

## MEETING NOTES

### East Alameda County Conservation Strategy Steering Committee Meeting December 1, 2008

#### Meeting Attendees

Jill Duerig & Mary Lim - Zone 7

Troy Rahmig – ICF Jones & Stokes

Dominic Farinha – Alameda County

Brian Mathews – Alameda County Waste Management Authority

Stephen Haas & John Hemiup – Alameda County Congestion Management Agency

Mark Lander – City of Dublin

Steve Stewart – City of Livermore

Janice Stern – City of Pleasanton

Brad Olson – EBRPD

Jim Robins – Conservation Partnership

Cay Goude & Kim Squires – USFWS

Brian Wines - RWQCB

- 1) Outreach Subcommittee Report
  - a) The Outreach Subcommittee met on November 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the anticipated outreach tasks.
  - b) A draft communications plan will be submitted to the Outreach Subcommittee for their review and discussion at the next subcommittee meeting.
  - c) Next Outreach Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup>
  
- 2) Draft habitat models
  - a) Received draft habitat model maps and associated Table 2-2, which includes model assumptions, features not mapped/comments, and data sources (Troy will send out maps and Table via email)
  - b) Occurrence data is taken from known resources (i.e. CNDDDB), which are based upon positive occurrence data
    - i) Data was screened. Some data had a 20-year cutoff.
    - ii) Data still needs to be screened further and, in some cases, will need to be groundtruthed.
      - (1) Data is being reviewed by species experts.
      - (2) There was a concern that City parks that may have an occurrence on them could be seen as habitat. City parks will not be shown as habitat on the maps.
      - (3) EBRPD expressed concern about showing species occurrence of certain species (e.g. Golden Eagle) on their lands and stressed the need for confidentiality.
  - c) GIS modeling process utilized this occurrence data and what was known about the species and the landscape.
  - d) The maps will show the places where species could be most likely to be impacted by development. The maps will also show where conservation could happen.
    - i) This type of map is useful for the resource agencies to show distribution and pattern.
  - e) When implementing the strategy, the local agencies' planning and GIS departments will need to know how to use the maps as planning tools.
    - i) Can include APNs, which will be useful for planners. However, this will not be included in the strategy.

- f) Maps will include main points (from the associated Table 2-2) in order to make the maps standalone.
- 3) Draft outline of strategy and plan components
    - a) Received draft outline of the strategy (Troy will send out word version)
    - b) An Executive Summary (ES) will be included. The ES will include summary on how the strategy should be used and caveats.
    - c) Recommended additions:
      - i) Management Plans
      - ii) Section on public lands that are not currently protected (e.g. Camp Parks, FCC lands, and Site 300).
      - iii) Discussion on private lands that have conservation easements on it and how they work
    - d) Strategy will include a glossary of terms
    - e) Conservation Partnership will be developing a toolkit for conservation on private lands.
      - i) This is a task was part of the CalFed grant.
      - ii) Toolkit will include templates for easements and management plans. USFWS templates will be used.
      - iii) Will be included in the appendix of the strategy.
  - 4) Presentation on EBRPD's Resource Enhancement Program
    - a) 31 projects approved since 1998
      - i) 22 projects constructed or completed
      - ii) 9 projects have conservation easements
    - b) Current endowment yield is 4.75%
    - c) REP projects have multiple objectives including
      - i) Open space preservation and create landscape linkages
      - ii) Restore wildlife habitats and endangered species protection
      - iii) Providing public access when feasible
    - d) Application program costs include
      - i) Land acquisition & conservation easement fees
      - ii) Property security & clean-up fees
      - iii) Resource management plan (RMP) implementation
      - iv) Long-term management plan & endowment
    - e) Operation funds include
      - i) Endowments
      - ii) Police and fire services
      - iii) Predator control
      - iv) Pest management
      - v) Habitat monitoring
      - vi) Project management
  - 5) Presentation on Partnership for Land Conservation and Stewardship
    - a) In 2002, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors tasked the Alameda County Agriculture Committee with developing a County land trust.
    - b) Partnership for Land Conservation and Stewardship (PLCS) was created and is funded by Alameda County.
    - c) Goals of PLCS
      - i) Keep conservation dollars in Alameda County

- ii) Use funds to allow ranch families to continue their ranching activities
  - iii) Work with resources agencies to improve stewardship
  - d) PLCS facilitates mitigation on private lands.
    - i) Currently building a database of landowners who are interested in providing conservation easements on their land. There are about 17 interested ranchers.
    - ii) PLCS enters into a Memorandum of Understanding with private landowners and local agencies and developers.
  - e) Karen Sweet is the current Director of PLCS.
  - f) RCD can be an easement and endowment holder.
  - g) There were concerns about entities like EBRPD & PLCS that do and facilitate conservation, respectively, as being competition for the existing mitigation banks.
    - i) USFWS stated that all entities that provide conservation are subject to the same requirements.
    - ii) Want project mitigators to have choices.
  - h) USFWS noted that they have an application process in order to get approved to be an easement and endowment holder.
- 6) Users Advisory Group Meeting
- a) Date: December 11, 2008, 2 pm @ Dublin's Regional Meeting Room
  - b) Agenda items
    - i) Recap of Group Site Tour
    - ii) Recap of Phase 1 work products
    - iii) Discuss draft habitat models
    - iv) Review Scope of Work for next phase
    - v) Presentations about EBRPD's Resource Enhancement Program and Partnership for Land Conservation and Stewardship
- 7) Next Steering Committee Meeting Date: **January 6, 2008 @ 10 am**