

MEETING MINUTES

**East Alameda County Conservation Strategy
Steering Committee Meeting
February 13, 2008
10 am - noon
Zone 7 Conference Room 150**

ATTENDEES

Jill Duerig & Mary Lim - Zone 7
Troy Rahmig – Jones & Stokes
Eric Brown, Steve Stewart, and Susan Frost – City of Livermore
Janice Stern – City of Pleasanton
Liz McElligott – Alameda County
Terry Huff – NRCS
Jim Robins – ACRCDD Partnership
Cay Goude - USFWS
Scott Wilson and Marcia Grefsrud – DFG

- 1) Update on Prop 50 grant
 - a) Confirmed that \$100K will be allocated to the Jones & Stokes contract
 - b) RCD/NRCS are evaluating how to best utilize the rest of the grant to add value to the EACCS (e.g. working with landowners on pilot project)
 - c) There is GIS work in the grant application currently allocated to GreenInfo Network. RCD/NRCS looking at transferring this amount to JSA contract.
 - i) Note: There will only be one map generated for the EACCS.
 - d) Next steps
 - i) Set up a meeting with DWR to clarify details of grant
 - ii) Terry will talk to RCD Board about this approach
- 2) January 17th Information Meeting – Debrief
 - a) The overall sentiment was that the information meeting went well and garnered a lot of interest in the effort.
 - b) Moving forward, we need to be clear that the conservation strategy is not an HCP. However, this effort can be turned into a programmatic Section 7. Therefore, we need to start thinking about what activities should be covered and a time frame.
 - i) Projects need to have a Federal nexus.
 - ii) Biological opinions do not need to have a sunset.
- 3) Users Advisory Group Applications
 - a) Received about 34 applications, which was reviewed by a small subcommittee of the Steering Committee on February 6th
 - b) The group defined “user” as
 - i) Developing private or public land;
 - ii) A landowner;
 - iii) Acquiring land; and/or
 - iv) An established conservation group within the area
 - c) The group used the definition of “user” to narrow the User Advisory Group down to about 25 representatives
 - d) Developer/business representation is lacking and Steering Committee members will solicit developers/businesses to be a part of the group

- 4) Phase 1 Work Progress
 - a) Incorporating land use
 - i) This is a parallel process and will be a separate map. This will include rangeland, irrigated pasture, etc.
 - b) Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals
 - i) Looks at biology regardless of what's happening on the land and is Bay Area wide.
 - ii) The EACCS map will be more detailed.
 - c) Suggested that we include steelhead as a focal species considering the ongoing efforts to restore steelhead in the area.
 - i) Because steelhead is within National Marine Fisheries Services' realm, Gary Stern should be informed about the EACCS.
 - ii) Note that lamprey might be listed and may need to be considered.
 - d) Groundtruthing will be conducted within the next 3 weeks
 - i) JSA will work with the ACRC/ NRCS Partnership on this effort

- 5) Next Steering Committee Meeting Date: **Friday, March 14th**
 - a) Topics:
 - i) Outreach needs
 - ii) Debrief from 2/28 Users Advisory Group