

# Minutes

South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan Steering Committee - January 27, 2006

10:00 AM - Noon - 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
Curt Campion	City of Galt
Dan Gifford	California Department of Fish and Game
David Ocenosak	Sacramento County
Eva Butler	Calif. Native Plant Society
Forest Halford	Wildlands Inc.
John Fritz	Sac. Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control Dist.
John Hopkins	Institute for Ecological Health
John Lundgren	Sacramento County
Josephine Guardino	Dittes & Guardino Consulting
Joyce Hunting	City of Rancho Cordova
Kate Leary	Taylor & Wiley
Ken Fuller	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Leighann Moffitt	Sacramento County
Matt Gause	Wildlands Inc.
Rich Radmacher	Sacramento County
Taro Echiburu	City of Elk Grove
Vincent King	Sacramento County

## 1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by John Hopkins and introductions were made.

## 2. Report on Meeting with Economic Consultant

Rich Radmacher reported that John Lundgren, Paul Junker and himself met with Entrix to discuss their proposal to conduct the economic analysis for the SSHCP.

Rich reported that Entrix appeared to be well qualified and that we would probably move forward with contracting them assuming that there were no objections from the cities and County management to do so. Rich reported that he was in the process of drafting a scope of work based on Entrix's proposal in response to the RFP. The County anticipates that Entrix will begin work at the end of February or in early March. Rich also reported meeting with TAIC who is a group of consultants specializing in adaptive management. He felt positive about their ability to do the SSHCP's monitoring and adaptive management chapter and is in the process of drafting a scope of work.

Anna Whalen reported that the SSHCP budget showed some shortfalls but that we were in the process of applying for more section 6 grants to fill the gap. She emphasized we had enough money to finish the plan document but were short on funds to complete the environmental documentation.

### 3. Review of Vernal Pool Conservation Strategy

Rich Radmacher passed out the vernal pool habitat conservation goals and objectives section of the vernal pool conservation strategy. The group spent the remainder of the meeting covering issues related to this section.

The group had consensus that we needed better attendance from the building and development community at the steering committee meeting. Several members committed to trying to reach out to various leaders in the building and development community to encourage their attendance.

Rich Radmacher explained that between 1998 and 1999 the steering committee agreed to protect 7000 vernal pool grassland acres and half of the remaining vernal pool acres in the plan area and this is the base scenario that was used to craft the vernal pool conservation strategy. He reported that there are 642 vernal pool acres inside the urban development areas and that the plan will target 321 of those for protection while permitting 321 acres for loss.

The committee had a question of what “protected” meant. Rich defined “protected” as lands which are under in-perpetuity easements or held by trusted and reputable land conservancies.

Rich Radmacher explained that lands were targeted for preservation by using several tools including critical habitat designations, recovery plans, species occurrence data, geologic formations and the Vernal Wetland Acres Density Index (VWADI). Rich went on to explain that the VWADI was a systematic method developed by our consultants to quantify and evaluate vernal pool resources. He explained that the SSHCP study area was divided into 160 acre land analysis units (LAUs) and that within these units the amount of wetland acres and number of vernal pools was determined and then assigned an alpha-numeric value. These values were then divided into one of five categories where the highest value LAU’s were assigned to units with high numbers and/or high acreages of vernal pools. Rich emphasized that lower valued LAU’s were still important to preserve heterogeneity, but that we would target high value LAUs in order to get the biggest return on our conservation investment.had not drawn,

Rich Radmacher explained that the VWADI was used in combination with a geologic landforms overlay and known occurrences of Sacramento and Slender Orcutt Grasses to help define areas potential preservation areas. Rich said that we had not drawn hard lines on a map to define targeted preserves, but instead had broken the SSCHP area into 12 zones and 14 sub-zones. Within each zone, Rich explained, there would be a corresponding conservation measure and that those measures would have guidelines that would help define where preserves would be identified. Rich then explained the conservation measures for each of the zones and sub-zones.

### 4. Recap Assigned Tasks

The next steering committee meeting was set for February 24, 2006 from 10 am until noon. Please note that the meeting location as announced at the steering committee meeting has changed. The **NEW LOCATION** is on the sixth floor of 700 H Street in the large training room just to the right when you exit the elevators.