

AMERICAN BASIN COUNCIL of WATERSHEDS MEETING
Including
Dry Creek Watershed Council, Pleasant Gove/Curry Creek CRMP
Auburn Ravine/Coon Creek CRMP

March 5, 2008

PRESENT: Gregg Bates and David Baker, Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator and Dry Creek Conservancy (DCC); Jane Keillor, Placer County Resource Conservation District (RCD); Chris White, Balance Hydraulics; Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County; William Zisk, Roseville Resident; Barbara Washburn, OEHHA; Marilyn Jasper, Sierra Club/Clover Valley Foundation; Brian Keating, Placer County Flood Control Water Conservation District (PCFCWCD); David Burns, Foothill Association.

Self-Introductions/Agenda Revisions: Introductions were done; no changes to the agenda.

American Basin Council of Watersheds (Council) Meeting

1. PRESENTATION: Draft Final Report on Steelhead Creek Drinking Water Quality Study and Watershed Assessment: The assessment is now complete and hard copies are being sent to the State Board. The grant, initially awarded in November of 2002, was in place by November 2004. We asked for a one-year extension to incorporate a study of impervious cover into the project. Contained in the study are three separate reports. The study is to be posted on the Dry Creek Conservancy website at: <http://www.drycreekconservancy.org>. Gregg Bates reviewed the Executive Summary of each of the reports and provided some of the important highlights:

a) Water Quality Measurement- A 181 square mile study was conducted with the largest watershed in the study being the Dry Creek Watershed. The water flows at Discovery Park, upstream from the American River, were included. The study also looked at water downstream. An attempt was made to find the relationship between impervious cover and how it changed the water quality components.

There was a GIS piece to this as well as a satellite component to the study. This proved to be a very complicated study but a report produced showed the coefficients that could be used to project the effects of impervious cover in the watershed. Utilizing the coefficients could help in the regulation of water quality as it relates to development. The impervious cover investigation started out with Secret Ravine and other groups joined in the study.

b) Identifying Erosion Problems in the Dry Creek Watershed- The hydrology was done by placing equipment to gather stage data with the goal of developing a rating curve. At any stage, the amount of water going through the waterways can be calibrated. Two sensors, large and small, were placed on all creeks. David Baker added that the best data gathered on Secret Ravine and Miners Ravine was done in conjunction with Placer County Water Agency. (PCWA)

Gregg added that sensors were placed in the creeks the end of 2003 and since have been removed. Currently, no other funding is available to keep this project going.

Relating to this topic, Barbara Washburn said an important meeting would be held on March 7, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. at David Ford's office at 21st and J Streets in Sacramento. The topic will be hydrological changes in the watershed with discussion about available grants. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

c) Municipal Water Quality Investigations- In reviewing hydrology, water quality, organic carbon and chemicals in the chain, it was determined that seasonal changes contribute to variations and changes in the watershed. One conclusion made was that drinking water contaminants are higher in Steelhead Creek than in the Sacramento River. This means that Steelhead Creek is contributing to the level of contamination in the river. The wastewater treatment plant on the Sacramento River also contributes a

substantial load of toxicity. The Roseville Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant also has a definite influence on Dry Creek. The plan currently is to continue monitoring the water at the Department of Water Resources. (DWR) Please refer to the document for the recommendations of the Municipal Water Quality Investigations. (MWQI) Overall, this study provided a baseline and recommendations to continue water sampling, looking for stressors and flow patterns.

d) Conclusions: Three major factors impact the Dry Creek Watershed: water from PCWA operations moderates temperature and dilutes contaminants; stormwater has a flashy pattern resulting in erosion and turbidity; and effluent from the Roseville Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant contributes nutrients. There are many bacteria in our creeks. Although the levels will always be high in the storm season, there is concern they remain high in the dryer seasons. The pesticide levels other than pyrethroids, which weren't assessed, don't appear to be a problem.

Efforts to improve construction related sediment and erosion control seem to be working. David Baker added there are some areas in Placer County that are difficult to control due to natural conditions.

Barbara Washburn is currently developing a user's manual that can be used to estimate impervious cover. The manual will be available to on the OEHHA website.

A discussion followed about flood control and the condition of the watershed. Brian Keating cited some of the studies previously conducted by his organization. Barbara Washburn suggested that Tim Lawrence of the University of California at Davis, (UCD) may be able to come and speak to this group regarding stormwater retrofitting efforts in Southern California. Brian stated his organization focuses on the frequency of events associated with flood control and not on water quality. Everyone agreed the primary concern in the public and private sectors continues to be obtaining adequate funding to carry on important projects.

2. REPORTS:

a) Turbidity Issues Subcommittee- A meeting will be held on March 20, 2008 to discuss turbidity issues raised by OEHHA. Gregg voiced concern that meetings of stormwater managers that don't include other parties with an interest in stormwater may lead to a polarized reaction to the data. David Baker responded that a diverse group could have a discussion when participants come back and report to ABCW.

b) Creek Week/Earth Day- The DCC is one of the sponsors of this year's events with the Gold Country Media conducting the advertising and publishing the agenda of events. The celebration will include two weeks of events at various locations. The primary Earth Day celebration will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at Roseville's Mahany Regional Park where the Martha Riley Community Library and the Exploration Center are housed together in a green friendly environment.

c) Dry Creek Watershed Flood Control Plan Update- Brian Keating reported that study results of the \$400K project would be available in a few months. The study looks at any capital improvement project that could improve flood control. The RFP was sent out for comment. The primary purpose is to consider flood control and water conservation, especially in drought seasons.

d) Grant proposals-

- **DOC Watershed Coordinator Program-** There is no new information on either the Dry Creek or the Auburn Ravine/Coon Creek Coordinator grant; more information to follow in April.
- **CABY IRWMP Proposal-** Funding for the Cottonwood Dam Project has been reduced.
- **Auburn Ravine Fish Passage Improvement Project-** DCC is trying to assist Jack Sanchez of SARSAS in getting the salmon to return to the Auburn Ravine in Auburn. Jack, DCC, and Placer County planners recently met with Placer County supervisor Robert Weygandt about this issue.
- **Cottonwood Lake Dam Fish Passage and Riparian Habitat Improvement Project-** No new information.

- **Scilacci Farms Flood and Conservation Easement-** This is a project under Proposition 84 to retain farmland on Coon Creek. It will be conducted in two phases, and will provide 800-acre feet of water storage as a pilot for low cost flood control. It will supply a seasonal wetland and conservation activity. This is a \$2.8 million project requiring various matches. Ducks Unlimited is involved in this project. Some of this property may be annexed into Lincoln.

4. Grant Updates-

- a) The Steelhead Creek Drinking Water Quality Study is complete and can be taken off the agenda.
- b) In the interest of time there was no discussion of remaining grants on the agenda.

**Upcoming Events of Interest: April 19, 2008, Placer County Earth Day
April 19-26, 2008- Creek Week**

The next meeting will be on April 2, 2008 at the same location. Barbara Washburn will look into inviting a guest speaker for next month, Tim Lawrence with UCD. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.