

MEETING NOTES
East Alameda County Conservation Strategy
Steering Committee Meeting
January 6, 2009

Attendees

Jill Duerig & Mary Lim - Zone 7
Troy Rahmig – ICF Jones & Stokes
Liz McElligott & Dominic Farinha – Alameda County
Brian Mathews – Alameda County Waste Management Authority
Mark Lander – City of Dublin
Steve Stewart & Eric Brown – City of Livermore
Janice Stern – City of Pleasanton
Brad Olson & Chris Barton– EBRPD
Karen Sweet & Jim Robins – Conservation Partnership
Kim Squires – USFWS
Marcia Grefsrud – DFG

- 1) CalFed Grant & Funding Administration Update
 - a) The Department of Finance has suspended grant projects funded by Prop 50, among others.
 - i) The State will be allocating \$500M between now and July 1st. Projects will be going through another competitive screening process for these funds. EACCS will likely not rank high on the State's priority.
 - b) To date, we have received a total of \$94,761 from the CalFed grant. Of that, \$68,015 went toward JSA contract for Phase 1 and RCD was reimbursed with the remaining \$26,746.
 - c) The grant suspension will impact RCD's tasks listed in the CalFed grant. These tasks include: developing easement toolkit; education program; technical review; and meeting attendance.
 - d) The pilot project would not be affected. Although a required task under the grant, the pilot project will be funded by a local agency that needs mitigation.
 - e) Developing the strategy will not be impacted.
 - i) The total local agency contribution is \$305K. The amount spent to date is \$90,334, which already takes into account the grant reimbursement of \$68,015. The contribution balance is \$214,666.
 - ii) The budget remaining on the JSA Phase 2/3 contract is \$221,595. There is a shortfall of \$6,929.
 - iii) Some potential cost saving areas can include: Zone 7 maintaining the website; strategy document printing by the local agencies (vs. JSA); web meetings for some of the Steering Committee meetings; and/or decreasing the amount of UAG meetings.
 - f) Actions
 - i) Mary & Troy will review JSA budget and identify areas where we can save \$7K.
 - ii) Funding status letters for local agencies
 - (1) ACRCDD will provide a letter on suspension of grant funding and what EACCS tasks are impacted as a result.

- (2) JSA to provide a letter or memo stating that the development of the EACCS document, itself, has not been impacted.
 - iii) All – evaluate local agency staffing and potential impacts on continued participation
- 2) December 11th Users Advisory Group Meeting – Debrief
 - a) The UAG requested that the Steering Committee provide a list of projects for the next 10 – 20 years. The UAG wanted to see the magnitude of impact (in acres) that future development will have to give them context as to how the conservation strategy will be used.
 - b) Local agencies cannot provide the level of detail that the UAG asked for as future projects are still conceptual. As a result, the acres of impact cannot be calculated.
 - i) In addition, any detailed project list could be outdated as soon as it's published.
 - ii) UAG should be directed to the local agencies' websites to look at planning documents that describe potential future development projects.
 - c) The Steering Committee agreed that the strategy should describe project types as opposed to detailed project descriptions.
 - d) The conservation strategy will serve as guidance when a project has been defined and the impact has been determined.
 - e) The Steering Committee agreed that a brief paragraph and flow chart describing the planning process should be developed.
 - i) This will be added to the frequently asked questions document.
 - f) Action: Troy will develop graphic and short paragraph describing the project development process and where the conservation strategy fits in. This information will be reviewed by the Steering Committee prior to presenting it to the UAG on January 15th.
 - g) There was also discussion about the mitigation types (i.e. in-kind/like-value). JSA developed a glossary of terms that will be distributed at the next UAG meeting.
- 3) Review Project Schedule for 2009
 - a) There will be no February UAG meeting.
 - b) The first public meeting is scheduled for April 2009.
 - i) This meeting will likely be combined with the UAG meeting.
 - ii) Suggestions for public meeting
 - (1) Have UAG members make presentations about their experience on the UAG and other thoughts about the EACCS.
 - (2) Structuring the meeting to be a workshop.
 - (3) Possibly having UAG members hold meetings at their own respective venues with their constituents. This would likely garner more attendance.
 - (4) Need to do targeted invites for the public meetings.
 - c) Technical subcommittee meetings
 - i) There are tentatively 4 technical subcommittee meetings on the schedule.
 - ii) These meetings may be combined into one half-day workshop. This will provide us some cost savings.
 - iii) After the biological goals are drafted, the Steering Committee will determine what technical workshops are needed.
- 4) Project Update

- a) Conservation gap analysis
 - i) Pond density map
 - (1) Shows relative density of ponds per quadrant
 - (2) Can be overlaid with map showing areas that are currently protected.
 - ii) Land cover gap analysis
 - (1) Each major land cover type was mapped against open space. Note that open space areas come from the open space map. These areas are protected but not all may be protected in perpetuity.
 - (2) There are approximately 6 land cover maps.
 - iii) Gap analysis will be done with the focal species.
 - b) Presentation of Conservation priority areas
 - i) Troy displayed two maps from the Santa Clara Valley and East Contra Costa County HCP efforts that show conservation priority areas for the Steering Committee's consideration.
 - ii) Steering Committee will need to think about how to display priorities. The map would describe the level of effort to conserve the area.
 - c) Maps will have disclaimers on them as well as associated descriptive tables.
 - d) Outreach
 - i) Mockup of website has been developed. In addition, a website address has been chosen. Website will likely be up and running by the end of January.
 - ii) Public Information Officers on the Outreach Subcommittee are currently reviewing existing facts and information sheets.
 - e) Updates to Boards and Councils on EACCS
 - i) RCD will provide a letter summarizing suspension of CalFed grant and what tasks are put on hold as a result.
 - ii) JSA will provide a short memo stating that the strategy development will not be affected as a result of the grant suspension.
- 5) Research and Data Needs
- a) If a local agency has any research or surveys needs for specific focal species, EBRPD has enough land to provide such a service.
 - b) For species with limited data (e.g. Callippe silverspot butterfly), the strategy will state what research or data needs will be for these species.
 - c) Research or surveys maybe required as part of a project's monitoring program.
- 6) Users Advisory Group Meeting
- a) Date: January 15, 2009, 2 pm @ Dublin Regional Meeting Room
 - b) Agenda items
 - i) How and where EACCS fits in the project development/implementation process.
 - ii) Project & Funding Update
 - iii) 2009 Project Schedule
 - iv) UAG review process for strategy document
- 7) Next Steering Committee Meeting Date: **February 3, 2009 @ 10 am**