

# COSUMNES RIVER TASK FORCE

## Oversight Committee

May 13, 2003

USDA Service Center

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Minutes: Tina Lunt, Cosumnes River Task Force

### 1. **Welcome and Introduction:**

Bill Mosher, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District opened the meeting at 7:05. Self-introductions were made by Tina Lunt, (Cosumnes River Task Force), Frank Jerauld (Amador RCD), Vern Finney (NRCS), Teresa Talley (UC Davis), Marcel Holyoak (UC Davis), Ronald Lowry (Omochumne-Hartnell Water District /Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority), Leland Schneider (Omochumne-Hartnell Water District), Carol Manning (Landowner) and Larry Rodriguez (Robertson Bryan).

### 2. **Mapping Threatened Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle - Theresa Talley, Graduate Student at UC Davis.**

Theresa Talley is a graduate student at UC Davis working on the threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle with her advisor Dr. Marcel Holyoak. She has been mapping elderberry along some of the local rivers including the Cosumnes. Ms. Talley's research explores what factors influence the survival of the beetle, spatial characteristics of the habitat such as elderberry shrub isolation or size; habitat quality such as number of stems on each shrub or shrub health; and landscape characteristics such as land use, vegetation community, elevation...

The elderberry beetle is an indicator species of a functioning habitat. Elderberry beetles spend their entire lives on the elderberry bush and when that habitat is removed so are the beetles.

In 1980, USFWS listed the elderberry beetle as threatened. Although the listing of the species has probably halted its extinction, studies have not shown an increase in the number of beetles or their range.

Studies currently being conducted by Ms. Talley and Dr. Holyoak will eventually lead to Habitat Management Plans in well studied rivers and will help the USFWS revise Recovery Plans and mitigation guidelines.

### 3. **CALFED Funded - Cosumnes River Resources Inventory and Assessment Progress Report**

There will be three technical advisory committee meetings, May 21, June 4 and June 19, 2003. Anyone in the group is welcome to comment on the read-ahead packets that will be sent out one week prior to the meetings. Also, in mid July the draft will be available for review.

### 4. **PROJECT UPDATES**

#### • **Decision on Phase III - Watershed Plan and Pilot Projects**

Because of the uncertainty of where Phase II will put us we are going to hold off on submitting a grant for Phase III.

#### • **Activities in and Around the Watershed (Funding/Grant Proposals, Tours, Etc.)**

## CONCEPT PROPOSALS

### - **COSUMNES RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT (SCHNEIDER PROJECT)**

The Cosumnes River Restoration Project is a restoration project that will restore and rehabilitate approximately one-mile, 50-acre, stretch of the Cosumnes River. The project will combine existing technology with environmentally sound natural resources conservation practices to heal the damage caused by historic flood events and poor land-use practices. The Project will return the streambed to a more natural meander, restore its connection to the adjacent floodplains, rehabilitate functional habitat and encourage large healthy populations of native flora and fauna, both aquatic and terrestrial, and improve water quality of the Cosumnes River. The information gained from the implementation and monitoring of this project will be shared with local stakeholders including students in the private and public communities. Additionally, project monitoring will occur before, during and after construction.

### - **USGS MERCURY MONITORING GRANT PROPOSAL**

Not sure where this stands at the moment

### - **EL DORADO COUNTY COORDINATED WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The “El Dorado County Coordinated Watershed Improvement Project” was designed by the Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District (GDRCD) in response to growing concerns for the ecological conditions and sustainability of the South Fork American River Watershed (SFARW) and North Fork Cosumnes River Watershed (NFCRW). The primary objectives of the project include the protection and improvement of water quality, focusing on erosion and sediment control, and a reduction of fuel loading to decrease the threat of broad scale catastrophic wildfire.

### - **DRY CREEK WATERSHED ASSESSMENT**

Inventory potential point and non-point pollution contributors, land ownership and stakeholders, fuel loading and vegetation types, urban stream opportunities for education and access, channel stream attenuation relative to flooding, road and highway impacts, land use to facilitate watershed treatments and decisions, all related water courses, and impacts from waste water treatment facilities. Organize a CRMP, revise HUA, classify watercourses, and identify demonstration/education sites. Prepare a water quality-monitoring plan.

### - **COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Management Plan for the Cosumnes River Preserve in the Lower Cosumnes River Watershed.

- **Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority (SSCAWA)**

The SSCAWA recently had a meeting with SMUD where SMUD once again conveyed that they would like to sell them some of their water. SSCAWA will be meeting over the next couple of months to work on a strategy to fund this endeavor.

The SSCAWA is also interested in finding out more about the Agricultural Waivers. The State Water Resources Control Board is giving landowners two options (1) the dischargers will actively participate in a watershed effort that assists in achieving water quality objectives to comply with the waiver, or (2) The dischargers will apply for and obtain an individual Waste Discharge Requirement Permit to comply with the waiver. By joining a watershed group, landowners will save money because there will not need to be as many test sites and the more

people paying for the test the cheaper it will be. To cover the landowners in their area, the SSCAWA believes they have two choices at this point (1) sign onto a larger watershed group (2) file for their own watershed group by June 30, 2003.

- **Stream Gages (Update from Craig Crouch via email)**

- 1) The O&M agreement is being worked up by DWR Central District. The big surprise was their decision to cost-share, providing year-around operations for no more than we are committed to pay for wet-month operations.

- 2) The gage equipment is on order, and should be in by July.

- 3) Jeff Mount (UC Davis) wants to spend some money upgrading the gages for water and air temperature before his grant sunsets in January 2004.

- **Army Corps Project - (Update from Craig Crouch via email)**

The three agencies and TNC will meet this Thursday with CALFED and DWR to decided how to proceed without the Corps. Craig would like to get both NRCS and RD 800 involved with oversight or input to the studies upstream of Hwy 99.

## **5. June Tour**

Moved to September when we can hopefully have a kick-off party/field trip to see the stream gages.

**Adjourn - Next Meeting will held June 10, 2003**