

**San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Creeks Sub-Committee Meeting
January 9, 2004
Coastal Conservancy Meeting Room
1300 Broadway, Oakland**

In attendance: - Shannah Anderson, Aquatic Outreach Institute; Carol Arnold, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District; Brenda Buxton, State Coastal Conservancy; BC Capps, Bay Area Open Space Council; Steve Cochrane, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary; Patricia Guccione, Alameda County; Sandy Guldman, Friends of Corte Madera Creek; Kristin Hathaway, City of Oakland; Dale Hopkins, Regional Water Quality Control Board; Kim Kreitinger, PRBO Conservation Science; Paul Modrell, Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District; Kae Ono, Contra Costa County; Susan Schwartz, Friend of Five Creeks; Igor Skaredoff, Friends of Alhambra Creek
Staff: Beth Huning and Sandy Scoggin, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture

General Announcements

The 3rd Bay Area Creek Groups meeting will be held on Feb. 26, at the North Berkeley Senior Center. A poster session and snacks will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a panel discussion on "Restoration Realities" at 7 p.m. The event is free, but those who plan to attend, especially those bringing posters, please confirm with Martha Berthelsen with Aquatic Outreach Institute at 510-231-5783 or martha@aoinstitute.org.

A South Bay "Talks in the Hallway" will be held on Jan. 29, at the Peninsula Conservation Center, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, from 7-9 p.m. This event features mingling, refreshments, and information on creek and watershed issues and resources. For additional information, contact Steve Cochrane at sc@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov.

The Bay Area Open Space Council is supporting legislation (AB 204) that would create funding for restoration in the Bay Area. Newly produced fact sheets are available from BC. The proposal would increase DMV fee by \$6/vehicle with funds being available to local cities and counties, the regional Water Board, and the State Coastal Conservancy. Contact BC Capps at bc@openspacecouncil.com.

The next Contra Costa Watershed Forum meeting will be held on Jan. 14, at the UC Cooperative Extension Office, 75 Santa Barbara Road, 2nd Floor, Pleasant Hill, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. In addition, the Contra Costa Watershed Atlas is available for purchase. To receive a copy, contact Kao Ono at kono@cd.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Shannah Anderson from AOI is giving talks on the vegetation assessments of San Pablo Creek at CC Watershed Forum on Jan. 14, and on Jan. 29 at the Wildcat-San Pablo Creeks Watershed Council at the San Pablo City Offices, starting at 10:00 a.m.

The California Watershed Council's Economic and Funding Subcommittee is having a meeting on Jan. 16, to discuss grant funding and the contract process. These meetings are Web cast for those not able to travel to Sacramento. For information, contact Dale Hopkins at drh@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov.

North Bay Casino Update: The site in Graton Rancheria's proposed Rohnert Park seems to be moving forward. The Sonoma Land Trust has been given the option on one of the North Point Joint Venture properties, and have until the end of August to raise the funds for long-term protection.

Database Update

Ducks Unlimited is finishing up the draft structure and it should be available for review within the next couple of weeks. Meanwhile, the current project database is being circulated for review to ensure that when we transfer information into our new database, that it is correct and up to date.

If you did not receive a copy of the database and would like to review it, please contact Sandy Scoggin at sscoggin@sfbayjv.org.

Federal Bird Conservation Initiatives

The SFBJV is in the process of creating a supplement to the Implementation Strategy, based on the needs of all birds as addressed in the various bird conservation initiatives under the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. Based upon the success of JVs, they are seen as the ideal vehicles for the implementation of “all bird” conservation and a recent USFWS Director’s Order states that JVs need to begin to address these initiatives.

The SFBJV has been all bird from the beginning, but we are moving forward by putting together a Federal budget request that would assist with science coordination and evaluation. The idea is to contract with JV partners, not to add JV infrastructure. In addition, we are completing the above-mentioned supplement.

PRBO’s divisions are taking the lead on the JV “all bird” supplement. An outline will be completed by the end of January and the supplement is expected to be completed by the end of March/early April. A SFBJV subcommittee will be formed. SFBBO, BAOSC, Audubon, DU, Sierra Club will be invited to be the sub-committee. Other interested JV members should contact PRBO about participating in the development of this supplement.

Creeks Committee Future Role

A grant has been submitted to the SWRCB that would provide funds to assist with reconfiguration/restructure of the SFBJV’s Creeks Sub-committee. BC led a brainstorming session on the existing and potential role of this committee. We addressed benefits to participants, wants, needs, and logistics issues. A rough outline has been included below. These discussions will continue once the status of the grant is known.

1) Needs — What guides us?

- Always need to keep the SFBJV’s Implementation Strategy in mind
- Guidance of Aquisition/Restoration/Enhancement

2) Wants — What keeps us going?

- Project updates
- Site tours
- Coordination and partnership building
- Knowledge/ awareness (E-mail list updates)
- Focused information
 - Through the committee and Web site
 - Focused aspects of technical assistance
- Issues for further investigation
 - Restoration on private lands

- Liability insurance — CA Association of Nonprofits?
- “All-Bird” conservation — coordinating with researchers and monitoring groups
- Potential focus on statewide issues
 - Large regional priorities
 - Dealing with large entities such as railroads
- Web site — Working on tools page
- Connection with larger SFBJV structure
 - Coordination with parallel Marsh committee
 - Creeks versus Wetlands versus Watershed

3) Funding Opportunities and Money Issues

- Matchmaking between projects and funders
- Access to funding by providing grant updates
- Advising funding agencies – regional priorities
- Making pie bigger through new funding sources

4) Meeting Logistics

- Consider longer meetings with more substance
- Consider moving the meetings around the Bay Area
- Consider using CCWF format with the first half hour as casual time

Project Updates

Kim Kreitinger (PRBO)

CalPIF Riparian Plan revision – almost completed. CalPIF plans use birds as indicators of ecosystem health and include recommendations for restoration, monitoring, and policy. Posted at <http://www.prbo.org/calpif/plans.html>
 Contact Kim for a printed copy at kkreitinger@prbo.org

Sandy Guldman (Friends of Corte Madera Creek)

Working on a 3 acre site at College of Marin on Corte Madera creek. Trying to transition back to native. Creating a 15-20 year plan.

Kae Ono (Contra Costa Watershed Forum)

Contra Costa Watershed Forum meets every other month. Many accomplishments over the last year: Workshop on GPS training with volunteers, symposium with 300 attendees, The Contra Costa Watershed Atlas, Contra Costa Fish and wildlife committee received 16 proposals.

Shannah Anderson (Aquatic Outreach Institute)

After the joint creek meeting AOI will have a series of spring conference workshops – Other programs - spawners, watershed management plan, looking for ideas on funding for workshops

Igor Skaradoff (Friends of Alhambra Creek)

Strenzel lane/meadow – flood control is done and seems to be functioning. Still doing plantings.

Creek restoration project at Martinez adult school is becoming a larger project. Hosted a workshop with the school on how to do an ongoing native plant propagation program.

Alhambra Valley Creek Coalition – project near Strenzel is 70% privately owned, landowners are worried about the creek eroding their properties — working on integrating their concerns with restoration plans.
City of Martinez with help from RCD – is posting a series of signs in downtown Martinez.

Carol Arnold (Contra Costa Resource Conservation District)

Working on Outreach on Marsh Creek through CC CALFED grant; working with SFEI on sediment erosion study on Pinole Creek; On behalf of the CC watershed forum, obtained grant and implemented countywide signage program.

Kristin Hathaway (City of Oakland, Watershed Program)

Peralta Creek – completing construction – removed a bypass culvert, revegetated.
Oakland Zoo – Arroyo Viejo - new project design done
Looking to do project on Lion Creek working with flood control district and architect designers - will attempt to create natural meander.

Steve Cochrane (Friends of the San Francisco Estuary)

Planting natives at Davis Park and neighboring school on Wildcat Creek.

Susan Schwartz (Friends of Five Creeks)

Received small grant to do studies on daylighting of Schoolhouse Creek – design study complete. Have organized a meeting with groups working on invasives
Succeeded in changing state fishing regulations – closed Cordonices and Pinole to fishing. This sets an important precedent – small creeks in urban areas cannot withstand the potential fishing pressure.
Working on Creek Care Guide – specific for creek care in Alameda county
Produced a quarterly watershed newsletter.

Paul Modrell (Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District)

San Lorenzo creek – pilot project in Hayward plans to restore natives on 5 miles of creek
Also includes ambitious plan to tie in with the bay trail.

Cerrito Creek Restoration Tour

The meeting was followed by a site visit by 15 members of the committee to Cerrito Creek. The project, a partnership with Friends of Five Creeks, the Coastal Conservancy, and the City of El Cerrito, has restored 200 linear feet of riparian habitat within an urban area. The JV provided funding to purchase the plants for the restoration. Heather Koch and Susan Schwartz described the challenges and process of doing restoration in an urban environment. Committee members were enthusiastic about the project and also the opportunity for a site visit. The Creeks Sub-committee plans to arrange site visits following each of their upcoming meetings. Please contact BC Capps if you are interested in leading a site visit to one of your project sites.