

**CARPINTERIA CREEK
WATERSHED COALITION**



CCWC meeting minutes
Nov. 16, 2006

Attendance:

Bob Hansen	Landowner
Matt McGoogan	NMFS
Natasha Lohmus	DFG
Andrea Adams Morden	Carp Nature Park/Bluffs
Nick Bobroff	City of Carpinteria
David Chang	Co. Ag. Commissioner
Suzanne Feldman	CEC
Vince Semonsen	City of Carp. Biologist
Mauricio Gomez	CEC

Announcements:

Bridge design workshop ongoing – Questa Engineering

Discussion Items:

1) City of Carp updates – Nick Bobroff

Nick gave the Coalition an update on the various projects that the City is involved with. MGomez had asked Nick to follow up on a couple of items regarding the creek including the sycamore tree which is slated to be chopped down at the 8th Street footbridge and the City's involvement in the IRWMP (Integrated Regional Water Management Plan). Nick reported that in deed the sycamore tree is to be removed as part of the 8th St. bridge project the City is going to do. Nick reported that the City is thinking about the IRWMP and is in the process of formulating some ideas for projects to be included in the effort. Other topics discussed included the creek park the City is working on and the Vista Trail extension project for early Spring. Nick also gave an update on a couple of private projects in the City which are going to include restoration activities, removing non-native vegetation from the creek banks.

2) Arundo donax update – David Chang

David gave a great presentation showing the progress of the Arundo removal from Carpinteria Creek. He showed pictures before and after from a few sites as well as showing the different techniques used by Channel Islands Restoration and the California Conservation Corps. Progress is going well, however, not all the sites will be treated this year by the team. This partly as a result of the issues with the Coastal Development Permit for the project which was confounded by the fish passage bridge projects which were part of the same permit.

Butterflies were avoided in this effort and as a result he had to jump from one parcel to another.

Next year he will finalize the section from 8th Street to the 101 Fwy.

We would like to schedule a site visit to a couple of sites with him next year so we can see the progress of the eradication.

3) Prop 84 DFG Idea to remove invasives from the creek – Natasha Lohmus

Natasha gave a presentation on how Prop 84 funds may be allocated to DFG for restoration projects. She was asked to submit a one page letter/proposal which would describe the project. The project would focus on removing other non-native invasive plants from the watershed. It is unclear whether or not this effort would focus on the riparian area or the entire watershed. Plants to be removed may include cape ivy, English ivy, castor bean, pampas grass, etc. MG will draft a one page write up and send it over to DChang for comments/review and then it will be sent to Natasha so she can send it to Sacramento. When this would go forward is not clear, but at least there would be an intent for a project. Estimates for this project are approximately \$250,000 to \$300,000 based on DChang's experience with working on the Arundo removal project.

4) Fish passage project updates – Mauricio Gomez

Moe gave an update on the fish passage projects. The projects have been placed on hold until next year as a result of the CDP for the projects not being approved by the Coastal Commission (CC). The CC did not like the inclusion of these projects (Bliss, Cate School and Raya) in the permitting mechanism of County Flood Control and as a result did not approve the CDP (This is the brief version of the story. For more information feel free to contact me.).

We will go forward with obtaining the CDP from the County and plan on the projects for next year.

5) CCWC website update – Mauricio Gomez/Suzanne Feldman

A major update of the Coalition website (www.carpinteriacreek.org) will take place over the next month. CEC has hired a new staff person, Suzanne, who will lead this effort. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact us.

6) Other updates:

i) MGomez announced that there will be another Steelhead Festival early next year, approximately in March.

ii) The Wetlands Recovery Project has announced the request for proposals for early next year of their Small Grant Program. Grants are under \$30,000. Information on this grant can be found at www.scwrp.org. I proposed an idea to remove the non-native iceplant from the mouth of the creek on the State Park. Natasha will contact State Parks to see if they are OK with this idea. If you have any other ideas please contact us and we can work on proposals early next year.

iii) MGomez gave an update on the upcoming changes within the Community Environmental Council. Quick background – CEC will no longer have multiple programs as part of the organization and will therefore no longer have a Watershed Restoration Program. MGomez and the Program are in the process of forming a new non-profit organization which would focus on restoration of natural areas. Grants will transfer from CEC to this new organization. For more information please contact M.Gomez.

Next meeting Jan 18 – There will be no December meeting as a result of the Holidays.

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