

Meeting Summary

**Butte Regional HCP/NCCP
Stakeholder Committee Meeting**
December 3, 2008, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
BCAG Conference Room

Stakeholder Committee Attendees

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| Scott McNall (CSU Chico) | Phil Johnson (Altacal Audubon) |
| Richard Price (Butte County Ag. Commission) | Colleen Cecil (BC Farm Bureau) |
| Suellen Rowlison (CNPS) | Pia Sevelius (Butte RCD) |

Resource Agencies Attendees

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| Jenny Marr (DGF) | Nina Bicknese (USFWS) |
| Jennifer Hogan (DFG) | |

Steering Committee and Staff Attendees

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| Jane Dolan (BCAG/ Supervisor) | Paul Cylinder (SAIC) |
| Jon Clark (BCAG) | Holly Wilson (SAIC) |
| Chris Devine (BCAG) | |

Interested Public Attendees

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| Gregg McKenzie (McKenzie Consulting) | Robert Capriola (Westervelt Ecological Services) |
| Riley Swift (Restoration Resources) | Chris Swift (Restoration Resources) |
| Mike Donnelly (The group/Loafer Creek) | John Merz (SRPT) |
| Jamison Watts (No Calif Regional Land Trust) | |

Associated Documents/Handouts:

1. Agenda packet including: Meeting Notes from August 13, 2008
2. Additional Handout: General Schedule for Butte Regional Conservation Plan (December 2, 2008)
3. Additional Handout: Draft Chapter 2 Covered Activities

Action Items and Key Recommendations:

- The next Stakeholder meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2009, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm, at BCAG.

Meeting Agenda:

- Introductions
- City of Chico General Plan – Preferred Land Use Alternative
- Covered Activities Chapter Update
- Revised CAZ/UPA Map
- Updated Project Schedule
- Meeting Notes from August 13, 2008 (Attachment #1)
- Action Items and Next Meetings

City of Chico General Plan—Preferred Land Use Alternative

- Chris Devine and Paul Cylinder presented details about the City of Chico's General Plan (GP) and preliminary land use alternatives released on November 17, 2008. With the Chico GP, the BCAG HCP/NCCP can move forward on the covered activities and impact analysis. SAIC will overlay the Chico GP preliminary proposed land use designations on the Butte HCP/NCCP species habitat models and natural communities maps.
- Stakeholder members discussed concerns and issues raised by Chico GP preliminary proposed land use. There is concern that clarification will be needed from the City before the Impact Analysis can be conducted. Members also reiterated the need for City of Chico representatives to start attending Stakeholder meetings.
- John Merz (SRPT) indicated that the City of Chico is expecting specific direction from the BCAG HCP for responsibilities and goals.
- The County's GP may add Richvale and Nelson UPAs in addition to bridges, roadway improvements and bicycle lanes to the covered activities under the HCP/NCCP.

Covered Activities Chapter Update/Revised CAZ/UPA Map

Paul Cylinder presented the revised CAZ/UPA map (it will continue to be revised and updated). UPAs will not necessarily be built-out under the HCP/NCCP - the HCP/NCCP will identify biological resources that would be avoided and preserved. The changes to boundaries of CAZs were highlighted now that the City of Chico's has provided General Plan draft land use designations.

The *Draft Updated Covered Activities Chapter* was presented and discussed.

Stakeholder members discussed the contents and status of the updated and revised documents. Topics discussed including: the effects of City of Chico easements outside the UPA such as water lines, treated wastewater lines to the Sacramento River water and whether these areas would be addressed in the covered activities chapter and the impact analysis; anticipated landfill expansion sites; new transportation and utility corridors; reminder that projects in the future that will be outside the plan and may need additional permitting; consideration of the need to add/include/invite additional permittees; the need for specific descriptions of future activities so they can be included in the impact analysis.

Caltrans and the Western Canal Water District are considering becoming permit applicants under the Butte HCP/NCCP. BCAG will contact others on the list of potential permittees and determine their level of interest in receiving coverage for their activities under the HCP/NCCP.

The *Draft Updated Covered Activities Chapter* will be revised and expanded in December and January. A request was made for tables of each type of activity: outside the UPAs and inside the UPAs as well as an acronym list that includes a “crosswalk” between CEQA and NEPA terminology. Members also requested a list of third party activities and plans, for example PG&E. Also discussed were mitigation banks such as Wildlands and others in the Planning Area. The group discussed how decisions are made about the biological standards for mitigation banks. The HCP/NCCP will include descriptions of specific conservation requirements. The eventual HCP/NCCP implementing entity would be responsible for making sure requirements are met. During HCP/NCCP implementation, development projects would go through the city and county approval processes with the cities and county allocating use of their ESA permits. Question was asked about specific locations for conservation. Paul Cylinder indicated that we do not anticipate mapping specific conservation locations, but rather identifying the required extent, specific geographic distribution, and form of the preserve system to protect and conserve covered species populations and habitat and natural communities.

In response to questions about monitoring, Jenny Marr described DFG’s document for the requirements of conservation and mitigation bank lands and how those lands are acquired and used. HCP/NCCPs often form a group that includes the regulatory agencies, whose job it is to work with the implementing entity in assessing the appropriateness of conservation lands in meeting the plan’s goals and objectives.

Jenny Marr will provide SAIC with a copy of the existing MOU regarding flood control activities.

Nina Bicknese (FWS) requested that section 2.3.3 be merged into 2.3.1 and 2.3.2.

Updated Project Schedule

Paul Cylinder presented the updated *General Schedule for Butte Regional Conservation Plan through the Public Draft HCP/NCCP and EIR/EIS*. He discussed and explained the schedule for the upcoming documents for the Butte HCP/NCCP, as well as the process of developing the EIR/EIS. He also described the scope and size of the HCP/NCCP EIR/EIS and its relationship to the General Plan EIR/EIS. The Butte HCP/NCCP is the applicants’ document (supports permitting activities under ESA and NCCPA); the EIR/EIS on the HCP/NCCP is the lead agencies’ (for NEPA it will be FWS and NMFS and for CEQA it will be BCAG) document.

Meeting Notes from August 13, 2008

- Meeting notes from August 13, 2008 were approved.

Upcoming Workshops/Meetings:

- The next Stakeholder meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2009, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, at BCAG.

Topics for next meeting: Revisiting Goals and Objectives, table of species spatial needs, approach to impact analysis, updated CAZ\UPA map, and an updated draft covered activities chapter.