

# Minutes

South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan Steering Committee - October 14, 2005  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - 700 H Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conference Room  
<http://www.saccounty.net/planning/habitat-conservation/overview.html>.

Attendee	Affiliation
Alta Tura	Sacramento Audubon
Anna Whalen	Sacramento County
Dan Gifford	California Department of Fish and Game
Jack Mulligan	Taylor & Wiley
Jessie Wild	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
John Hodgson	The Hodgson Company
John Hopkins	Institute for Ecological Health
John Lundgren	Sacramento County
Kate Leary	Taylor & Wiley
Leighann Moffitt	Sacramento County
Paul Junker	City of Rancho Cordova
Rich Radmacher	Sacramento County
Taro Echiburu	City of Elk Grove

## 1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by John Hodgson and introductions were made. Items 2 and 3 on the agenda were swapped to facilitate guest speakers.

## 2. Budget/Timeline

Present from County Planning's Accounting and Fiscal Services section were Michael Tateishi, Michael Miller and Mark Daily to discuss the SSHCP budget. They provided a preliminary outline of the methodology that they anticipate using to track and explain the status of the budget. They identified the SSHCP's income sources, what has been paid to contractors and what has been encumbered to date. They went on to explain that their next steps would be to project expected expenditures to create a complete and comprehensive project budget.

John Hodgson requested an additional handout that would show contract amounts for each consultant, what has been paid and what is remaining.

Rich Radmacher discussed that the budget would work hand-in-hand with the timeline to bring the SSCHP to fruition.

## 3. Economic Analysis RFP

Rich Radmacher reported that the Planning Department received no responses to the Request For Proposal (RFP) that was sent out last month.

Rich reported that he contacted the five companies that were initially solicited and found that they all had assumed that their responses would not be competitive as another company had already been contracted in the past to begin drafting the economic analysis. Upon further inquiries Rich also discovered that the companies seemed to lack the necessary experience to conduct an analysis as rigorous as what was outlined

in the RFP. The inability of firms to meet our relatively challenging timeline was also a factor, as most firms are currently engaged in contracts that would preclude them from starting work imminently.

The committee determined upon staff's recommendation to reissue a simplified RFP to more companies and to broaden our search to include companies from the Southern California area. A simplified RFP means leaving the methodology open ended and up to the responding company to identify, it does not mean a simplified or less rigorous analysis.

Jessie Wild voiced her concern that the economic analysis could not come before the conservation strategies were developed.

Rich Radmacher responded that the strategies were coming along and that we needed the economic analysis to begin to keep the program on track. He also stated that the conservation strategy components of the HCP did not need to be complete before the economic analysis could begin and cited previous efforts by the county where a draft economic analysis was prepared with comparatively less information than is available today.

John Hopkins said that it was important to have an analysis that identifies monitoring and adaptive management costs.

John Hodgson said that we needed the economic analysis to get to a per-acre number so that the committee can determine what is reasonable in terms of costs.

#### **4. Cities Update**

Paul Junker reported that Rancho Cordova's City Council had indicated support for participating in the SSHCP process. Paul also assured the Committee that Rancho Cordova was in fact going to participate in the SSHCP.

Taro Echiburu stated that Elk Grove was in the plan too but that the confirmation letter from the Elk Grove City Manager to the County Executive stating such has not been delivered.

Rich Radmacher reported that Curt Campion could not make the meeting, but the City of Galt had taken action to be in the plan.

Now that official positions to participate in the SSHCP process are being taken by Cities, representatives from city jurisdictions acknowledged the importance of attending and providing staff at all future meetings.

Paul Junker reiterated concerns that had been brought up at the city of Rancho Cordova's Council meetings that acquisition of mitigation lands should be distributed according to impacts and not concentrated within one jurisdiction and that the Cities must be directly involved with the decision making process that guide the SSHCP.

Taro Echiburu indicated that Elk Grove could look for some money to pay for the plan.

Jessie Wild called for meetings of just the permit holders and regulators, but that are open to the public.

#### **5. Draft Scope for Regional 404**

Rich Radmacher provided a very draft scope of work for the 404.

Anna Whalen said that we used EDAW because this was part of a second phase of their mapping contract with the County.

The Committee gave general consensus to move forward with EDAW in pursuing the Regional 404. The County will establish a sub-group that includes representatives from all local jurisdictions and the chair and vice-chair of the SSHCP Steering committee. This group will guide the 404 permitting process.

John Hopkins mentioned the work of the Northern California Conservation Planning Partners and their efforts to provide parallel conservation plans and regional water permits. John also mentioned that there has been reluctance by the Sacramento Regional Water Quality Control Board to approach 401 water quality issues on a regional basis. Placer County is pursuing similar regional permits and is experiencing resistance because they are looking at vernal pool complexes, not individual pools like the SSHCP is doing.

We expect that by looking at individual pools we will be able to advance through the permitting process with more ease than Placer County.

#### **6. Other Business**

Jessie Wild announced that Eric Tattersall was now the Branch Chief in Conservation Planning. Anna Whalen announced that Justin Cutler was leaving the US Army Corps of Engineers to take a job with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. There was discussion on how this would effect the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) position.

#### **7. Recap Assigned Tasks**

John Lundgren will immediately begin on a revised RFP to be sent out by October 28, 2005.

John Lundgren will send the draft RFP to the cities by October 21 and the cities will need to respond by October 26.

Paul Junker will do a “reality check” with the Natomas Basin HCP.

Comments are due to Rich Radmacher on the draft scope for the 404 permit by November 7.

Elk Grove will provide a letter to the County Executive that indicates that they will participate in the Plan.

County staff will bring back more budget information.

County staff will set up permit holders meetings.