

MEETING NOTES
East Alameda County Conservation Strategy
Steering Committee Meeting
January 5, 2010

Attendees

Liz McElligott – Alameda County Community Development Agency
John Hemiup – Alameda County Congestion Management Agency
Jim Robins – Alameda County Conservation Partnership
Brian Mathews – Alameda County Waste Management Authority
Mark Lander – City of Dublin
Steve Stewart – City of Livermore
Janice Stern – City of Pleasanton
Liam Davis & Marcia Grefsrud – DFG
Brad Olson - EBRPD
Troy Rahmig – ICF Jones & Stokes
Brian Wines - RWQCB
Kim Squires – USFWS
Jill Duerig & Mary Lim - Zone 7

1. Announcement: Mary Lim will be out of the office from February 1st to March 5th. She is currently setting up coverage for her coordination duties while she is away.
2. Comments received on CGO's and Mitigation Ratios
 - a. Since the last Steering Committee meeting, we received comments from USFWS and DFG, the Fletchers, and Joe DiDonato.
 - b. Mitigation ratios
 - i. Increase too high too quickly
 1. May impact mitigation banks if the impact site is not adjacent to the mitigation banks.
 2. There was a suggestion to move away from whole numbered ratios and use either percentages or fractionated ratios.
 - ii. The starting mitigation ratios vary per species.
 1. 3:1 ratio was likely based on no net loss for wetlands
 2. For rare species (i.e. endangered) will need to have a higher starting ratio
 - iii. Need to stress that mitigation ratio tables are DRAFT and are subject (and likely) to change.
 - c. Interplay between EACCS and mitigation banks
 - i. With EACCS, the resource agencies will likely need to evaluate the habitat value of the mitigation bank in order to compare it to the impact site.
 - ii. The resources agencies do not put mitigation banks at a higher priority over individual turnkey properties.
 - iii. There is no strong push to establish mitigation banks because it really depends upon the sites.
 1. Suitability for mitigation banks are on a case-by-case basis.

2. Note that banks that are adjacent to one another may be evaluated differently.
- d. Occurrence data
 - i. Will likely get rid of the consideration of occurrence data for the impact site.
 - ii. We want to incentivize surveys at the impact site.
 - iii. There was a suggestion for local jurisdictions to require submitting negative survey data, which are approved by the resource agencies, in order to get better information about sites.
- e. Ratios for Salmonids
 - i. Because the National Marine Fisheries Services is not involved, there should be no ratios for salmonids.
 - ii. Ratios will be replaced with “with agency approval.”
 - iii. Any reference documents should be agency approved documents.
- f. Callippe Silverspot Butterfly
 - i. There are additional conservation zones in which Callippe have been documented.
- g. Species of Concern
 - i. There was a comment about requiring mitigation for species of concern.
 - ii. Need to clarify that the programmatic BO covers only federally listed species and not species of concern.
 - iii. Mitigation measures for species of concern are only recommendations for CEQA mitigation.
 - iv. Suggest preparing a table that shows the species and their status as either state, federal, or CEQA species in order to clarify how the species are treated when implementing projects. This table should be dated since species status can change.
- h. Action items
 - i. Troy will prepare response letters to the Fletchers and Joe DiDonato comment letters.
 - ii. Regional Board will be providing clarification comments on riparian CGOs in order to reduce potential misinterpretations.
3. Note on salamanders
 - a. The Fish & Game Commission will be meeting on February 4th to decide on whether to list salamanders.
4. Chapters3 – Conservation Strategy
 - a. Troy distributed an excerpt from Chapter 3, which has already been drafted and is currently very lengthy.
 - b. Each conservation zone has a write-up summarizing the habitat and the species it supports. In addition, conservation priorities are described for each conservation zone.
 - c. There are individual write-ups describing the natural community and focal species goals and objectives. There are currently overlaps and some redundancy.
 - d. The chapter is lengthy and there are opportunities to break it up and reduce redundancy.
 - i. Some preliminary suggestions include
 1. Pulling out discussion of the conservation zones and putting them into an index.

- 2. Mitigation Ratios/Scoring discussion may need to be a separate chapter as it may not make sense for it to be in the discussion of conservation strategies.
 - a. This should be made into a separate section that can be easily pulled out and used when conducting site evaluations
 - 3. Consider developing a summary brochure similar to what was developed for the East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP. Those that read the summary brochure and want more specific information can look into the document.
 - ii. Jim Robins and Kim Squires volunteered to review the format of Chapter 3 and assist Troy with the organization.
 - iii. The full draft of Chapter 3 should be available to the Steering Committee for review later this month.
5. December 2nd Landowner Meeting Debrief
- a. The landowners do not oppose EACCS. They are interested in how they can prepare their lands for future conservation easements.
 - b. Landowners want to see a simplified and streamlined process.
 - c. Would like to see if there are funding opportunities to assist with biological surveys.
 - i. Alternatively, landowners would like to get some training on how to identify and start documenting species on their land.
 - d. Would like to see a grazing management plan template that they can use and adapt to their site as appropriate.
 - i. DFG will provide a their grazing management plan template.
 - e. For the next landowner meeting, there will be a panel of Steering Committee members to field questions.
6. Upcoming Meetings
- a. UAG Meeting
 - i. Thursday, January 21st, 2 – 4 pm at Dublin Regional Meeting Room
 - 1. UAG agenda
 - a. Meeting debriefs
 - b. Continue discussion on mitigation guidance
 - c. Introduction to Chapters 3 & 4
 - d. Schedule for the next six months
 - ii. Thursday, February 18th, 2 – 4 pm, Location: TBD
 - b. Steering Committee Meetings (at Zone 7)
 - i. Tuesday, February 2, 2010 @ 10 am
 - ii. Tuesday, March 2, 2010 @ 10 am