

## **Steering Committee Notes**

**Meeting held: Wednesday, February 25**

More than 50 people attended the Steering Committee meeting held on February 25. A quick overview of the key highlights:

Committee Chairs John Hopkins and John Hodgson welcomed the gathering and spoke briefly about the momentum that the HCP effort has gained in recent months.

Municipal Services Agency Administrator Paul Hahn explained some changes in the process. A partnership group including the Cities of Galt, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, SRCSD and the County of Sacramento, is working collaboratively to advance the HCP. The Steering Committee role in providing comments on the preliminary draft HCP is considered key.

Stuart Somach has been retained by SCWA to manage the negotiation process between the jurisdictions and the regulatory agencies. Stuart is acting under the direction of the partnership group.

The group has taken a presentation on the HCP to the elected bodies of each of the partner jurisdictions. That PowerPoint, a broad overview, was presented to the Steering Committee.

Rich Radmacher, now acting as key resource staff person to the partnership, reported that earlier Steering Committee feedback has now been incorporated into the document. The Steering Committee will receive the entire HCP for a 3-month review in late April.

Chris Beale of The Resources Law Group, representing Elk Grove, reported on the Implementing Agreement. Elk Grove is taking the lead on the development of this document. Implementing Agreements identify key legal terms and obligations, create the conservancy and implementing mechanisms, and address ordinances to be adopted by the local jurisdictions.

Paul Junker, Rancho Cordova Planning Director, explained that Rancho Cordova is taking the lead on 404 permitting, and discussed that effort. The HCP EIS will provide environmental coverage for issuance of permits. Paul anticipates a three-tiered streamlined process depending on level of impacts: smallest) local level permitting; medium) expedited Corps review if consistent with SSHCP; large) letter of permission (LOP) if consistent with SSHCP.

It was decided that the Economics, Biological (as needed), and 404 Subcommittees will convene. The Economics Subcommittee held a meeting on Monday, March 2, and will meet again on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Steering Committee will meet again:

**Wednesday, April 29, 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Breakroom, 700 H Street**

The purpose of that meeting will be an overview discussion of the draft HCP.