

American River Parkway Plan Update Citizen's Advisory Committee

Deleted: May 17

Meeting Highlights—July 12, 2004

Key Outcomes

Draft RCMP-related policies improved. Members discussed and improved draft policies on natural resource management and flood control. For the next Update Committee meeting, staff will provide revised draft policies as strike-out text showing how these would be integrated into the Parkway Plan.

Members received a **briefing on Integrated Area Planning** and suggestions for **how to prepare over the summer** for the IAP process and community workshops. Members should make themselves familiar with the lower reaches of the river and with their constituents' concerns with these areas.

Next Meeting: September 13 @ Hart Senior Center: Continue to approve policies for flood control and resource management (policy recommendations to be circulated in advance). A consultant will present a "visioning" of other similar parks.

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Announcements

- o Gina Bartlett reviewed the Update Committee's progress. Milestones accomplished:
 - Work plan
 - Charter
 - RCMP proposed language to update technical information
 - Policy recommendations on natural resources management / flood management (to be completed in early fall).
- o Staff and facilitators welcome feedback about how the meetings are going and ideas for how to improve. Comment forms were provided to members at the meeting, or members can contact any member of the staff or facilitators with comments and suggestions.
- o Maxine Clark (member of the public from River Woods neighborhood) urged Update Committee members to attend the July 22, 2004, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors meeting to comment on the proposed Markis/Lien project. The Markis Lien group has asked the County for permission to put three large houses in the Parkway Corridor Combining Zone.
- o Gina Bartlett will be on maternity leave (it's a boy, due in mid-August!). John Folk-Williams from the Center for Collaborative Policy will replace Gina in her absence. Gina may return as lead mediator for the Update Committee after her maternity leave.

Policy Recommendations on Natural Resource Management and Flood Control

Using input from the previous Update Committee meeting and subgroup meeting of the

Update Committee, staff worked with technical consultants from Jones and Stokes Associates (JSA) to develop draft recommendations on natural resource management and flood control. At a second subgroup meeting, Update Committee members commented on initial draft policies, which were then revised for the July Update Committee meeting (draft dated 7/12/04). Staff also provided a list of additional natural resource management topics for which staff will draft policies for review at the next Update Committee meeting.

Update Committee members discussed the draft policy recommendations in general and then specific policies. Members liked the format of the policy recommendations, specifically the background information, but ultimately concluded they would rather review actual edited 1985 Parkway Plan text (annotated with background information) so they could see how the policies would actually update the 1985 Plan. Members asked for a glossary to define terms used in the policies and urged language consistency, e.g. “natural vegetation” vs. “native vegetation.”

A member expressed concern that members may agree with a policy recommendation, but not the supporting background information, which could potentially be used to inform future interpretation of the policy language. Staff responded that the policies should be able to be interpreted on their own and in combination with other policies in the Parkway Plan. Staff and Update Committee members will improve background information and the policies.

Specific Policy Suggestions (Policy Numbers Refer to Draft 7/12/04)

- Policy 1. Members support the idea of managing for a balance of environmental, recreational, and flood control goals, recognizing the critical importance of flood control and its status under Title 23. Members requested additional definition for terms used in the statement. The balance concept could be an umbrella policy (e.g. a direction to managers to do integrated natural resource management, broadly applicable for many years) with sub-policies that are more specific (e.g. the existing language in the Parkway Plan that specifies the kind of recreation that is appropriate in Parkway). The group also discussed whether this concept would be better addressed in the goals.
- Policy 2. Many members prefer the original Parkway Plan Section 2.1 and agreed that it should be retained, slightly modified. “Facilities” needs to be defined and will include formally created trails, bridges, roads, tunnels, parking areas, and levees. Members requested that staff add language specifying that facilities to be permitted are those necessary for Parkway management purposes, education, or Parkway enjoyment. Non-Parkway-related facilities must have a compelling reason to be allowed. And, projects and facilities must minimize impact. A member suggested that the policy recognize that facilities should not be located in prime areas for restoration.
- Policy 3. Members expressed concern about the potential expense and intrusiveness of projects designed to slow the succession from riparian to oak woodland, e.g. grading banks and moving dirt. Recognizing that riverine habitat is necessary for an ecosystem that will support fish, members support identifying areas where maintaining riparian forest will mostly likely benefit fish and protecting and enhancing these areas as time and resources permit, especially in areas where work is being done for other reasons, such as flood control or federally mandated species protection. Members expressed concern about referring to succession as “natural” since much of the ecosystem change on the American River is human-induced.
- Policy 4. A member suggested that this policy may be linked to identifying and evaluating

places where mitigation can take place, e.g. VELB mitigation, or for other species. This may be better addressed under land use policies

- Policy 5. A member expressed concern that this policy does not mention recreation potential. Another member suggested that an assessment should determine the best use for land, which may not be suitable for ecosystem restoration, and consider restoration cost.
- Policy 9. A member suggested eliminating the language after “domestic species, such as feral cats and dogs.” Another member mentioned she was pleased to see feral cats addressed.
- Policy 10. This policy should include water quality and macroinvertebrates, which are food for fish. Sunny Williams informed the group that draft policies 10 and 13 will be changed once the flow standard is established. Instead of “supporting” the Water Forum’s efforts to develop a flow standard for the Lower American River, the Parkway Plan will include description of any flow standard--i.e. a reference to the most current action of the State Water Resources Control Board, which is in charge of regulating flow.
- Policy 12. Woody debris is a resource management and public safety issue. Woody debris policy could involve placing debris in the river to support fish habitat.
- Policy 14. Need to define degradation of water quality. This policy might also address alcohol consumption on the Parkway.
- Policy 16 may not be a “policy” and may not be needed if the critical importance of flood control is recognized in the goals.
- One member suggested combining policies 3, 4, 6, and 8; another, combining policies 10 and 13.

Additional Potential Policy Topics

- Parkway policy on fire as part of integrated resource management, not just public safety. Lou Heinrich will talk with Sunny about a potential fire management plan.
- A policy about using dredge tailing rock for mitigation. Sunny will work with Lou Heinrich.
- Recognition of the federal water project in the Parkway since its operation affects Parkway resources.
- Delta water quality issues affect and are affected by use of American River water. Should there be some recognition or policy about this in the Parkway Plan?
- A member would like to see alcohol prohibited on the water as well as the land. A County ordinance prohibits open containers and consumption in the land areas of: Tiscornia Park, Paradise Beach, Sara Ct, and some beach areas in the vicinity of Ancil Hoffman park. County Parks is also working toward a resolution prohibiting alcohol at the Fair Oaks Bluffs site and areas downstream of Capitol City Freeway (Business 80). (Alcohol prohibitions are sited in the County Code Chapter 9.36.

Next Steps for Policy Recommendations: After the Update Committee has discussed and built consensus on the policy recommendations, they will go to the Update Tech Team for regulatory review as well as the Lower American River Task Force for review and comment. Staff will bring back to the Update Committee any recommendations that require additional discussion.

Integrated Area Planning

John Folk-Williams provided a briefing on Integrated Area Planning (IAP) and suggestions for how Update Committee members could prepare over the summer for the coming IAP workshops. The three area plans involved in intensive IAP are Discovery Park/ Tiscornia, Cal Expo, and Woodlake. This is the first 5.5 river miles heading upstream from the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers. The IAP area is about 1500 acres, which is about 28% of the land of the Parkway. John reviewed maps of the areas and reminded the group that area plans are land use plans that guide what changes can be considered in each reach. The Update Committee and the local community will consider each area individually as well as how they relate to each other and the Parkway as a whole in Integrated Area Planning.

Many projects and ideas for projects in this area already exist; many people are interested in doing new things. These ideas, in various stages of development, include:

- DNA lightrail crossing near Uruttia area and Discovery Park, with an optional station in the Parkway.
- Army Corps of Engineers will be doing mitigation for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB), a listed endangered species, due to habitat removed along the Sacramento River. They are looking at sites in the IAP area. The Corps will also be doing mitigation for the Folsom Dam mini-raise and has plans for restoration near Woodlake and Cal Expo.
- The Department of State Parks is planning to construct the California Indian Heritage Center. The Uruttia area and adjacent mobile home park is one of the sites under consideration.
- Cal Expo is interested in having a discussion about what it can do on the water side of the levee to integrate the river with activities on the land side of levee. They want to go through visioning with the community about how to make their property an attractive location.

A CalFed (Bay Delta Authority) grant obtained by SAFCA will provide money not only for restoration of the Uruttia site (a former sand and gravel mine near Woodlake), but also for the IAP process and community workshops.

At the next Update Committee meeting, a park visioning consultant will present ideas and examples of what has been done in other similar parks that may have a Wild and Scenic River designation and/or run through a developing urban core area. The purpose of the visioning consultant's presentation will be to generate ideas and focus thinking for IAP.

Over the summer, Update Committee members should start thinking about these areas and getting to know them. Members should be thinking about what the groups they represent might like to see in IAP and what are the community's goals with regard to these areas. (John encouraged Committee members to think big!) John stressed that Update Committee members can help build participation for the community workshops that will occur in fall. These may be similar to workshops held for the Sacramento River Master Plan process. SAFCA will explore whether they can provide a tour of the IAP area for the Update

Committee.

“Bin” – Issues Deferred to Later in the Update

- Crossings over the Parkway
- Motor boat speed
- Need to have a plan for how to work with other agencies who want to put things in the Parkway. (e.g. regional sanitation’s arden parallel force main pipe through the Parkway, RT crossing).
- Aesthetics

Action Items & Follow-Up

Who	What	When
Committee Members	Give comments on draft policies, including “wordsmithing” suggestions, to Sunny	8/15/04
Staff & JSA	Revise draft RCMP-related policies and provide as strike-out text integrated into the Parkway Plan; develop draft policies for additional resource management topics	Circulate before 9/13 UCAC Meeting
Sunny Williams	Work with Lou Heinrich on draft policies re: fire management and use of dredging rock for mitigation	9/1/04
Committee Members	Become familiar with Integrated Area Planning (IAP) areas; think about and discuss with your constituency what they might like to see happen in these areas. Contact staff if you need assistance.	Before 9/12 UCAC Meeting
SAFCA	If possible, arrange an Update Committee tour of the IAP area.	Before 9/12 UCAC Meeting

Attendance

Members: X=Present, Alt=Alternate present

	Name		Representing
X	Jerry	Ahlin	City of Rancho Cordova Appointment
X	Katie	Baygell	American River Parkway Volunteer Equestrian Patrol
X	Peggy	Berry	District 2 - Supervisor Collin Appointment
X	Lea	Brooks	Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA)
Kevin Regan, Alt	Frank	Cirill	Save the American River Association (SARA)
X	Dave	Ford	California Fly Fishers Unlimited
	Al	Freitas	Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS)
X	Michael	Gunby	Sacramento City Appointments
X	Lou	Heinrich	American River Natural History Association
X	Ken	Miller	American River Parkway Foundation
X	Bob	Horowitz	Sacramento Area Mountain Biking Association (SAMBA)
X	Eric	Johnson	Dist 1 - Supervisor Dickinson Appointment
X	Eddie	Kho	Dist 5 - Supervisor Notolli Appointment
	Connie	Miottel	Sacramento City Appointments
	Mark	Murray	Buffalo Chips Running Club
	Ted	Sheedy	Sacramento City Appointments
X	Janel	Silva	Sacramento Area Dog Owners Group (SACDOG)

X	Greg	Speicher	Boating
	Peter	Tateishi	Dist 3 - Supervisor Johnson Appointment
	Renée	Taylor	Dist 4 - Supervisor Niello Appointment
	Frank	Wallace	California Native Plant Society (CNPS)
	Art	White	Sacramento County Recreation and Parks Commission: ex-officio
X	Melinda	Williams	Sacramento City Appointments

Others

Maxine Clark
Teresa Haenggi, City of Sacramento Parks
Rod Hall, Water Forum (for Leo Winternitz)
Jackie Kuhwarth, SACDOG Alternate
Bob Overstreet, City of Sacramento Parks
Steve Launey, Cal Expo
Helen Selph, City of Sacramento Planning
Tim Washburn, SAFCA

Sue Wise, County Parks

Project Staff

Sunny Williams, Project Manager, Sacramento
County Planning
Gary Kukkola, Sacramento County Parks
Gina Bartlett, Laura Kaplan, & John Folk-
Williams, Facilitators, Center for
Collaborative Policy

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