



Land Use & Housing Committee

Item #09-8-7
Information

July 30, 2009

Six County Aquatic Resources Inventory Update

Issue: Update on funding and scoping meetings for Aquatic Resource Inventory.

Recommendation: None. This is for information only.

Discussion: On June 11th, 2009, Meg Gaffney-Smith, Chief of Regulatory for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mark Evans, USACE and David Olson, USACE, participated in a ½ day long interactive meeting at SACOG. Chair Budge and Director Cosgrove participated in the meeting along with SACOG staff and Stacey McKinley, consultant to SACOG. The agenda for the meeting was established to educate and inform the Headquarter-level leadership about the relationships which SACOG maintains with our federal, state and local partners, and to collaborate on where gaps exist and to craft a plan to build stronger collaboration where needed with the end goal being a Six County Aquatic Resources Inventory, which is as valid and valuable, as possible.

The federal agencies met the morning of the 11th and included leadership from the USACE, US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), USFWS and FHWA. USACE leadership was very interested in better understanding the basis of SACOG's relations with CalTrans and specifically how we share responsibilities relative to National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). The Corps was also interested in understanding the programmatic planning and mapping exercises currently under the guidance of our state partners. CalTrans was present to brief on all topics, and meetings were held the day prior with California Fish & Game, with staff of the Natural Resources Committee and with the State Water Quality Control Board. On the local level, the leadership of the Corps had the opportunity to be briefed by representatives from the Placer, South Sacramento and Yuba/Sutter habitat conservation plans in addition to the town of Loomis.

McKinley will brief the Committee on the proposed next steps, current discussions with the Corps on implementation of Blueprint and associated regulatory streamlining initiatives as well as broader NEPA streamlining opportunities, and a specific request from USACE Headquarters to set an October meeting to bring their federal partners to the table to discuss how the Inventory, Blueprint and NEPA Streamlining can and should be integrated.

Additionally, Michael Nepstead recently joined the District staff of the USACE as Deputy Regulatory Chief and will be responsible for leading the effort on the Inventory. McKinley will brief the committee on the current status of the Request for Proposals and Scope of Work.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

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Key staff: Rebecca Sloan, Director of External Affairs & Member Services, (916) 340-6224