

COSUMNES RIVER TASK FORCE

Oversight Committee
September 10, 2002
USDA Service Center
7:00 PM – 8:45 PM

Minutes: Tina Lunt, Cosumnes River Task Force

1. Welcome and Introduction: Don Nottoli (Sacramento County, Supervisor, 5th District) opened the meeting at 7:15. Self introductions were made by Craig Crouch (Sacramento County Department of Water Resources), Surjit S. Toor (Natural Resources Conservation Service), Keith Whitener (The Nature Conservancy), Ken Oneto (Sacramento County Farm Bureau), Walt Hoppe (Elk Grove Resource Conservation District), Chuck Mitchell (Eldorado National Forest), Ken Casaday (Jones & Stokes), Larry Rodriguez (Robertson-Bryan, Inc.), and Leland Schneider (Omochumne-Hartnell Water District).

2. Cosumnes River Resources Inventory, Phase II

Aerials were flown on June 25, 2002 by Radman. Radman retains the rights to the negatives. Photos for stereoscope are available if someone wanted to order them. Aerials are helping to identify possible problem areas that are eroding and causing sediment to enter the waterways. For the computer model, erosion site will be identified as long term or short term sites so as not to skew the data. Chuck Mitchell will be providing Jones & Stokes with a digital map of the roads in the National Forest. The NF road layer and the counties road layers will be combined with other data such as land use to build the erosion model. The information will be overlaid on Digital Orthophoto Quads. Jones & Stokes are also working on stream classification and historical reconstruction of the river channel.

Colorado State University is currently wrapping up a 3-year sediment study in the Eldorado National Forest. A living document will be available when the project is completed.

3. Project Progress Update

• **Stream Gages – Craig Crouch**

John Huber, Sacramento County, has been working on the project. He recently visited the North Fork site to see if the site they have picked to locate the gage is on the El Dorado County right-of-way, and it is. The concern remains on how to protect the gages from vandalism and the legal details of the project.

Installation will be fairly quick once plans are completed however, since the sites are outside Sacramento County private contractors will be required, which might take longer.

Craig hasn't heard the latest on the Michigan Bar gage but he gets the sense that the state is rolling back its gauging program. The gages that will be the first to go are the pure flood control gages as the other gages usually have multiple or other financiers. If Michigan Bar does get scheduled to loose its funding Don thinks the board of supervisors would be interested and that we should write our state legislators and governor.

The majority of the members' feel that the McConnell gage serves little purpose for flood warning, as it is too low in the watershed.

It was decided that a letter should be written to the hydrologist at the flood operations center to find out to what degree the state budget cuts are going to affect the capability of the operating the gages on the Cosumnes. Craig will supply the contact information to Tina.

The Michigan Bar gage is not only important for flood warning but it also tells Rancho Murieta when the can and can't remove water from the Cosumnes River.

- **Army Corps Project**

At a stand still with no CEQA lead.

- **Schneider Project**

Surjit S. Toor (NRCS), Mark Cocke (NRCS Engineer), Greg Norris (NRCS Engineer) and Tina Lunt revisited the Schneider site. The emergency repair is holding but this section still needs some repairs. Temporary bandages maybe erosion control on the banks and tree planting.

Don Nottoli would like to see a meeting set up between Ron Suter, Sacramento County Parks; Keith Whitener, The Nature Conservancy; Tina Lunt, Sloughouse RCD/CRTF, Leland Schneider, Bill Hutchinson and himself to discuss the erosion problems on the Cosumnes directly below highway 16.

- **Other Topics**

- **Larry Rodriguez, Robertson-Bryan, Inc.**

Flash Board Dam repairs on the Cosumnes will begin September 11, 2002. Robertson-Bryan, Inc. will be doing the work on behalf of Omochumne-Hartnell Water District. Three of the sites will be repairs for erosion control. The fourth site, Blodgett dam will be more intensive with a fish ladder (boulder weir) that will extend ~150 feet downstream of the dam. They are working on a short time frame as their permits will not allow them in the river until September 11 and they must be out by October 15. Robertson-Bryan is working on permit extensions, weather permitting.

Robertson-Bryan is also involved in the Southern Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority (SSCAWA) which includes Omochumne-Hartnell Water District, Galt Irrigation District and Clay Irrigation District. The next meeting will be on September 19, 2002 from 11-2 at the Sacramento County Farm Bureau. The meeting is to discuss projects between Cosumnes River and Dry Creek to improve groundwater recharge and the environment.

Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Group will be holding a Watershed Stewardship Field Day on October 10, 2002. RSVP by October 4th, (209) 946-6456 ext. 125.

4. Newsletter Ideas

- Stream Gages
- Blodgett Dam Restoration
- Granlees Dam Restoration

- Resources Inventory Project

5. Future Meeting Ideas

Open

Adjourn - Next Meeting: October 8, 2002