use areas for borrow for dirt and will convert to grasslands and croplands that are less of an attraction to waterfowl
- Stakeholder Consultation
 - USFWS
 - CDFG
 - Corps
 - SMF/SCAS
 - RD 1000
 - NMWC
 - NJV participants
 - Environmental Groups (FOSH, ECOS, others)
 - Community Associations