

NORTH AREA ROUND TABLE

BY: THE SACRAMENTO AREA FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY

WELCOME TO THE NORTH AREA ROUND TABLE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first issue of the North Area Round Table (NART) newsletter. To allow for greater dissemination of information we have switched from meetings to a semi-annual newsletter. In each newsletter you will find updates on ongoing projects as well as information on new, developing projects occurring in the North Area of Sacramento.

We may still hold meetings on an annual basis to provide more detailed updates on various activities such as permitting, funding, construction, mitigation, etc. Any upcoming meetings will be announced in this newsletter as well as via email and on our website. 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. Lizette Crosbie, Facilitator (NART)

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Special points of interest:

- * NART meetings switching to semi-annual newsletter
- * Sac County Regional Parks works with Sac Metro Fire District to conduct controlled burns

RLCCA SITE OBLIGATIONS MET

In the 1970s, a reach of Robla Creek between Dry Creek Road and the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail was relocated to facilitate the construction of the Bell Aqua housing development and three water ski lakes. This channelized section of Robla Creek was restricted to a very narrow corridor that contained low-quality habitat and did not provide adequate room for flood flows. Established in 2003, the newly created Rio Linda Creek Conservation Area (RLCCA) is located south of the Bell Aqua Housing Community and west of Dry Creek Road and was part of the Lower Dry Creek and Robla Creek Levee Improvement Mitigation Project. The newly created creek channel, which meanders in a southerly direction to its new confluence with the Magpie Creek Diversion Channel (MCDC), was designed to not only improve flood flow capabilities but also to improve habitat values, specifically for giant garter snakes (federally listed as threatened). The created channel incorporates in-channel freshwater marsh, seasonal wetlands/oxbow pools in the low floodplain, and areas of riparian savannah in the floodplain and along its banks. Monitoring efforts began in 2004 to assess the success of the vegetation at the RLCCA over a 3 year period for the fresh-water marsh and 5 year period for the riparian savannah, as established in the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved Conservation Area Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. The success of vegetation in both the freshwater marsh and the riparian savannah exceeded the established success criteria in 2006 for the freshwater marsh and 2008 for the riparian savannah. We are happy to report that in April 2009, the USFWS concurred that SAFCA has met its site obligations.

Site Status in 2008



Site Status in 2004





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.

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Bank Protection Project on the American River at CSU, Sacramento

LOWER DRY CREEK FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT

In an effort to restore downstream portions of the Dry Creek and Robla Creek floodplain to more historical flood conveyance and habitat conditions, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) is embarking on a multi-year planning and construction endeavor involving cattle fencing and grazing, berm regrading, and floodplain restoration. This project will be constructed in two phases. The first phase is planned for construction in 2009, during which 24,550 linear feet of cattle fencing in the Lower Dry Creek parkway will be replaced and repaired, an existing berm south of Dry Creek will be lowered and an access road will be constructed. The purpose of the project is to facilitate the management of existing cattle ranch property while protecting the natural resources on the site. The rehabilitation of existing and previously existing cattle fencing will provide the opportunity for environmentally friendly rotational grazing. The project area is primarily annual grassland. There are several vernal pool and wetland features in the project area; however, these features will be mostly avoided. The purpose of the berm lowering and road construction is to restore the floodplain to a more historical condition and provide access for the adjacent property owner, respectively. If construction occurs in the vicinity of trees prior to September 15, a pre-construction survey for nesting raptors will be conducted. No trees will be removed and no sensitive resources will be affected during Phase 1 construction of this project. This project is currently undergoing design and environmental permitting. Phase 2 of the project consists of a cattle stock pond conversion to prevent fish stranding, creation of a multi-use trail along Rio Linda Boulevard and berm degradation at Hansen Ranch to restore the lower Robla Creek floodplain to a more historical condition. This phase is targeted for 2010 construction and is currently undergoing design and environmental permitting.

CONTROLLED BURNS IN NORTHERN SACRAMENTO COUNTY

On April 29, April 30, and May 2, the [Sacramento Metro Fire District](#) conducted three controlled burning exercises of vacated homes on Curved Bridge Road within the Dry Creek Parkway. The homes were ignited in various stages while the firefighters practiced different fire-fighting techniques and the houses were ultimately allowed to burn completely to the ground at the conclusion of the exercise. "By working with the Fire District to conduct this exercise, not only does Regional Parks



achieve cost savings associated with demolition costs of the properties, it also provides valuable life-saving training techniques for the Fire District," said Regional Parks Project Manager **Remie Diva**. In 2008, Regional Parks, in partnership with the County Department of Water Resources and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, purchased four parcels of land, three of which contain the vacant properties, within the Dry Creek Parkway, totaling 2.68 acres. The fourth parcel's house will be donated by Regional Parks to Neighbor Works, a nationwide non-profit organization that creates opportunities for people to live in affordable homes, and the entire structure will be moved from its location in August 2009.