

**YOLO BYPASS WORKING GROUP
MEETING 31**

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: August 26, 2004

LOCATION: California Department of Fish and Game
Yolo Wildlife Area Headquarters
45211 County Road 32B (Chiles Road)
Davis, California 95616

IN ATTENDANCE: Robin Kulakow, Yolo Basin Foundation (YBF)
Dave Feliz, California Department of Fish & Game (DFG)
Dave Ceppos, Center for Collaborative Policy
James Navicky, DFG
Selby Mohr, Mound Farms
Robert Eddings, CLOA
Mick Klasson, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA)
John Currey, Dixon Resource Conservation District (RCD)
Tony Lucchesi, Wildlands, Inc.
Don Stevens, Glide In Ranch
Dick Goodell, Glide In Ranch
Phil Martinelli, Channel Ranch
Ed Towne, Bullsprig Outing
Dennis Kilkenny, Dawsons Duck Club
Ted Sommer, Department of Water Resources (DWR)
Marianne Kirkland, DWR
Michael Perrone, DWR
Lauren Hastings, California Bay-Delta Authority-Ecosystem Restoration
Program
Betsy Marchand, State Board of Reclamation
Butch Hodgkins, SAFCA
Chuck Dudley
Jack Palmer, H Pond Ranch
David Kohlhorst, Glide In Ranch
Clyde Ongard, Glide In Ranch
Dave Brown, Sacramento Yolo Mosquito Vector Control District
(SYMVCD)
Regina Cherovsky, Conaway Ranch
Mike Hall, Conaway Ranch
Brad Burkholder, DFG
Tom Schroyer, DFG
Dirk Brazil, Staff to Assemblywoman Lois Wolk

Robert Thompson, Sky Raker Duck Club
Dean Kwasny, DFG
Roy Gill, R.C. Gill & Son
Duncan McCormack IV, McCormack Farms
Ron Tadlock, Ron Tadlock Farms
Bob Gill, Landowner
Dan Fehringer, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
David Guy, Northern California Water Association
Jack DeWit, Dewitt Farms
Don Morrill, Yolo Basin Foundation
Mary Jean Quirk, Yolo Basin Foundation
Ron Morazzini, Yolo County
Jake Messerli, California Waterfowl Association.
Tests Dunham, Larry Walker Associates
John Legakis, Senator Outings Club
Jeanette Wrysinski, Yolo County
Marilyn Waggoner, YBF
Mariko Yamada, Yolo County Board of Supervisors
Tom Harvey, USFWS
David Brown, Sacramento Yolo Mosquito Vector Control District
(SYMVCD)
Gary Wegener, City of Woodland
John Brennan, Wildlands/Knaggs
Sally Negroni, National Resources Conservation Service
Mike Egan, Yolo Flyway Parks
Mark A. Kearney, Landowner
Stephan Patek, City of West Sacramento
Caroline Quinn, City of West Sacramento
Vince Rosdahl, Channel Ranch
Stan Wright, SYMVCD
Gary Goodman, SYMVCD
Dan Thompson, Sky Raker Duck Club
Beth Gabor, Yolo County Board of Supervisors
Gaye Lopez, YBF

NEXT MEETING: October 14, 2004 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm

Mr. Ceppos called the meeting to order. The Working Group has been in existence since 1998. During that time, the Yolo Bypass Management Strategy was created, close to two years ago. The Management Strategy has been used by many agencies in the area as an informative document about local stakeholder sentiments regarding the Yolo Bypass.

Mr. Ceppos briefly summarized the agenda and made changes per the request of the group. He asked all participants to update Robin Kulakow with new contact information or let her know if you are experiencing problems with e-mails. Yolo Basin Foundation staff: Don Morrill,

Development Director, Ann Brice, Associate Executive Director, and Mary Jean Quirk, Program Coordinator were introduced to the Working Group.

Ms. Kulakow announced that the 14th annual Bucks for Ducks fundraising event for YBF will be held on October 8, 2004. The proceeds support YBF's education program. The theme is "Where the Wild Things Are". There will be fine Mexican cuisine, music, a raffle, and live and silent auctions.

October 8, 2004
5:30 – 8:30pm
Veterans Memorial Center
203 East 14th Street
Davis, CA
(530) 757-3780
Tickets \$25.00

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Yolo Bypass Hydraulic Modeling Effort

The Corps has received the CALFED funding to begin work on the Bypass hydraulic model. Robin Kulakow and Dave Ceppos will meet with the Corps staff in September. They anticipate reconvening the Yolo Bypass Hydraulic Modeling Technical Advisory Committee. Updates as the project progresses will be added to the Working Group agenda.

Colusa Basin Drainage Plan and Impacts to Yolo Bypass David Guy, Northern California Water Association

David Guy presented the general concept for a new proposal titled the *Colusa Basin Drainage Plan*. The purpose of the project concept is to assess the feasibility to move agricultural tail water from the Colusa Basin downstream through the Yolo Bypass, avoiding discharge into the Sacramento River. Informational materials were passed out at the meeting. If you would like a copy of the handouts please contact Robin Kulakow.

Question: How will water quality in the Sacramento River be improved?

Answer: It's not clear yet if it will be. That is the purpose of the initial study. With data from the study, we will determine the quality of the Colusa basin drain water and go from there.

Questions: What pathway does the discharge water currently follow?

Answer: That is not clear yet. It is available in the Bypass below the Knights Landing Ridge Cut. But the amount that is discharged to the Sacramento is not clear

Questions: How will water flow be managed at a certain time of year?

Answer: We don't have an answer for that yet During irrigation season it will be explored.

Question: How will this be funded?

Answer: A long-term solution could be funded by water and agricultural entities, or from government funding.

Question: It seems there is a delicate balance of water quality to be dealt with. How will that be addressed? Also, what kind of the new infrastructure will be needed get rid of the low quality of water?

Answer: We don't have answers to any of those questions yet.

Question: What months will the study take place in?

Answer: The entire year. We want as much information as possible.

Question: What are the affects of fish being attracted up the Yolo Bypass by the presence of Sacramento River water? Could volume alone attract fish?

Answer: We don't know. We don't know if Colusa Basin water would create an attractant flow.

Question: Looking at the list of initial signators supporting the study, private landowners have been missed and they're upset about being left out. How will you improve communication and how information is released?

Statement: We need to do a better job with communication. Tell us how to reach everyone.

Question: Are there other ways to treat the water and obtain a higher quality prior to it being released to the Sacramento River?

Answer: No, not nearly at that point.

Statement: NCWA needs to coordinate with the City of Woodland and their current water quality study. There may overlap.

Question: Will one goal be to change the flow?

Answer: Don't know yet.

To address many of the Yolo Bypass concerns raised during the discussion, it was suggested that a Working Group subcommittee be formed to assist NCWA in the implementation of it's proposed studies and to ensure that Yolo Bypass interests are being considered.

Sub-Committee Members

Mariko Yamada Betsy Marchand Jack Palmer Marianne Kirkland
Regina Cherovsky Chuck Dudley Ron Morazzini Michael Perrone
John Brennan Petrea Moyle

**Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Presentation
Tim O'Halloran, General Manager**

The Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) covers much of Yolo County and the following communities in the county: Woodland, Davis and Winters.

Water delivery is via distribution canals, river diversions, local sloughs, and other facilities. The role of the District is to maintain the proper water release schedules for all appropriate water users.

Question: How is the District board elected? How is revenue generated?

Answer: the five-member Yolo County Board of Supervisors appoints them to a two-year term. Revenue is earned through various fees. Approximately two thirds of the revenue comes from water sales. Approximately one sixth comes from tax revenue and the remaining one sixth comes from hydroelectric power. The District has 25 employees that work throughout the county on a variety of assignments.

Please contact Robin Kulakow if you would like a copy of Tim's PowerPoint presentation.

**Conaway Ranch
Working Group Sub-committee and Full Group**

During the previous Working Group meeting, a subcommittee was formed to draft a letter for the Working Group's consideration regarding support of the creation of a Conaway Ranch Joint Powers Authority (JPA). Given the decision by the County Board of Supervisors to pursue eminent domain condemnation proceedings on the Conaway Ranch property, the subcommittee decided to place this action on hold. The subcommittee felt it would be better to use the group for communication and open dialog about the eminent domain issue than to provide support of the JPA.

Yolo County is using eminent domain to pursue the purchase of the Conaway Ranch. Yolo County would like for the ownership and resources of the ranch to remain local/regional. The County would like to make sure there is an open line of communication regarding actions taken regarding the Conaway Ranch.

The discussion took place in a debate format with parties speaking for and against the purchase by the County. County representatives Linda Fiack, Petrea Moyle, and Supervisor Mariko Yamada answered questions.

Statement: Many in the public are not in favor of government ownership. Mismanagement is a major concern. The County should tell people what they'd do with the land before the public supports their efforts.

Question: Are health and safety issues a necessary factor in order for eminent domain to be used?

Answer: In this process, health and safety of county citizens are part of it.

The County and Yolo County cities have formed a Joint Powers Authority to take on the purchase of the Conaway property. There has been no discussion regarding future development of the property. There is a possibility that the management of this property could broaden through a consensus process. JPA meetings are open to the public. The JPA would like to learn and improve communication by using additional outreach tools.

- Next meeting is 9/29/04 at 6pm

The JPA Point of Contacts are:

Petrea Moyle
530-666-8835
petrea.moyle@yolocounty.org

Linda Flack – Acting Manager for JPA
530-666-8019
Linda.flack@yolocounty.org

JPA information line
530-666-8724

Question: Why eminent domain? If there is a willing seller, can't anyone purchase the ranch?

Answer: We are using eminent domain because the county is at a disadvantage. The land is expensive and there are too many other entities involved. It also prevents a closed-door sell. Private entities can conduct purchase negotiations in private. As a local government, we cannot exclude our citizens from the discussion but since the seller has put a confidentiality restriction on discussions about the purchase, our hands are tied unless we pursue the eminent domain option

Question: Is there precedence for something of this size?

Answer: No, not really.

Question: Why do you need a JPA if the eminent domain purchase is going to be in the county's name?

Answer: the JPA reflects a collaborative intent for future management of the property.

Question: Can there be public information about the sale of property bid?

Answer: This is a sealed bid, therefore prohibiting public distribution of sale information.

Question: How are taxes going to be paid?

Answer: If the property is taken out of private ownership, tax loss will need to be addressed.

Question: Why can't we discuss everything?

Answer: Not everyone has received all of the information.

Question: Are the sellers requesting additional information?

Question: Once owned and revenue is received from the land, where will the revenue go?

Answer: There is currently 10 million dollars in revenue from the current operation. The jury must decide if the county will receive it. The county is open to all processes. Some of the previously received letters of support to the JPA would not support the eminent domain effort.

Question: Are you going to sell water or develop the land?

Answer: A specific plan has not been developed.

Yolo County and West Nile Virus in California
Dave Brown, Sacramento Yolo Mosquito Vector Control District

State Level

All counties have birds infected with the virus. There have been 277 human infections in southern California.

Local Level

Yolo County has observed one virus case. It is believed that the individual was infected in the southern part of the state.

DFG has received \$750,000 through a bill supported by Assembly member Lois Wolk to implement best management practices statewide for vector control.

Question: Once the virus is here, is it always here?

Answer: Yes but the response of different vectors to the virus presence is what is in question. We don't know whether vectors such as rodents, equine species, avian species, humans, etc will develop immunities over time or whether it will become more virulent and challenging instead. We also expect an enormous drop in some bird populations (crows, ravens, magpies, etc.) over the next two years

Question: How do the east and west coast compare?

Answer: The trend is numerous infections in the beginning and then it tapers off in numbers, no matter which coast you are living on.

Question: Will there be an increased vector control assessment on rice growers?

Answer: This is still an on going discussion. It is not currently part of pending State legislation.

Question: Who pays for the planes spraying the duck clubs? Why should taxpayers help the duck clubs? Shouldn't the duck clubs pay the cost?

Answer: Taxpayers currently pay but duck clubs do pay assessment fees in some districts. Vector control is funded through taxes.

For additional information visit <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/>

Question: Is the virus in all mosquitos?

Answer: We're not sure but it does seem to be in all the primary species endemic to the Central Valley.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM. Several agenda items were postponed until the October 14th meeting.