

## MEETING NOTES

**Eastern Alameda County Conservation Strategy  
Steering Committee Meeting  
April 8, 2008  
10 am – 12 pm  
Zone 7 Conference Room 150A**

### ATTENDEES

Mary Lim - Zone 7  
Troy Rahmig & David Zippin – Jones & Stokes  
Liz McElligott – Alameda County  
Stefan Garcia – Alameda County Congestion Management Agency  
Brian Mathews – Alameda County Waste Management Authority  
Mark Lander and Jeff Baker– City of Dublin  
Eric Brown, Cheri Sheets, and Steve Stewart– City of Livermore  
Janice Stern and Jim Kelcourse– City of Pleasanton  
Brad Olson - EBRPD  
Jim Robins – NRCS/ACRCD Partnership  
Cay Goude & Kim Squires- USFWS  
Scott Wilson, Liam Davis & Marcia Grefsrud – DFG

- 1) New Funding Partners: Alameda County Waste Management Authority (ACWMA) & EBRPD
  - a) ACWMA got approval from their Board to become a funding partner and contribute \$70K toward the development of the EACCS.
  - b) EBRPD will be going to their Board on May 20<sup>th</sup> to get approval to be a funding partner.
    - i) EBRPD staff will be requesting \$25 – 30K from their Board and Livermore will be funding an additional \$25K on EBRPD's behalf
  - c) Action: The funding partners approved ACWMA and EBRPD as new funding partners.
- 2) April 3<sup>rd</sup> User Advisory Group Meeting - Debrief
  - a) New members to the UAG: James Paxson and Marty Inderbitzen
  - b) Draft EACCS Ground Rules were distributed and will likely be discussed in more detail at the next meeting
  - c) The UAG discussed the work products that were handed out at the February 28<sup>th</sup> UAG meeting. These work products included the land cover classification crosswalk and the species focal list.
  - d) After the meeting, a representative from the UAG expressed his concern over not knowing what the goal of the EACCS was. In addition, he was concerned that the Steering Committee members were not engaged during UAG meetings.
  - e) Steering Committee recommendations
    - i) Explain the role of Steering Committee and interactions with the UAG
    - ii) Have posters that state focus of the group and provide a diagram that demonstrates the organization of the different entities (like the diagram that Karen Molinari provided at the last Steering Committee meeting).
    - iii) At future UAG meetings, Steering Committee members will identify themselves during introductions. In addition, before any discussions start, reiterate to the group that the Steering Committee members are there as a resource.
- 3) Subcommittees
  - a) Outreach Subcommittee will be meeting Thursday, April 10th

- b) Admin Subcommittee – meeting will be scheduled after the ACRCDD’s Board Meeting on 4/16. Topic of discussion will be the CalFed grant budget and reporting logistics.

4) Phase 1 Work Progress

a) Land Cover

- i) Adding: alkali grassland and valley sink scrub
  - (1) Alkali scald will be included under the alkali grassland
- ii) JSA will look at Sargent cypress, coral hollow and desert olive scrub.
- iii) Other clarifications
  - (1) Grazing land will be within California Annual Grasslands.
  - (2) Ornamental woodlands usually include eucalyptus.
  - (3) Ruderal will include fallow fields, vacant lots, and very weedy areas.
  - (4) Utilities will be considered urban.
  - (5) Dryland farming, irrigated ag, and pasture – JSA will be looking on the map to see whether it’s worth calling out as its own land class. A narrative may be sufficient for these land cover types.
- iv) Unique communities may be subsumed in existing land cover classifications. In these instances, these communities will be identified in the text
- v) General plan data
  - (1) The base map will include existing land uses.
  - (2) Future land use/development as outlined in the general plans will be its own separate map that can be overlaid over the existing land use map.
- vi) Recreational facilities (e.g. motocross) may not be within the 10 acre mapping unit. This may be considered “barren.” The quarries may fall into this category.
- vii) Land cover mapping is lagging a bit where the schedule for this task may be affected by one month.
  - (1) RCD may have staff to assist with completing this task.
- viii) Next step: Develop a narrative for the land cover types. It was suggested that JSA review the discussions about land cover v. land use descriptions for the ROSA.

b) Focal Species list

- i) San Joaquin kit fox
  - (1) At the UAG meeting, there was debate on whether SJKF should be a focal species.
  - (2) This species will be kept on the focal species list.
- ii) Callippee silver spot butterfly
  - (1) This species is controversial because of lack of data and whether or not has been spotted in this area. Furthermore, there might be a debate on whether or not this can be classified as a subspecies.
  - (2) This species likely are found in microhabitat that includes violas.
  - (3) USFWS will ask their in-house butterfly experts to look into it.
- iii) Foothill yellow legged frog
  - (1) Although not currently listed, the implementing the conservation strategy will likely keep this species from being listed.
- iv) Steelhead
  - (1) Although there is a wealth of information out there on the species, there are still a lot of outstanding questions regarding habitat needs (i.e. flow regimes).
  - (2) Further, steelhead will require additional studies that will be outside the scope of the conservation strategy.
  - (3) Moreover, steelhead is within NMFS’ jurisdiction.
  - (4) Adding foothill yellow legged frog will introduce conservation of riparian areas, which will provide overlap for steelhead.
  - (5) Steelhead will be included in the “other” category (see below).

- v) Prairie falcon and serpentine plants will be reevaluated to determine whether these species should be added.
  - vi) There will be a section in the conservation strategy that will address species that do not rise to the “focal species” level but still want to keep on our radar.
    - (1) This section will provide suggested protocols on how to incorporate new focal species in the strategy.
    - (2) This section will also provide additional studies needed for certain species, like steelhead, in order to incorporate it as a focal species in the future.
  - c) Looking towards Phase 2
    - i) JSA is currently developing a scope of work for Phase 2.
    - ii) There might be tasks in Phase 2 that may be accelerated and done as part of Phase 1 work. For example, gathering information on conservation goals using existing HCP/NCCP.
- 5) Santa Rosa Conservation Strategy Presentation
- a) Lessons learned slide will be added to show how the EACCS process will improve upon the process of developing a conservation strategy.
- 6) Next Users Advisory Meeting Date:
- a) Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 4 pm @ Dublin’s Regional Meeting Room (tentatively)
  - b) Future monthly meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month, 2 – 4 pm
- 7) Next Steering Committee Meeting Dates
- a) Tuesday, May 6, 2008, 10 am - noon
    - i) Phase 1 Work Progress: finish discussing:
      - (1) Land use classification table
      - (2) Use of Ad Hoc Technical Team
    - ii) Receive CalFed Grant Update
    - iii) Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy Presentation
    - iv) Phase 2 Scope of Work
  - b) Tuesday, June 3, 2008, 10 am – noon