

# American River Parkway Plan Update Citizen's Advisory Committee

## Meeting Highlights—December 16, 2004

### Key Outcomes

**Update Citizen's Advisory Committee (UCAC) members and the public brainstormed ideas for revising area plans in the Integrated Area Planning (IAP) area.** See notes on input below.

**UCAC members received an update on the upcoming public tour of the IAP area and were informed of how they can assist.** The tour will be held January 29th and will likely draw over 100 participants. UCAC members are encouraged to be present and participate. UCAC members should promote the tour as an opportunity for participation by colleagues and neighborhood groups. Staff are also seeking UCAC members to help with tour logistics and to be resource persons on the public tour. Staff will send out a notice on the tour details as well as a fact sheet for IAP in early January.

**Next Meeting:** January 17 @ Room OB 3 at 3701 Branch Center Rd

### Announcements and Updates

- **IAP Consultants have been hired.** The firm of Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc. (MIG) will be the UCAC's IAP consultants. MIG ([www.migcom.com](http://www.migcom.com)) has considerable experience with land use planning in urban and natural river settings. The team from MIG consists of Daniel Iacofano (principle in charge), Paul Curfman (project manager), and Rosemary Dudley (deputy project manager). In conjunction with agency staff and the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP), MIG will facilitate UCAC discussions and public workshops related to IAP and also prepare public outreach materials. They will help the UCAC define land use options and make informed choices. Based on this process, MIG will create the new Parkway Plan maps and chapters related to Integrated Area Planning.
- **Small work group is forming to finish RCMP-related natural resource policies.** Several UCAC members volunteered to work with staff to complete the RCMP-related policies not yet finished. This small working group will be convened in January. Their finished product will be circulated to the UCAC and public, then brought to a UCAC meeting for approval.
- **Staff are organizing the community tour of the IAP area. UCAC member involvement sought.** The community tour will be similar to the UCAC's tour experience in December. The tour will be held January 29th and will likely draw over 100

participants. UCAC members are encouraged to be present and participate in their role as community leaders and representatives. UCAC members should promote the tour as an opportunity for participation by colleagues and neighborhood groups. Staff are also seeking UCAC members to help with tour logistics and be resource persons on the public tour. Staff will send out notice on the tour details as well as a fact sheet for IAP.

- **MIG would like to get a description of the organizations represented by UCAC members.** UCAC members are requested to please forward information about their organization--e.g. website, newsletter, brief description--to Paul Curfman at MIG (paulc@migcom.com or 510-845-7549)

## **Presentation on IAP Consultant Team and Process**

MIG team members introduced themselves and their roles. They explained the process and timeline for how they will work with the UCAC and community meetings to produce new area plans and accompanying Parkway Plan text. (See last page.)

MIG then presented maps showing the IAP area and photos from the UCAC member tour in December. These graphics will be available on the web portal that MIG will set up for this project phase. Staff will inform members and the public when that portal is up and running.

## **Brainstorm of Ideas for IAP Area**

Daniel Iacofano, project lead for MIG, asked UCAC members to brainstorm ideas for the IAP area. He asked, what do members think would make the Parkway Plan Update in the IAP area a successful project? What do they want to accomplish? Throughout the discussion, Daniel stressed that the UCAC's challenge is how to accommodate human use while still improving natural systems. He emphasized that the UCAC might not be able to solve all problems immediately, but it can put actions or strategies into motion, and it can formulate agreement on how to approach the issues.

### UCAC Brainstorm

General comments:

- *Wilderness experience.* Many UCAC members stressed that the Parkway is a unique wilderness area in the Sacramento metro region, which serves a unique function as open space and wildlife habitat. Many members said that development typical of a groomed city park is not the kind of landscape they want to encourage in the Parkway. Members supported protecting and enhancing existing natural resources as well as controlling or eradicating non-native invasive species.
- *City interface.* Members acknowledged that the City of Sacramento will continue to grow and develop around the Parkway. Members generally desire to minimize visual and noise impacts of city growth adjacent to the Parkway, and to create better access and connections with surrounding neighborhoods. Some said they thought increased economic and residential activity adjacent to the Parkway could be accommodated.
  - Members were receptive to the consultant's suggestion that in some cases, developers are willing to give land back to nature areas as a type of quid pro

quo for being allowed to take advantage of riverfront views. In this way, there might be some opportunity to increase the acreage of the Parkway and ensure smooth City/Parkway transitions.

- Members discussed the idea of trade-offs between setbacks from the river and building height.
- *Illegal camping.*
  - Members generally agreed that this Parkway Plan revision will not solve issues of homelessness in Sacramento, and therefore will not solve all issues associated with illegal camping in the Parkway.
  - Members generally agreed that there is a perception of lack of safety in some parts of the IAP area, due to factors including the feeling of isolation in these areas as well as fear of illegal campers. Some members questioned the extent of the risk of violence or habitat degradation associated with illegal camping. One member requested a better inventory of how many people/campsites are actually in the Parkway and what kind of incidents have been reported to law enforcement.
  - Many member comments emphasized the role of law enforcement in minimizing illegal camping impacts to the Parkway.
  - Several members discussed the potential to decrease illegal camping by creating more opportunities for people to engage in new or currently approved activities, especially in the less-used portions of the Woodlake, Discovery Park East, and Cal Expo areas. Activities such as off-pavement biking (and volunteer bicycle patrols) and loop trails for walking, running or dog-exercising were suggested.
  - Members emphasized the need to balance improved human access and interaction in these areas with protecting the sensitive natural resources that are abundant in these areas. Several members stressed that they did not want to see the Parkway become overly or inappropriately developed in an attempt to drive out illegal camping.
  - Several members commented on the need to address issues of Sacramento's homeless population with sensitivity and dignity.
  - One member suggested revisiting the idea of having a designated camping area in the Parkway.
  - Many members were receptive to the consultant's suggestion that through good design the Parkway can be made more accessible and inviting to all types of people, so that the Parkway user population will be more reflective of all layers of Sacramento's population.
- *Access.* Members stressed that better access is needed, especially from downtown. Several members commented that access from downtown should draw people into the Parkway in an easy and inviting way.
- *Trails and crossings.* Members generally supported the idea of an improved system of trails to increase appropriate access and guide use away from sensitive areas, e.g. Bushy Lake.
  - One member also stressed recognition that the bike trail is a transportation conduit for bicyclists.

- One member suggested that pedestrian/bike access should be incorporated into bridges such as the forthcoming DNA-RT light-rail crossing and the existing railroad bridge.
- *Revenue:* Members and MIG briefly discussed ways revenue might be generated to support approved development and management of the Parkway.
  - Some members cautioned against making plans with no identified revenue source; others encouraged visioning and identifying goals and strategies that will be implemented by the agencies over time.
  - One member urged focusing on small recreation projects (e.g. a high school cross country course, off-trail biking loops, dog park, putting up signage to name trails) that have a low cost.
  - As part of the IAP process, MIG will develop case studies of other similar riverfronts, including how funding was obtained.
- *Dog parks:* Some members mentioned that dog parks could be an appropriate new use in the Parkway, but did not specify a location.
- *Trash:* One member emphasized the importance of educating people about the harm caused by trash.
- *In-holdings.*
  - Many members felt that acquiring in-holdings such as the Riverdale Mobile Home Park and the Uruttia property should be prioritized.
  - A member suggested that structures that are currently part of Parkway in-holdings (e.g. buildings on Mr. Uruttia's property, in the mobile home park, or the Boy Scout camp) could be used for an interpretive Center like Effie Yeaw, if appropriate rights were acquired.

#### Area-specific comments:

##### Discovery Park:

- A member suggested that the Discovery Park Area could be more creatively used, e.g. recreation improvements, to serve the needs of those who live and work nearby.
- There is an opportunity to integrate the Uruttia property with Discovery Park if it is acquired.
- Members discussed the high cost of preventing erosion at “the point.” Members discussed with MIG that bioengineered erosion control methods might be available, as opposed to concrete.

##### Discovery Park East::

- This is the proposed site being studied for feasibility for the California Indian Heritage Center.

##### Urrutia Property:

- The former sand and gravel mine must be reclaimed. The requirements for this reclamation must be known before planning for future use.

#### Woodlake:

- The bridge at 20th and C needs refurbishing, but could become a major access point if safety/fear issues associated with homelessness are alleviated. The bridge is close to the homeless assistance facility Loaves and Fishes.

#### Cal Expo:

- One member suggested the possibility of a boat take-out on the south bank behind Cal Expo, since boaters generally can't make it much farther down river than that.

#### South side of river:

- One member suggested that there should be access to the river at night in a more developed urban setting, e.g. Sutter's Landing Park. This could include a promenade, wheelchair access, riverfront trail, etc. Should be inviting as well as functionally accessible.
- The Two Rivers Trail will be a bike trail on the south side from Tiscornia to Sutter's Landing. Over time there will be pressure to extend this trail all the way to Sacramento State University. This trail will help to provide access from downtown.
- Bell Marine is a private in-holding that blocks the Two Rivers Trail. It is an aggregate operation downstream from Sutter's Landing.
- Currently it is difficult to navigate the Parkway around 16th St.
- Sutter's Landing is a settling former landfill. The area adjacent to and west of Sutter's Landing is a privately owned former dump. It is currently open space that needs rehabilitation. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is currently underway for Sutter's Landing Park. There will be no building on either of these sites for over 50 years, due to the out-gassing from the decomposing waste buried there. The UCAC could suggest adding these properties to the parkway.

#### Reminders of existing constraints and resources:

- All parts of the Parkway inside the levees are subject to periodic flooding.
- The American River Parkway Foundation provides volunteer stewards for all areas of the Parkway.
- Measure A includes \$1 million over 30 years for bike commuting projects, i.e. repaving the Parkway bike trail.
- Sacramento City is currently planning redevelopment in the Richard's Boulevard area. They envision a mix of commercial and residential uses in place of what is currently an industrial area. Plans call for high-rise, medium, and lower density development.

#### Potential case studies:

These are examples pertaining to landscape design techniques, social management, funding, etc., that could inform decisions for the American River Parkway. The consultants will gather a list of ideas and develop some case studies to use in IAP.

- Cuyahoga River, Cleveland, OH. Former canal system has been rehabilitated as a system of toe paths that now form recreational corridors as a national park.

- Lynn Woods, outside of Boston, MA. Former crime area, brought in new family users with good landscape design.
- Caesar Chavez Park, Sacramento, CA. Additional development (Cal EPA building) and bringing in more people with a farmer’s market did not solve homelessness issues in the Park.
- Willamet River, Portland, OR. City program of green building standards, storm water management.
- Crissy Field, San Francisco, CA
- Rio Salado, Tucson AZ.

Public comment

- The Parkway Plan has to be general enough to last 20+ years, and specific things like dog run at X location would be too detailed. The Parkway managers could have another document with direction for the next 5 years.
- In Sacramento, the Downtown Partnership “bees” (uniformed employees) work to move loiterers along, and can call the police for back-up.
- Look carefully at Uruttia property and the reclamation aspect. The degraded area could be returned to a riparian area with a waterway, lots of vegetation, and animals.
- History of the Parkway should be gathered in one place. UCAC members should see the SAR movie on the Parkway and read articles on its history. (Member read aloud from a speech (Paul Curfman can provide details on the movie.)
- Development of Sutter’s Landing Park could include an amphitheater or other more-developed public use facilities.

**Action Items & Follow-Up**

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>When</b>
Staff	Convene a small group to resolve remaining open issues on RCMP-related policies and refine text to bring back to UCAC in 2005.	Early 2005
Committee Members	Contact MIG (510-845-7549 or paulc@migcom.com) with any examples you know of successful or unsuccessful riverfront development that could inform IAP	Earliest convenience
Staff	Send IAP public tour information materials to UCAC members for their use in promoting the tour	Early January 2005
Committee Members	Promote the public tour of the IAP area to colleagues and neighborhoods you represent; attend and assist on the tour if possible.	January 2005
Committee Members	Send information about your organization--e.g. website, newsletter, brief description--to Paul Curfman at MIG (paulc@migcom.com , 510-845-7549)	Earliest convenience
Committee Members	Contact John Folk-Williams - ( <a href="mailto:folkwill@ccp.csus.edu">folkwill@ccp.csus.edu</a> - 916- 445-2079) - during January if have additional suggestions for groups to contact or other outreach activities	Ongoing

**Meeting Materials:**

- December 16, 2004 agenda
- Tour workbooks were distributed to those not present at December UCAC tour of IAP area
- Notes from the November 8 UCAC meeting.

**Topics for January 17 Update Committee Meeting**

- Review Parkway Goals and Agreement on Planning Principles
- Overview of Key Issues and Existing Conditions

**Attendance**

**Members: X=Present, Alt=Alternate present**

	Name		Representing
	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)
Alt	Frank	Cirill	Save the American River Association (SARA) – Kevin Regan alt
X	Dave	Ford	California Fly Fishers Unlimited
X	Al	Freitas	Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS)
	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)
	Eric	Johnson	Dist 1 - Supervisor Dickinson Appointment
X	Eddie	Kho	Dist 5 - Supervisor Notolli Appointment
	Connie	Miottel	Sacramento City Appointments
X	Mark	Murray	Buffalo Chips Running Club
X	Ted	Sheedy	Sacramento City Appointments
X	Janel	Silva	Sacramento Area Dog Owners Group (SACDOG)
	Greg	Speicher	Boating
	Peter	Tateishi	Dist 3 - Supervisor Johnson Appointment
	Renée	Taylor	Dist 4 - Supervisor Niello Appointment
	Frank	Wallace	California Native Plant Society (CNPS)
X	Art	White	Sacramento County Recreation and Parks Commission: ex-officio
	Melinda	Williams	Sacramento City Appointments

**Others**

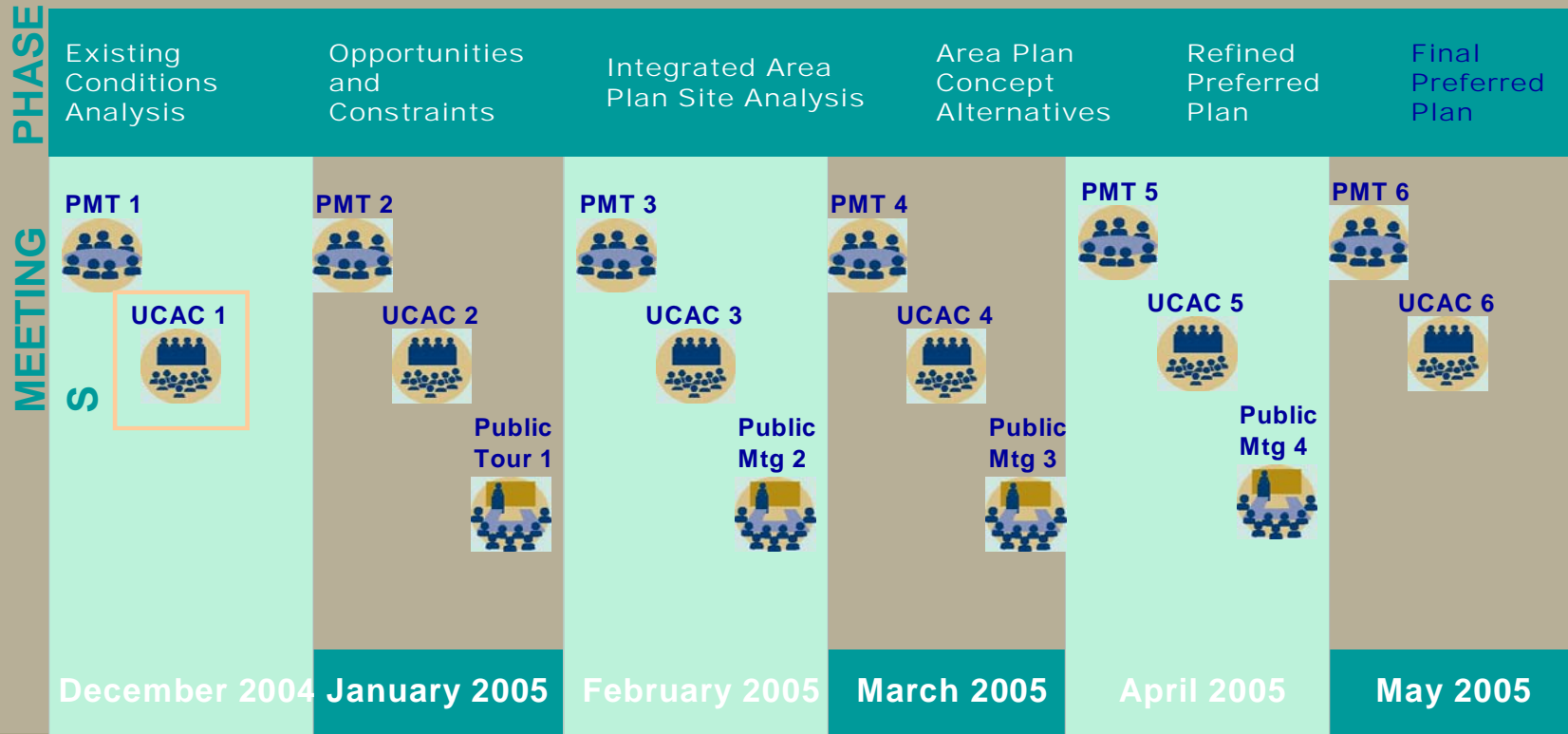
Leighann Moffit, County Planning  
 Helen Selph, City of Sacramento Planning  
 Tim Washburn, SAFCA  
 Sue Wise, County Parks  
 Ron Suter, County Parks  
 Bob Overstreet, City Parks  
 Teresa Haenggi, City Parks  
 Kathleen Franklin, City of Rancho Cordova  
 Steve Launey, CalExpo  
 Chris Lewis, CNPS

Jim Morgan  
 Betsy Weiland, SARA  
 Jackie Kuwarth, SacDOG

**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

# Planning Process



INTEGRATED AREA PLAN  
FOR THE AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY UPDATE