

COSUMNES RIVER TASK FORCE

MINUTES

Oversight Committee

April 13, 2004

USDA Service Center
9701 Dino Drive, Suite 170
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Minutes: Tina Lunt, Cosumnes River Task Force

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:

Tina Lunt opened the meeting at 7:10. In attendance: Walt Hoppe (landowner), Surjit S. Toor (NRCS), Eric Bernsten (El Dorado/Georgetown Divide RCDs), and Larry Rodriguez (Robertson-Bryan Inc.).

2. PROJECT UPDATES

Lower Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers Floodplain Restoration Study – CALFED agreed to have the Authority take the lead on the revised Lower Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers Floodplain Restoration Study. The plan had to be revised and now includes an adaptive management element and broadening of the scope to include water management activities in all years rather than just flood years. The project is on schedule to start in June. Flood management is not the number one issue, but equal to the other issues within the proposal.

Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority – As a joint effort, the Fisheries Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Authority, RBI has been exploring the potential for a partnership with the Sacramento County Water Agency for acquiring supplemental water flows for the Cosumnes River and funding for other groundwater planning and recharge projects. 5,000 acre feet may be released into the Cosumnes River in the fall to percolate to groundwater and pre-wet the channel before the rains. The 5,000 acre feet is remediated Aerojet water. It is estimated that 5,000 acre feet is needed to pre wet the channel, this may vary from year to year. If the river does not need the water it could be applied anyway or saved.

Also, the Authority and local partners are in discussions with the County for the development of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. The development of the plan would be partially funded by the County and partially by the local partners.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Watershed Coordinator Grants – CALFED approved DOC's recommendation for a Cosumnes River Watershed Coordinator position under the Watershed Coordinator Grant Program. The main activities that the coordinator will do or be involved in include: watershed coordination, assisting in the development of a watershed plan, promoting backyard conservation projects, developing a citizen water quality monitoring, assisting in the development of local BMPs, and courses for ranchers on water quality.

Attendees discussed forming a Watershed Council versus changing the mission of the CRTF. Those in attendance like the idea of changing the CRTF mission rather than forming a new Council. However, some people who were not in attendance today or who are not currently involved in the CRTF may disagree and feel that a Watershed Council should be formed. Tina will continue to gather individual and agency personnel opinions.

Newsletter

Funding is not available at this time. If CRTF participants are interested in seeing a newsletter go out we may look into cost sharing.

Other Reports and Activities in and Around the Watershed

- Future presenters – Central Sacramento County Groundwater Forum

ADJOURN 8:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tour TBA