

COSUMNES RIVER TASK FORCE

MINUTES

Oversight Committee

January 13, 2004

Sacramento County Farm Bureau

8970 Elk Grove Blvd.

Elk Grove, CA 95624

Minutes: Tina Lunt, Cosumnes River Task Force

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:

Bill Mosher, Sloughouse RCD, opened the meeting at 7:00. In attendance: Chuck Mitchell (Eldorado NF), Walt Hoppe (landowner), Surjit S. Toor (NRCS), Frank Jerauld (Amador RCD), Eric Bernsten (El Dorado/Georgetown Divide RCDs), Ken Oneto (landowner/ Farm Bureau Representative), Ron Lowry (Southeast Sacramento Agricultural Water Authority), Larry Rodriguez (Robertson-Bryan Inc.), Don Nottoli (Supervisor, 5th District), Keith Whitener (TNC), and David Utterback (Reclamation District 800).

2. STREAM GAUGES

Bill Mosher thanked Craig Crouch and all of the others involved in getting the stream gauges up and running.

Tina Lunt gave a power point presentation on how to access the gauges via the internet. You can go through the CRTF web site at <http://www.cosumnesriver.org/explore.htm> and look for Cosumnes River Real-time Stations: North Fork and Middle Fork or directly by accessing <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/nearbymap?staid=CNF>.

The Task Force is interested in finding out if there is historical data available. They would like to know at what river stage they should start to be concerned about flooding.

3. PROJECT UPDATES

- **Department of Conservation (DOC) Watershed Coordinator Grants** - Results of the grant submitted to DOC for a Cosumnes River Watershed Coordinator should be available in February. Even if the proposal is selected, rumor has it that there could be a delay in receiving the contract if the governor doesn't lift the freeze on new contracts.
- **Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority** - The Authority will be holding an open house on January 29, 2004 at the Herald firehouse in Herald. It will be an education session to introduce the Authority to the landowners and inform them of projects the Authority is working on.
- **Lower Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers Floodplain Restoration Study** - The Authority is willing to take the lead on this project if CALFED is agreeable. The Authority along with original partners (East Bay MUD, TNC, SAFCA and Sacramento County) met with CALFED staff to discuss the Army Corps desire to remain a project participant. The Partners do not see any advantages to having the Army Corps involved. This project has gone no where in the past 6 years and they would like to move forward. Staff will be recommending the Authority's revised Lower

Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers Floodplain Restoration Study, which now includes a groundwater component and the removal of the Army Corps for this stage of the project, to the CALFED amendment committee. This project received so many letters of support that CALFED asked that no more be submitted. The committee will be meeting in February.

- **Ag Waivers** - The Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition has multiple subwatershed groups. A subwatershed group has formed that covers most of Sacramento County and a portion of the North Delta. The group currently includes the Sacramento County Ag Commissioners, Farm Bureau, RCDs, the Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority and the North Delta Water Agency. The problem is that we don't have a willing group to take the lead, short deadlines and no money. The group would like to set up a meeting with the County to discuss some possibilities.

- **Activities in and Around the Watershed**

- **County's Zone 40 EIR** comment period has been extended to February 1, 2004

- **Salmon Run**— The lack of rain brought about a zero run year. The effects will be seen in about 3 years when this year's offspring would have returned to the river.

- **JTS Communities** (home builder) may be receiving a fine for allowing sediment to go into the Cosumnes River.

- **Keith Whitener** is still working for TNC, but his role has changed. He will be working on delta issues, specifically Staten Island. TNC will continue its involvement, but who and how has not been decided.

- **North Delta Program**, update received by Craig Crouch

DWR announced at the last North Delta Program stakeholders meeting that they will limit their analyses to the 1997 (sub-100-year) event. They want to avoid involvement in debates on the potential for growth-inducement from project formulations which might reduce flood risk in 100-year and greater events. Based on that unexpected change in project objectives, the County is regrouping.

If the North Delta Program study proceeds with that habitat-only scope, it appears that a challenge of the technical sufficiency of the North Delta EIR will be required, since the proposed studies will ignore the realities of FEMA compliance. Craig expect that the County will be in the long line of flood control interests who are involved in that challenge.

Hopefully, these folks can intervene with the new Resources Agency Secretary before a "war" develops among the stakeholders who spent many years working to scope the program objectives and alternatives.

We have the draft report from David Ford's study to set boundary conditions for the North Delta model, based on a controlling 10-day, 100-year flood. DWR's consultant, MBK, sent us a proposal in mid-December for running a full-spectrum hydrology (10, 25, 50, 100, and 200-year events) to set baseline conditions for evaluation of alternatives. However, further baseline studies are properly the role of DWR/ CALFED. Further, we have no plan to fund studies for flood hydrologies, which DWR has indicated they will not utilize in their plan formulation.

ADJOURN - NEXT MEETING: March 9, 2004