

**San Joaquin Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan
Habitat Technical Advisory Committee
San Joaquin Council of Governments
555 East Weber Ave.
Stockton, CA 95202
Wednesday, April 8, 2009**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order/Introductions

Mr. Niblock called the meeting to order at 9:33 am; introductions were made.

Committee Members Present:

Mike Niblock	City of Stockton
David Morimoto	City of Lodi
Ellen McBride	USFWS
Jane Humes	Conservation
John Beckman	BIA
Dan Gifford	CDF&G
Tendai Mtunga	City of Lathrop
Ray Hoo	San Joaquin County
Gary Stockel	Ag Department
Teresa Becchetti	UC Co-op Extension
Vicki Lombardo	City of Tracy

SJCOG Staff/Consultants Present:

Steve Dial	Deputy Executive Director/CFO – SJCOG, Inc. Treasurer
Steve Mayo	Senior Habitat Planner
Anne-Marie Poggio-Castillou	Regional Habitat Planner
Douglas Leslie	ICF Jones & Stokes
Rod Attebery	Neumiller & Beardslee
Monica Streeter	Neumiller & Beardslee
Laurel Boyd	Office Assistant II

Public Present:

None

II. Approval of March 11, 2009 Minutes

It was moved/seconded (**Beckman/Hoo**) to approve the minutes of Wednesday, March 11, 2009. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Consent Calendar

- a. Tully Road Bridge Project
- b. Manteca Ambulance Station Project
- c. Van Ruiten Winery Project

Ms. Humes commented on the Tully Road Bridge Project; stating that every time there's a buffer zone for the Giant Garter Snake, it gets pushed aside. Ms. Humes suggested that maybe the project could begin in the summer time when the creek bed is dry. That way no one would be disturbing the habitat of the Giant Garter Snake.

Mr. Mayo stated with the Giant Garter Snakes, there are certain scopes that are unavoidable. Some projects cannot be done without alterations; however, there are projects that have linear allowance for the garter snakes. The projects with requests are left completely up to HTAC. There will be a need for mitigation for that specific area. The San Joaquin County Public Works Department project is spanning over a period of time starting in June and the time frame is already tight as is. If it were to be further delayed, that would give the Giant Garter Snake a window of May to October, which would be the only time that construction could occur.

It was moved /seconded (**Beckman/Morimoto**) to approve the Consent Calendar.

V. California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition

Mr. Mayo stated SJCOG, Inc. staff has been a part of the Northern California Conservation Planning Partnership which encompasses eight to nine counties with regional habitat conservation plans and natural communities' conservation plans ranging from Santa Clara County to Placer County. The goal of the Northern California Conservation Planning Partnership has been to address plan development issues as a region, habitat restorations and easements, also to complement each other's plans as well as work as a common goal for Northern California. Southern California has a similar group and what is noted here is that both groups have common goals and issues, the permitting process for the agencies and each of the plans have gone through the same thing.

Mr. Mayo continued to state the idea of the whole California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition is to meld the Northern and Southern to create a statewide group. The statewide group would have impacts to the state of California for funding, receive collaboration throughout the state and also take it to a Federal level that would serve as one voice in Washington, D.C. The California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition has asked all the groups involved to take this to action to their boards to see if this could be recommended to be a signatory on their resolution.

Mr. Gifford stated that Northern Ag plans are substantially different than the Southern California plans.

Mr. Mayo stated it was being a part of a larger group with a common goal.

It was moved/seconded (**Beckman/Morimoto**) to Approve Recommendation to SJCOG, Inc. Board for the Agency to Become a Signatory to the California Habitat Planning Coalition Resolution.

VI. Other Matters of Business

- a. Nakagawa Preserve Restoration Update
- b. Waldo Holt Conservancy – Armstrong Property

a.) Nakagawa Preserve Restoration Update

Mr. Mayo stated SJCOG, Inc. has secured two easements; it's a 288 acre parcel, east of the City of Lodi and along the Mokelumne River with the Nakagawa family. The preserve management plan was left out because restoration was the goal for the future. The family initially thought 10 years out to start restoration because they wanted to farm the lower portion of the property for 7-8 years. SJCOG, Inc. staff would then start the restoration on the property. The family has now expedited it process and wanted SJCOG, Inc. staff to restore it now; only as stated before, staff hasn't done a preserve management plan for the property. The issue is that staff has two easements which are held by SJCOG, the southern tip and the other is a USDA SJCOG easement that has to stay as agriculture, and is located in the northern part. Staff had taken an \$800 million grant to secure this so staff has an obligation to not infringe or impact that 288 acre easement. The land owner would like to put in a land separator to separate the land and the agricultural sections of the two easements; which is called a berm. The berm is rather large, about 12 feet wide and sloped a certain way as a protector, in case the river ever tops, their agricultural land is protected. The land owners wish to take the dirt from on site to build the berm between the two easements. This item will be brought back next month under the preserve management plan, then an addendum from Jones & Stokes and then it will move through HTAC and be sent to permitting directly for some additional comments that staff may not have thought about. Staff wants to let the land owner of the property decide what they want to do; right now, it's very preliminary.

Ms. McBride asked what the time limit was on the project.

Mr. Mayo stated the next 3 months, it's on the fast track so staff wanted to let HTAC know first and then staff was looking to bring this item back in May and move forward. If HTAC's and the SJCOG, Inc. Board's decision is to move forward and our legal counsel say's it's okay, then we can help the land owner on this.

b.) Waldo Holt Conservancy – Armstrong Property

Mr. Mayo stated Waldo Holt helped the MSCP into what it is today. Though, he passed away a few years ago, his friends wanted to preserve some land in memory of him. His friends have turned the information over to various groups and they brought forward an 8.5 acre property which sits on the Mokelumne River. Friends of Wald Holt Conservancy have asked SJCOG, Inc. to help and there is some interest there; an endowment for monitoring and managing. There wouldn't be mitigation, just endowment to help the conservancy out for what they would do.

Ms. Humes stated she met with Patricia Armstrong and had discussed the possibility to take over the property, but it's just too small. Ms. Armstrong tried selling it near the proposed Delta College Campus and a year later she wanted to donate it. It's a preserved conservancy and we're asking SJCOG, Inc. to manage it for a small fee. Our goal is to preserve the habitat, put in the plan for San Joaquin County and in the Habitat Plan. It's a

hard opportunity to turn down and the biologists say it looks good. On the back side of the flyer, displays the date of an upcoming fundraiser on the Calaveras River.

Mr. Mayo stated SJCOG, Inc. would monitor for species, crops, species surveys, 2 mile surveys and permit in annual report. The property would be an endowment to make sure the preserve is kept clean, with the minimal amount of responsibility for us and the property would not be using SJMSCP funds. SJCOG, Inc. staff will bring this item back in May or June to the HTAC.

This item was for discussion only, no action was taken.

VII. Summary and Adjournment

There being no further business to, the meeting was adjourned at am until May 13, 2009.