

**San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Creeks Sub-Committee
Thursday, May 22, 2003, 10am-Noon
State Coastal Conservancy Conference Room
1330 Broadway 11th Floor, Oakland, CA, 94612**

Attendees

- Charlotte Bell, Friends of Sausal Creek
- Brenda Buxton, California State Coastal Conservancy
- BC Capps, Bay Area Open Space Council
- Joanna Charlton, Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
- Steve Cochrane, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary
- Mike Ednoff, San Mateo County Resource Conservation District
- Sharon Farrell, Aquatic Outreach Institute
- Beth Huning, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
- Briggs Nisbet, Save San Francisco Bay Association
- Jesse Roseman, Butters Land Trust
- Carole Schemmerling, Urban Creeks Council
- Sandy Scoggins, PRBO Conservation Science / San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
- Igor Skaredoff, Friends of Alhambra Creek

1) Announcements

Mike Ednoff: The 1st Annual San Mateo Steelhead is taking place this upcoming weekend. A flyer was passed around with additional details.

Beth Huning: A second “Community, Culture, and Environment” workshop has been scheduled for July 30-31, 2003. Materials from U.S. EPA on the approach are available at the Web link below:

<http://www.epa.gov/ecocommunity/bib.htm>

Sharon Farrell: AOI will be holding a workshop on July 19, 2003, on “How to Start a Watershed Awareness Program” for Alameda County residents. In addition, funding to encourage capacity-building is now available through their Regional Project Assistance Service program. The first deadline for application is Friday, May 23, 2003, and the next round will close in October 2003.

Briggs Nisbet: Save Bay and Friends of Five Creeks were recently awarded funds for studying the feasibility of daylighting Schoolhouse Creek at the new East Shore State Park.

Steve Cochrane: Nearly 90 Bay Area volunteers participated in Snapshot Day on Saturday, May 17. Throughout the region, water quality measurements were made at 71 stations on 25 different creeks. This was part of a statewide effort to monitor conditions along the entire length of California’s coast.

2) AB204 Update

BC Capps updated the committee on continuing legislative efforts to raise additional funds for the Bay Area Conservancy Program. AB 204 easily passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on April 7th, 2003. It was scheduled for Assembly Transportation on April 28th, and it appeared to have votes for passage. However, with the continuing (and worsening) debate over the state budget, the decision was made to hold off on the vote, effectively making AB 204 a two-year bill. The delay will help separate deliberation on AB 204 from the larger state budget crisis, and enable it to be considered on its own merits in January 2004 when two-year bills are taken up. This approach also gives the Bay Area Open Space Council the opportunity to further broaden the base of support for AB 204. Background materials and a sample letter of support can be found at the Web link below:

<http://www.openspacecouncil.org/TFCW/>

3) Prop. 50 Funding Update

Beth described the negotiations going on between the Wildlife Conservation Board and the State Coastal Conservancy on \$200 million from Proposition 50 reserved for Bay Area projects. At this point, WCB will probably grant some of the funds to the Conservancy for smaller projects, while keeping some money for larger habitat-based projects. WCB has also expressed interest in seeking input from the SFBJV on determining ready-to-go priority projects. Beth distributed a handout listing WCB's standard priorities for approving projects and a list of current SFBJV "ready-to-go" projects. Discussion followed on which projects may be better suited to attempt to receive Prop. 50 funding from WCB and which are better to refer to the Conservancy.

Listed below are the SFBJV's initial criteria to prioritize projects for Prop. 50 funding. It should also be noted that this in no way reflects on the merits of other projects; this exercise was for this funding source only, and other projects will be a priority for other funding sources.

- Does the project meet WCB and/or Conservancy Guidelines?
- Does the project focus on wildlife habitat — anadromous fish, waterfowl, shorebirds, etc.?
- Is the project specified in the Baylands Habitat Goals Report or implements the Goals?
- Is truly "Ready to Go" — permits are either in place or will be secured in foreseeable future, sources of funding identified including funding already in place, what is needed to complete the project, and pending applications?
- If project is on federal land, that it is a major project or has significant federal funding identified?

Using these criteria, the committee selected several creek projects for consideration:

- Sonoma Creek;
- Petaluma River;
- Alameda Creek;
- Guadalupe River; and
- San Francisquito Creek.

4) Regional Coordination Grant Submitted

BC, Beth, and Sharon Farrell spoke about a joint proposal recently submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board for creating a Bay Area Watershed Network and offering technical services to watershed groups. Partners include SFBJV, AOI, Urban Creeks Council, East Bay Watershed Center, and Friends of the Estuary. A second, complimentary proposal was also submitted by AOI, Kids for the Bay, and several other partners to encourage capacity building, education, and environmental justice. We will know in August if the grants are selected to proceed to the next round of consideration.

5) Urban Creek Land Trust Update

BC distributed a brief discussion document that the Bay Area Open Space Council has put together on permanent land protection issues important for urban-based watershed groups to consider. This topic will be explored in more depth at a future meeting.

6) SFBJV Project Updates

Beth alerted the committee that the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture has joined with SFBJV on developing the project tracking database. The contract with Ducks Unlimited is being finalized and development work will begin soon.

A possible series of project tours of SFBJV tours was discussed. Suggestions included Alameda Creek watershed lands, Hayward Shoreline, Alhambra Creek, and the Contra Costa Shoreline. Beth will alert committee members as possible dates are selected.

Beth also distributed a list of potential funding sources compiled by the CVHJV for restoration and acquisition projects.

7) Project Updates

Mike Ednoff: San Mateo is pioneering a horse manure composting project. Initial results indicate a dramatic reduction in fecal coliform levels in local creeks.

Sharon Farrell: Planning is progressing on the Baxter Creek Gateway property, building upon long-standing efforts by the Friends of Baxter Creek to protect this parcel from development. Sharon also mentioned the U.S. EPA Watershed Initiative as another possible funding source. A current RFP is available and applications are due June 13, 2003.

Igor Skaredoff: A new watershed group is forming to protect Rodeo and Refugio Creeks in Contra Costa County. Improvements also continue to be made to Alhambra Creek.

Jesse Roseman: A fourth lot along Peralta Creek has been donated to the Butters Land Trust. The land trust is also working through City of Oakland fire requirements for clearing brush on their existing properties.

Steve Cochrane: An RFP has been issued by the City of Oakland for those individuals or organizations with technical expertise useful to developing the new city-wide creek map.

Charlotte Bell: The Friends of Sausal Creek are looking to expand their afterschool educational program. Progress is also being made on the Dimond Canyon Management Plan. A potential for daylighting Sausal Creek at Hawthorne School is in the very early stages of consideration.

Joanna Charlton: Marin County is updating its streamside protection and setback ordinance. Studies are also being completed on poorly-designed culverts throughout western Marin that block fish migration.

Sandy Scoggins: Sandy has just been hired by the SFBJV to assist Beth. She will be transitioning from her current position with PRBO Conservation Science over the next few weeks.

Carole Schemmerling: Urban Creeks Council has been approached by the Holy Redeemer Church about a potential daylighting project on Arroyo Viejo Creek in Oakland.