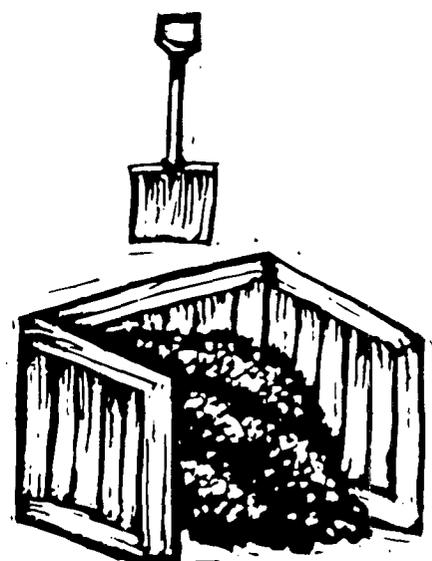


ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED



Issues to be Resolved

This Handbook has identified two significant issues relating to bank stabilization that need to be resolved through the Handbook amendment process. This section summarizes proposed amendments, which will be addressed by the Riparian Habitat Committee in the coming months.

Issue #1: Hard Point Language

Background: In April 1999, the Riparian Habitat Committee submitted suggested language to the Advisory Council regarding the Handbook's treatment of bank stabilization on page 1-5. This language was adopted by the Advisory Council. Subsequent discussions at Committee meetings revealed a level of discomfort with this language from agricultural and water user stakeholders. Throughout the summer of 1999, a "hard point" committee met to work on further revising this section. Stakeholders involved have agreed to use the upcoming amendment process to again take up this issue.

Proposed Modifications to Handbook Language: "There are places along the river where bank stabilization will be necessary to limit the meander to the inner river zone. This limitation will take into account the potential need to protect existing land uses including agriculture and ~~structures such as buildings, bridges, pumping plants, and flood management structures from bank erosion.~~ structural "hard points" such as buildings, bridges, pumping plants, flood control structures and levees from bank erosion. A structural "hard point" is defined as a structure or group of structures within the area of recent river meander, that because of various attributes, including but not limited to, historic location, public and private investment, and government commitment, is deemed necessary to be protected from river movement. It is the intent and goal to expedite the permit process for protection of these structural hard points as discussed on pages 9-7 through 9-9. When a need is identified, and other alternatives have been considered, the most effective, economically feasible, and least environmentally damaging techniques should be used."

Issue #2: Impacts of Bank Stabilization on Riparian Habitat

Background: At their September 9, 1999 meeting, the Riparian Habitat Committee

reviewed a letter from the California Central Valley Flood Control Association (Flood Control Association) that outlined concerns with Handbook language regarding bank stabilization. The Flood Control Association's letter voiced a concern shared by other stakeholders regarding the perception that bank stabilization has resulted in a loss of riparian habitat along the Sacramento River. The Association's letter contends that bank protection has likely contributed to both loss of habitat and preservation of habitat. Supporters of the existing Handbook discussion note that this language has been a part of SB 1086 documentation for the past ten years and question why this issue wasn't brought up earlier.

Proposed Modifications to Handbook Language: The Flood Control Association offered three suggested modifications:

1. Remove the phrase "While the construction of bank stabilization has resulted in a loss of riparian habitat along the Sacramento River" from the second paragraph involving bank stabilization.
2. Modify this same phrase to read "While the construction of bank stabilization ~~has~~ may have resulted in a loss of riparian habitat along the Sacramento River".
3. Remove the phrase "While the construction of bank stabilization has resulted in a loss of riparian habitat along the Sacramento River from the second paragraph involving bank stabilization. Replace with a new sentence to read: "Construction of bank stabiliza-tion may result both in loss of riparian habitat, and in protection of habitat which otherwise might have been lost. The ~~the~~ SB 1086 program considers bank stabilization an implementation tool that, when used carefully, can....."

Conclusion

The Handbook represents a "living document" that will be subject to change. The above issues will be the priority topics taken under consideration by the Riparian Habitat Committee through the initial amendment process. Once agreement is reached on these issues, the Committee can forward recommended alternative language to the Advisory Council.