

Meeting Summary
South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Stakeholder Forum
Habitat Restoration Work Group
2/18/04

Participants:

See attached roster.

1. Work Group Protocols

Mary Selkirk of the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP) welcomed all participants. After self-introductions, Selkirk handed out a four-page information piece on the Stakeholder Forum Work Groups that describes the purpose of the Work Groups and how outcomes from Work group meetings will be reported to the Stakeholder Forum and the Project Management Team. She also passed out a specific information sheet for the Habitat Work Group that included proposed meetings dates and proposed issues for discussion at those meetings.

2. Membership

Participants made suggestions of other organizations or individuals who should be contacted to ascertain their interest in participating in the work group. They included:

- California Native Plant Society
- Fishermen and hunter groups
- Staff of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Unit
- San Francisco Estuary Institute

At the same time, participants commented on the large size of this Work Group and had questions about how the Work Group could function with such a large work group. Selkirk responded that the PM Team wanted to make the Work Groups open to all interested members of the public, and that now that the level of interest in the Work Group was more clear, the CCP team and the PM Team would be discussing how best to foster public participation while also providing the opportunity for in-depth dialogue and consensus-seeking on the key restoration issues.

3. Phil Williams and Associates: Critical path issues for habitat restoration in the planning process

John Bourgeois of HT Harvey. Member of the PWA team presented a list of key habitat restoration topics their team will be addressing in the restoration plan. Participants added their comments and asked questions pertaining to how the consultant team would frame the array of key issues for input to the Work Group.

4. Work Group Comments and Questions on Key Topics

Selkirk then asked participants which topics they felt they needed to be better educated on before being able to provide good feedback to the Forum and the PM Team. Some participants identified specific topics. Others raised specific questions about how the consultant team would be undertaking the first round of developing detailed project objectives. Others also made recommendations to the PWA team on additional issues they should include in their design process. Questions and comments included the following:

Questions:

- Can mixes of habitats and trade-offs across habitats really be figured out without knowing existing conditions, especially for aquatic species?
- How do constraints push against one another? E.g., flood control, sediment, re-contamination potentials
- How are we going to arrive at a decision or recommendation for the Forum and the PM Team?

Dr. Lynne Trulio, Project Lead Scientist, responded that the Science Team is developing a conceptual model for the restoration plan, and will be working closely with the PWA Team.

- What is the potential for sediment deposition and is there a sediment deficit?
- How are the remaining Cargill ponds going to be integrated into the plan?
- How will this plan integrate with the BCDC Bay Plan?
- What potential is there for developing the transition (from wetlands to uplands) zones in this plan?
- How will other efforts like the Alameda County Flood Control District lower floodplain improvement project be integrated?
- How are flood control infrastructures going to be integrated?
- How does this planning effort take into account watershed planning?

Comments included:

- target species should be expanded (e.g., fish, seals)
- target habitats should be expanded to include fresh and brackish marsh, riparian, transition areas, etc.
- aerial validation of existing conditions would be important to do now
- existing conditions maps should include known and potential wildlife use areas for specific species (A. Breaux, RWQCB)

Suggested topics for more joint education included:

- Invite Nils Warnock of Point Reyes Bird Observatory to give talk on their research/modeling on the effects of different restoration scenarios on different bird species
- Include the eelgrass impacts study that Caltrans has done
- Do presentation on the Goals Report and other restoration feasibility studies

- Would like to see species and habitat mapping with long –term time frame
- More information about South Bay fisheries and harbor seals

5. Meeting schedule

Selkirk went over future meeting dates with the group. The group expressed no interest at this time in scheduling meetings in the evening.

6. Recommendations to the Forum and PM Team:

None were made at this meeting.

**Next Meeting of the Habitat Restoration Work Group:
Friday, March 26, 9:30-12:30, San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant,
700 Los Esteros Road, San Jose.**

Draft Agenda:

1. Understanding project area habitat restoration opportunities and constraints
2. Discussion/feedback on PWA approach to developing detailed project objectives
3. Status of PWA data sources/summary plan: feedback from the group

Attachment: Roster of Meeting Participants

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Phil	Bobel	City of Palo Alto, Public Works Dept.
John	Bourgeois	H.T. Harvey & Associates
Andree	Breaux	SF RWQCB
John	Brosnan	SF RWQCB
Dan	Bruinsma	City of San Jose, Env. Services
Evelyn	Cormier	Wildlife Stewards
Frank and Janice	Delfino	Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
Arthur	Feinstein	Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
Marie	Galvin	EDAW
Melissa	Hippard	Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter
Sheila	Junge	
John	Krause	DFG
Thomas	Laine	Alviso Resident
Mondy	Lariz	Federation of Flyfishers - N. California
Jane	Lavelle	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Jim	McGrath	Port of Oakland
Briggs	Nisbet	Save The Bay
Elizabeth	Nixon	
Sandy	Olliges	NASA Ames Research Center
Brad	Olson	East Bay Regional Park District
Michelle	Orr	PWA
Cindy	Paulson	Brown & Caldwell
Chindi	Peavey	San Mateo Mosquito Abatement District
Paul	Revier	Bay Nature Magazine
John	Rusmiel	Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District
Louisa	Squires	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Daniel	Strickman	Santa Clara County Vector Control District
Scott B.	Terrill	H.T. Harvey & Associates
Lynne	Trulio	San Jose State University
Lisamarie	Windham	Lehigh University