

American River Parkway Plan Update Citizen's Advisory Committee

Meeting Highlights—November 8, 2004

Key Outcomes

Continued work on RCMP-related policies. Members discussed and improved policies in the flood control section of the RCMP-related policies. They also provided additional comments and noted where more information was needed on the rest of the RCMP-related policies. A small group will be formed to work on finalizing these policies, as well as other natural resource items that were deferred. The small group's work products will be brought to the full UCAC for approval in 2005.

Members gained familiarity with the Integrated Area Planning (IAP) landscape. Members reviewed maps of the IAP areas: Discovery Park/Tiscornia, Woodlake, and Cal Expo. They noted features and uses of the landscape as well as the existing land use designations (which govern what type of use is allowed in which area) from the 1985 Parkway Plan. Members surfaced important issues that will be further explored in IAP.

Members received a briefing on IAP next steps and the upcoming UCAC tour of the IAP area. A multi-agency team has interviewed consultants to assist in creating new area plans during the IAP process. A consultant team will be hired in November. Community workshops are scheduled to begin in January. A tour of the IAP area will be conducted for the UCAC on December 5, 10 AM – 3 PM. Additional details and a tour agenda will be emailed to the UCAC and interested parties in advance.

Members received an update on outreach efforts and were informed of how they can assist in outreach. Geographic area reps are encouraged to work with Sharon Huntsman to identify important constituencies in your area. All members are encouraged to circulate the outreach handout that Sharon provided.

Decision Items for December 13 Meeting @ Hart Senior Center

- No formal decisions will be requested. This will be the IAP consultants introduction to the UCAC.

Announcements and Updates

- **IAP Consultant Selection.** Sue Wise from County Parks informed the UCAC that a multi-agency team is in the process of interviewing and selecting a technical consultant to assist with running IAP community meetings and preparing new area plans for the IAP area.
 - All agencies involved in the Update participated in developing the Request for Proposals, which was issued on October 4.

- Proposals were received from two consultant teams: 1) Moore Iacofano Goltsman (MIG) with EIP Associates; and 2) Wallace Roberts and Todd (WRT) with Jones and Stokes Associates (JSA). Sue informed the UCAC that both consultant teams have been interviewed by a multi-agency panel; both are qualified and neither has a “fatal flaw.”
- The consultant team will be selected by November 12, 2004; approved by the County Board on November 18, 2004; and will start work on November 22, 2004.
- Staff clarified that due to the constraints of the CalFed grant that is funding the consultant, the scope of work for the consultant is to work on Integrated Area Planning only. The consultant will not be involved in land use planning outside that area; staff will handle any such changes agreed upon by the UCAC. The consultant is not tasked to work on general policy development; however IAP will raise a number of policy questions. Any relevant policy question that would require a change in an area plan will be discussed during IAP. For example, if the UCAC wants to introduce a new type of recreational use in the Parkway, a policy could be written to permit it in a certain area or throughout the entire Parkway, and this use could be incorporated in IAP area plans. Ideas that are not covered in IAP will be covered later in the process.
- Follow-up on **California Indian Heritage Center (CIHC)**. UCAC members have received an informational packet from staff including materials from State Parks about the proposed project and correspondence from community groups and agencies responding to the idea of building in the Parkway.

Staff reported that there is no new information at this time. The CIHC proposal will be discussed fully during IAP as one of a number of land use proposals for the area. Staff assured the UCAC that work on the CIHC is NOT proceeding on a parallel track; working with the UCAC’s IAP process is the only way for the CIHC Task Force to study the feasibility of building the CIHC in the Parkway. No project can be built unless it is consistent with the 1985 Plan, or unless the UCAC approves, and the governing bodies adopt, changes to the Plan that make it possible.

Facilitators reiterated that the IAP planning process and Update will not revolve around the CIHC proposal. The UCAC will familiarize itself with what is on the ground now in the IAP area and current land uses, then in January members will consider all new project ideas for the area, including the CIHC. Committee members agreed that it would be premature to discuss CIHC at this time. One Committee member noted that the CIHC Task Force is itself in flux at this time and trying to figure out its next steps and what they mean.

Policy Recommendations on Natural Resource Management

The UCAC reviewed progress to date on the natural resources policies and provided additional comments. The UCAC reviewed the final remaining section of the RCMP-related policies, the Flood Control section. All Flood Control policies were previously reviewed and approved by Tim Washburn from the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency.

The policies were projected onto a screen so that UCAC members could see their comments and changes recorded real-time. A copy of comments and suggested changes is appended as a Track Edits version of the resource policy draft dated 11/03/04.

Members agreed that the appropriate wording for a policy that is mandatory is “shall” rather than “will.” All policies shall be revised to make use of “shall” directive language, where being directive is appropriate. There will need to be further discussion about whether some policies should be more or less directive than others, to take funding realities and practical priorities into account. A member suggested that there may need to be some process for setting priorities and allocation of funds written into the Plan.

A small group will be formed at a future UCAC meeting to work offline on finalizing these policies, as well as other natural resource items that were deferred. The small group’s work products will be brought to the full UCAC for approval in 2005.

IAP Map Exercise

Members worked in small groups to review maps of the IAP areas: Discovery Park/Tiscornia, Woodlake, and Cal Expo. They discussed current features and uses of the landscape as well as the existing land use designations (which govern what type of use is allowed in which area) from the 1985 Parkway Plan. Some members proposed initial thoughts on how land use designations might be changed in various areas.

Key issues that were discussed included:

- Bushy Lake is hard to access.
- Desire for more recreational or interpretive opportunities around Cal Expo.
- Woodlake was added to the Parkway after 1985 and does not have much of an area plan.
- There are existing approved restoration projects dotted around the area, notably the Army Corps of Engineers projects at Bushy Lake and Woodlake, and SAFCA’s project at Northgate. (These projects will be discussed in more detail on the tour.)
- Presence of invasive plants such as star thistle, especially at Cal Expo and Woodlake.
- Issues associated with homeless / illegal camping.
- Connection with city redevelopment plans for Capitol Station District, Railyards, etc.

These ideas will be revisited and explored further during the IAP process and community meetings. Members will have an opportunity to compare this “bird’s eye” overview of the existing landscape with an on-the-ground experience during the tour on December 5.

Members also requested changes to the maps to better display all of the features of the IAP area. Technical consultants for IAP will be providing maps showing all physical constraints in the IAP area.

Update on Outreach

Sharon Huntsman is beginning outreach to neighborhoods. This initial outreach will lay groundwork for the consultant for IAP, who will work more extensively on outreach for community meetings. Sharon provided a handout on outreach goals and her outreach activities, as well as a list of identified neighborhood and business organizations adjacent to the IAP area that will be contacted.

Discussion:

- How was the list of organizations developed? Sharon worked with Sacramento City Services Districts 1 (south side of river) and 4 (north side of river) to identify community outreach opportunities. These lists are works in progress; Sharon welcomes suggestions of additional groups that have not yet been identified.
- Have private property owners adjacent to the IAP area been notified? Sharon is working with neighborhood associations, but no notice has been issued to individual property owners. This could be considered.
- Are staff in touch with the owners of in-holdings in the area, such as the Boy Scout Camp, Riverdale Resort and Mobile Home Park, and the Uruttia Sand and Gravel Mine? Yes, staff have been in direct talks with all of the owners of in-holdings and they are well informed about the Update process.
- Other adjacent business property owners are also informed, e.g. Blue Diamond Almonds is represented at Capitol Station District meetings. Capitol Station District is represented on the UCAC by Connie Miottel.
- Sharon is working with Geographic Area representatives on the UCAC to let them know of current outreach activities in their areas, to brainstorm additional opportunities, and to invite the Geographic Area representatives to be involved in targeted outreach.

Public comment:

- Members of the public expressed concern that some individuals living in in-holdings in the Parkway or in adjacent neighborhoods might not know about the Update. Suggested methods to increase outreach included using newspapers and other media, and working through UCAC geographic area representatives to ensure outreach is adequate in their areas.
- An individual from Riverdale Resort and Mobile Home Park (a private in-holding in the IAP area) expressed concern over the CIHC, which is proposed to be built in this area. Staff offered to convey concerns from Riverdale directly to State Parks so that State Parks can increase outreach to Riverdale. Individuals who wish to be put on State Parks mailing list can contact Cuauhtemoc Gonzales, cgonzalez@parks.ca.gov or (916) 653-8767.
- A member of the public suggested that the updated Parkway Plan include language about private encroachments on levees as they affect erosion control and maintenance. Facilitators responded that they would need to research current policy on private encroachments to see if that might be appropriate. Laura Kaplan noted that there will be a presentation about new legislation, AB 107 which empowers flood control districts to set standards and remedies related to private encroachments on levees, at the upcoming December 7 LARTF meeting.

- A resident of Riverdale Resort and Mobile Home Park requested that we refer to this private development by name instead of describing it as a trailer park.
- A member of the public suggested that language about flood control reflect the fact that basic structural work on the levees is expected to be complete at some point, at which point the focus of activities will switch over to maintenance. A representative of SAFCA counter-argued that levee building is never done; it is a constant process of identifying ways to improve the system and prevent levee failure.

Action Items & Follow-Up

Who	What	When
Staff	Revise natural resource policies to reflect agreements of 11/4; Convene a small group to resolve remaining open issues and refine text to bring back to UCAC in 2005.	Early 2005
Committee Members	If members have any further suggested revisions or questions to natural resource policies, please let Sunny know ASAP	Before December 1
Staff	Finalize IAP area tour details and agenda	To distribute by November 26
Committee Members	Contact Sharon Huntsman at shuntsman@sbcglobal.net if you have additional suggestions for groups to contact or other outreach activities	Ongoing

Meeting Materials:

- Resource Management Policies version 11/03/04
- American Parkway Plan Update 11x17 chart of phases through Summer 2007
- IAP timeline, November 2004-May 2005
- Outreach handout entitled “American River Parkway Plan Update, Integrated Area Planning: Initial Community Outreach Sept-Nov, 2004.”
- CIHC information packet and cover memo

Topics for December 13 Update Committee Meeting

- Review the UCAC field tour
- Introduction of the IAP consultant and UCAC interests and visions for IAP.

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)
X	Frank	Cirill	Save the American River Association (SARA)
X	Dave	Ford	California Fly Fishers Unlimited
X	Al	Freitas	Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS)
X	Michael	Gunby	Sacramento City Appointments
	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
X	Connie	Miottel	Sacramento City Appointments
	Mark	Murray	Buffalo Chips Running Club
X	Ted	Sheedy	Sacramento City Appointments
X	Janel	Silva	Sacramento Area Dog Owners Group (SACDOG)
	Greg	Speicher	Boating
X	Peter	Tateishi	Dist 3 - Supervisor Johnson Appointment
X	Renée	Taylor	Dist 4 - Supervisor Niello Appointment
X	Frank	Wallace	California Native Plant Society (CNPS)
X	Art	White	Sacramento County Recreation and Parks Commission: ex-officio
X	Melinda	Williams	Sacramento City Appointments

Others

Peter Buck, SAFCA
 Kathleen Franklin, City of Rancho Cordova
 Teresa Haenggi, City of Sacramento Parks
 Steve Launey, CalExpo
 Leighann Moffit, County Planning
 Helen Selph, City of Sacramento Planning
 Tim Washburn, SAFCA
 Sue Wise, County Parks
 Janice Pinero, SWRI

Margaret Parker, Riverdale Resort
 Sara Richards, Riverdale Resort
 Jim Tison, Riverdale Resort
 Seth Burt, SARA
 Betsy Weiland, SARA
 Jim Morgan
 Maxine Clark

Project Staff

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

