

Minutes

South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan Steering Committee – June 1, 2006

11:00 AM – 12:30 - 700 H Street, 7th Floor Large Conference Room

<http://www.saccounty.net/planning/habitat-conservation/overview.html>

Attendee	Affiliation
Alta Tura	Sacramento Audubon Society
Bob Shattuck	Lennar
Dan Gifford	California Department of Fish and Game
David Ocenosak	Regional Sanitation District
Duane Paul	ENTRIX
Forest Halford	Wildlands Inc.
Gina Morimoto	ENTRIX
Herb Garms	ECOLOG
Jesse Wild	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jim Wiley	Taylor to Wiley
John Hodgson	The Hodgson Company
John Hopkins	Institute for Ecological Health
John Lane	Teichert Aggregates
Matt Gause	Wildlands Inc.
Rich Radmacher	Sacramento County
Steve Norris	Regional Sanitation District
Steve Pavich	ENTRIX
Vincent King	Sacramento County

1. Call to Order and Introductions

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

2. Economic Discussion

Rich Radmacher introduced the economic consultants representing ENTRIX and explained that they had been under contract with the County for approximately one month. Duane Paul relayed a brief history of ENTRIX and gave the background of each of the ENTRIX consultants. Steve Pavich reported on the initial cost and funding analysis. He explained that the analysis was comprised of four components including assessing land values, linking land values with HCP GIS data, creating average per area and total land acquisition costs, and estimating plan administrative costs. Mr. Pavich broached the issue that the form and function of the implementing entity needed to be finalized prior to completing a cost analysis. John Hodgson voiced a desire to know the various implementing options that may be available considering at least four jurisdictions would be affected by/involved in the SSHCP. John Hopkins suggested viewing East Contra Costa as an example. Rich Radmacher noted that this was an issue brought forth in a previous Steering Committee meeting and that the County intended to provide a draft Implementation Plan; perhaps by the next Steering Committee meeting.

Mr. Pavich continued to explain that the funding analysis would be conducted after the cost analysis, but that a review of funding sources had been initiated. He also related that developers' fees were assumed to be the primary funding mechanism. Other information that Mr. Pavich felt was needed to conduct their

analysis included the extent of jurisdictional participation and refinement of the conservation strategy. He explained that throughout their analysis they intended on producing technical memos that could be distributed to the various committees.

John Hodgson mentioned that now was an appropriate time to re-engage the economic sub-committee and extended an invitation to all attendees to join that committee. John Hopkins and Alta Tura expressed an interest in sitting on the economic sub-committee. Rich Radmacher mentioned that the County would update the economic sub-committee members list and extend an invitation to join the sub-committee through the Steering Committee mailing list.

3. Review SSHCP Materials

Rich Radmacher passed out two tables representing the acres to be covered for take and those that would be preserved, as well as the cover-types that would not be covered for take. He reviewed and explained each column noting that this was a draft table and that a final draft would include multiple footnotes. Rich explained the idea of in and out of kind restoration and that the restoration figures were still in development. Bob Shattuck expressed a concern about the feasibility of vernal pool restoration. He was concerned that the criteria specifying where and how vernal pool restoration could occur would greatly limit the land available for restoration. Jesse Wild noted that current restoration areas should be added to the land already protected.

John Hodgson questioned if the County had any data expressing the rate of build out per year noting that an absorption rate may help the economic sub-committee and consultants. Rich Radmacher mentioned that a very cursory analysis comparing aerial photography had been done several years ago by the County and CDFG. Neither he nor Dan Gifford could recount the exact results, but recollected that build-out was on the order of 1000 Ac/yr.

John Hodgson asked if land owners would be able to look on-line and identify the cover-types they had on their land. Rich Radmacher replied that this was not something that was available now, but could certainly be established.

Rich Radmacher displayed the draft SSHCP preserve areas map. He explained that the map represented four broad categories of vernal pool, agricultural, oak woodland, and riparian targeted areas. He continued to explain that the areas depicted on the map represented approximately twice the acreage that would actually be preserved.

Bob Shattuck asked if any action was going to be taken today and expressed a need to know conservation ratios prior to him developing an opinion on the conservation strategy. He also voiced concerns about not counting the vernal pool grassland within the Urban Development Area as Swainson's Hawk foraging habitat and Army Corps 404 permitting. He specifically noted that an interest from the U.S. Army Corps (USACE) in participating in the HCP process would help when trying to raise funds for a water resources study. Jesse Wild noted that U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) service involvement in an HCP does streamline 404 permitting because USACE consults with USFWS.

4. SSHCP Timeline

Rich Radmacher stated that the TAIC contract was delayed while he was out and that the contract would go to the board on June 13th. Rich also mentioned that an administrative draft of the HCP would be distributed by the end of September or early October.

Rich Radmacher issued a copy of the overall budget prepared by Michael Tateishi. He explained that it was a broad budget and that a more specific budget would be prepared by the next Steering Committee meeting on July 6th. He mentioned that a recent grant had helped to fill some of the budget gaps and that there was enough money available to complete the draft plan. John Hodgson clarified that as of today approximately \$817K was unfunded.

John Hodgson asked about the timeline for the EIR/EIS. It was clarified that the USFWS would be the lead agency on the EIS and that DERA would be the lead agency on the EIR. Jesse Wild explained that USACE, in the past, has tiered off of the USFWS EIS with a supplemental NEPA document of their own. John Hodgson voiced that perhaps the Steering Committee should send a letter to USACE expressing the importance of their participating in the SSHCP. Rich Radmacher agreed that he would help draft a letter.

5. Recap/other business

Rich Radmacher mentioned that as species accounts and documents became finalized they would be available on-line and that the on-line resources were a good place to refresh some of the original HCP assumptions such as covered activities. John Hodgson announced the meeting adjourned.

The next steering committee meeting is set for Thursday July 6, 2006 from 11:00-12:30. The meeting will continue to be held in the 7th floor CEO-Large Conference Rm. of the County Administration Building at 700 H Street, downtown Sacramento.