

MEETING NOTES

East Alameda County Conservation Strategy Steering Committee Meeting November 4, 2008

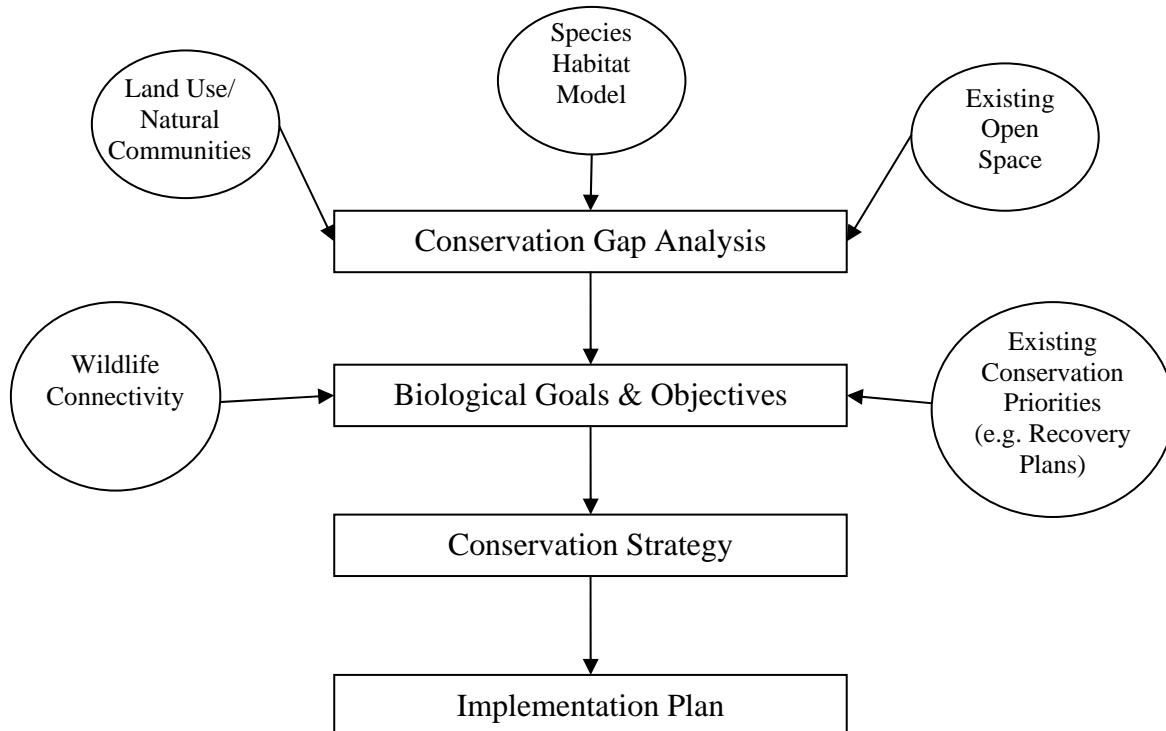
Attendees

Jill Duerig & Mary Lim - Zone 7
David Zippin & 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 – City of Livermore
Janice Stern – City of Pleasanton
Brad Olson & Chris Barton – EBRPD
Jim Robins – Conservation Partnership
Kim Squires – USFWS
Scott Wilson, Liam Davis & Marcia Grefsrud – DFG
Brian Wines - RWQCB

- 1) Users Advisory Group Site Tour – Debrief
 - a) Visited 3 sites: EBRPD’s mitigation projects in Brushy Peak; Springtown Preserve; and Tim Koopmann’s ranch
 - b) Notable items raised on the field trip
 - i) Need to consider long-term maintenance of ponds
 - ii) One landowner was concerned about impacts to downstream ponds going dry as a result of upstream ponds
 - (1) In that particular case, a water budget analysis was done to show that there was no connection between the two ponds.
 - (2) The EACCS can include a recommendation to do a water budget analysis.
 - (3) DFG also looks at downstream impacts of ponds to ensure there is no impact before approving mitigation/conservation project.
 - (4) Note: There are water rights issues with regards to installing new ponds or reservoirs.
 - iii) It was noted that land with little to no resources on it will have limited opportunities for conservation easements.
 - c) Proposed spring field trip: Mines Road, Ohlone Mitigation Bank, and EBRPD’s wetland project @ Vasco Caves
- 2) Phase 1 Wrap-up
 - a) Review completed Phase 1 deliverables
 - i) Focal species list
 - (1) Callippe silver spot butterfly still on the list; however, it’s still uncertain if they occur within this County
 - (2) Steelhead is still on the list as well
 - (a) Will assume in the EACCS that steelhead will be coming back to the AC watershed

- (b) EACCS will provide general guidelines and will guide project proponents to existing efforts
 - ii) Land cover map
 - (1) Pretty much final
 - (2) Need to add some finer scale wetlands
 - iii) Land use map
 - (1) Hasn't changed since last iteration of the map
 - (2) Current map is on the website
 - iv) Open Space map
 - (1) Few tweaks may need to be done
 - (2) Last iteration on the website is still valid
 - b) Draft habitat models
 - i) Models have been developed but are currently being revised
 - ii) Relies on land cover map
 - iii) Models will give guidance to where there are opportunities, particularly in areas where there are currently no documented resources on it
 - iv) Still requires groundtruthing
 - v) The draft model package will include factors used to develop the model and who reviewed the information
 - c) Data transfer to local agencies
 - i) Metadata is currently being reviewed to be sure it's in proper order
 - ii) Steering committee will need to consider the following
 - (1) How data will be updated over time
 - (2) Who will be the custodian of the master data set & roles
 - (3) Anticipated level of effort to maintain data
 - iii) Just a reminder for agencies: submit biological resources data to CNDDDB
- 3) Phase 2/3
- a) The information and maps from Phase 1 will be used to conduct the conservation gap analysis
 - i) Open space map will be used to see what kind of resources occur in these areas
 - ii) Will look to see if there are any species disproportionately protected that would benefit from the regional strategy
 - iii) Will help develop conservation priorities
 - iv) Helps focus on key areas w/sensitive resources
 - (1) Look at ownership
 - (2) Evaluate vehicles to conserve these areas
 - b) Will have flexibility when developing conservation goals to ensure goals are realistic
 - c) The plan will have a summary of species accounting in the area
 - d) Connectivity analysis
 - i) This will build upon conservation efforts in the surrounding area
 - ii) Look at several focal species to determine where there are connections and where connections need to be (e.g. breeding and upland habitats)
 - iii) Will look at on the ground barriers (road, canals, etc.)
 - e) Areas of concern

- i) Conflicts between local and regional agencies (e.g. land use designations) as well as transportation plans
- ii) Maps
 - (1) Anticipated private landowner concerns if their land is designated as an area w/lots of resources
 - (2) Need to clearly articulate to UAG and public what maps are meant to do and what not to do (i.e. not a vehicle for a land grab)
 - (3) Perhaps consider using soft lines on the map or a grid system



- f) Outreach tasks
 - i) Mary will schedule a meeting with the Outreach Subcommittee to scope out outreach tasks, which includes developing the stand alone website
 - ii) ICF Jones & Stokes will assist with developing a communications plan and assist with strategic outreach planning
 - iii) Need to be cognizant that our respective Boards & Councils will want periodic updates on EACCS and what outreach is being done in their respective jurisdictions
 - (1) Good to know which elected officials have an interest in this effort and ensure that they are given updates
- g) Upcoming drafts for Phase 2
 - i) Mini-scope of wildlife connectivity
 - ii) Draft strategy outline
- h) Review of draft work products

- i) Steering Committee review
 - (1) The Steering Committee will receive chapters to review as they are drafted to provide real time comments.
 - (2) More frequent meetings
 - (a) Keep monthly in-person meeting
 - (b) Second meeting to be online/conference call
 - (3) There will be a full admin draft for Steering Committee review before a public draft is distributed for review.
 - ii) UAG review
 - (1) Need to work with UAG on how to effectively get their feedback
 - (2) Will need to be very specific on what we want the UAG to comment on.
 - (3) UAG review will be a topic at the next UAG meeting
- 4) Pilot Project
- a) A pilot project is a task in the CalFed grant.
 - i) A condition of this grant was that an agency on the Steering Committee enter into a MOU with the PLCS (Partnership for Land Conservation and Stewardship) to execute a mitigation project.
 - ii) NOTE: This task will not be cost-shared with all the partners. The cost-share will come from the entity that proceeds with a mitigation project with PLCS.
 - b) Timing of the Pilot Project
 - i) Pilot project must be done by the time the grant expires.
 - ii) Should start in the next few months as the conservation gap analysis and conservation goals and priorities are developed. Because the pilot project is meant to “road test” the strategy, there needs to be something substantial developed in order to test.
- 5) Other notable items:
- a) EBRPD is moving toward developing templates to facilitate mitigation/conservation projects on EBRPD public lands
 - b) Items such as land management practices and management & monitoring on a regional basis will be a part of the strategy.
 - i) There is a monitoring task in the CalFed grant that still needs to be scoped out.
 - ii) Consider developing monitoring reports to document mitigation projects effectiveness in meeting goals
- 6) Users Advisory Group Meeting
- a) Tentatively: November 20, 2008, 2 pm @ TBD
 - 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 & discuss UAG review process
 - v) Presentation from EBRPD and Conservation Partnership on mitigation/conservation processes on public and private lands respectively
- 7) Next Steering Committee Meeting Date: **Monday, December 1st @ 10 am**