

TRI-CITY and COUNTY COOPERATIVE PLANNING GROUP
Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo * County of Solano
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CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

August 16, 2006

1. Roll Call

Citizen's Advisory Committee Members Present: Bob Berman, J.B. Davis, Kathy Hoffman, Eva Laevastu, Karlyn Lewis, Alice Plutchok, Linda Schrupp and Bob Webb

Citizens' Advisory Committee Members Absent: Mike Palmaffy and Jim Syar

Tri-City and County Staff in Attendance: Matt Walsh, Solano County; Brian Miller, City of Fairfield; Bill Tuikka, City of Vallejo; Marilyn Farley, SLT; Shane McAfee, GVRD

The CAC currently has two vacancies-one from the City of Fairfield and another from Solano County. The CAC decided to send a letter to the mayor of Fairfield and the Solano County Board of Supervisors to asking them to appoint a city of Fairfield representative and a Solano County representative respectively to the Tri-City CAC.

The Tri-City Governing Board approved the proposal to name a trail for Harry Englebright at their last meeting. Tri-City will send a letter to the SLT inquiring about naming a trail for Harry Englebright in Lynch Canyon.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

The May 17, 2006 minutes were approved.

4. Update on Proposed School at Orchard Site – Mel Jordan (Information Item)

Mel Jordan gave a summary of the mitigation issues at the Orchard School site. The total area that can actually be graded for development is about 18.6 acres. Because of the mitigation issues for the Red Legged Frog and a conservation easement the site must be mitigated at a 3 to 1 ratio. (An area must be found that is three times as large as the 18.6 acre site for habitat mitigation). On site there are 8 acres that can be used as a "credit" against the 56 mitigation acre total. There will be a meeting with Fish and Wildlife to talk about ways to further reduce mitigation requirements. The application to Fish and Wildlife cannot be submitted until the mitigation land has been identified. Mr. Jordan met with PG&E to inquire about receiving possible mitigation assistance from

them. He was advised that PG&E does not have any mitigation areas available at this time. However PG&E does need an easement over the Orchards site for a "back-feed" to the Hiddenbrooke area. They will be working with PG&E on the issue of their easement needs and the Orchards need for mitigation assistance.

Fire regulations will require a one way road to be developed around the entire site. The circular road will have an impact on the circular parking area at the trailhead. No details have been worked out yet. Marilyn Farley asked if it would be feasible to have a fire trail link up to the Eastern Swett property. The answer was that the budget might not allow it. It was suggested to Mr. Jordan that the Cordelia Fire Protection District have an opportunity to comment on the project. The decision had been made to have access to Vallejo Swett on the front of the Orchard site. Mr. Tuikka will check the tentative map of Hiddenbrooke for a public access easement. So that the CAC can stay informed of the progress at the Orchard site Mr. Davis volunteered to be the Tri-City representative at the school meetings.

5. Lynch Canyon Funding (Information Item)

Matt Walsh reported that the Solano County Board of Supervisors budgeted approximately \$264,000 for next year. The total budget will be over \$700,000 over three years and will include funding for 2.5 rangers for Lynch Canyon and equipment for the Solano Land Trust (SLT). The County Administrator's office is working to come to an agreement with the Solano Land Trust on an MOU. There is potential liability on the County's part due to an earthen dam on the property. Bob Berman added that the hope was to have Lynch Canyon open from dawn to dusk five days per week, with stewardship activities and a volunteer coordinator. Marilyn Farley, SLT, stated that there is a commitment for \$15,000 from Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District, Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District and the City of Benicia to hire a coordinator. A temporary fix to the earthen dam would involve controlling the erosion around the spillway. Regarding the dam there are three alternatives (1) to completely rebuild the dam if maintaining its current size is desired, (2) the dam could be reduced to 15 acre feet, (3) or it could be completely removed.

6. Update on Resource Management/Public Access Plan (SLT)

Marilyn Farley, SLT, gave an overview of the Resource Management/Public Access Plan. The Plan is an evaluation of the resources of the Vallejo Swett, Eastern Swett and King Ranch areas. PG&E contributed funding and is looking at habitat enhancement potential for the Red Legged Frog. A public access plan is being put together by Andy Anderson of Landpeople. Biological, geological planning work has also been done.

A draft of the Resource Management Plan has been submitted for internal review by the SLT. The first chapter summarizes the goals of the Plan. The second chapter describes existing conditions and identifies plants, animals and endangered species. The third chapter describes the management of habitat, rangeland and public access. A significant factor of some of the property is that it has unstable soil that causes occasional landslides. The location of unstable land, special status animal and rare plant habitats were displayed on maps. An area of Vallejo Swett is being proposed as off limits for public access because of California Red Legged Frog habitat. A trail system on Vallejo Swett would have to avoid that area. Forty miles of trails and old ranch roads have been identified. There is an existing infrastructure of roads, gates and fences that

needs to be upgraded to manage the area effectively. Ms. Farley pointed out proposed public access areas shown on a map. According to the Cordelia Fire Protection District there are significant fire access issues.

Ms. Farley also stated that the SLT has a two million dollar earmark from Congressman George Miller to put trails on the Santa Clara property. The Solano Transportation Agency (STA) suggested that \$500,000 should be put toward improving Mc Gary Road.

7. Countywide Park System Status (Bob Berman)

Mr. Berman reported that a significant issue regarding a countywide park system will be finding a permanent funding source to pay for park operations. There is a need to promote strong support for a park system. If the funding for the volunteer coordinator comes thru then there can be more docent led hikes which will help to get more people familiar with open space areas. There needs to be good public usage of the park areas to justify to the County the need for funding.

8. Federal Transportation Money (Bob Berman)

Kathy Hoffman stated that this item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

9. Nomination of representative from Tri-City & County Cooperative Planning Group to STA Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Action Item)

Alice Plutchok made a motion to nominate Linda Schrupp as the Tri-City representative to the STA Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Eva Laevastu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Adjournment

The next regular Citizens Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2006 in the Multi-Purpose Room, County Administrative Center, 675 Texas St., First Floor, Fairfield, CA 94533.

TRI-CITY AND COUNTY COOPERATIVE PLANNING GROUP

Attendance 2004 - 2006

	3/29/04	5/19/04	8/18/04	11/17/04	10/12/05	5/17/06	8/16/06	11/15/06
Bob Berman	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
J.B. Davis	x	x	x		x	x	x	
Kathy Hoffman	x	x				x	x	
Eva Laevastu	x	x		x		x	x	
Karlyn Lewis		x	x		x	x	x	
Mike Palmaffy					x	x		
Alice Plutchok	x	x		x			x	
Linda Schrupp			x				x	
Jim Syar	x	x		x	x			
Bob Webb	x		x			x	x	

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