

Projects, goals, suggestions, and areas of concern to discuss with Mr. Stein Buer (Cal-Fed) and support staff. All subjects are open to discussion, or only those you wish to "key" on.

These alternative suggestions and viewpoints are dedicated to the State of California, its contemporary population, as well as future generations. These suggestions and/or viewpoints are intended to support Cal-Fed and to restore water capability beyond its present capacity, in addition to being designed to avoid future pitfalls.

1. Subject: 480 acre parcel owned by the Department of Water Resources, New Hope road, west of Galt, California.
Purpose: to mitigate and restore original habitat, tidal flow marsh based on U.S.D.A. hydric soil study
Parcel 11 Plot Map 146-14

To establish value, an historical perspective will be used:

- A. Selective historical overlay of California wetlands
 1. 1530 A.D. Spaniards attempted to gain access to central valley by anchoring ships at Monterey Bay and crossing overland to the valley. What stopped their progress?
 2. Jedidiah Smith – explorer who came to California looking for a "river of gold" which to him was beaver. Smith traveled from Merced to Sacramento, skirting the length of the vast marsh, and "never left the shade of the oaks".
 3. "Mr. Crowbait" an old market hunter who lived under the Franklin bridge on the Cosumnes river for over thirty years. His story, as told to the author.
 4. Woodbridge road Sandhill Crane refuge. A perspective on lost habitat.
 5. James Beckworth, explorer with town named after him—his description of habitat circa 1850 compared to present—relates to watershed program.
 6. 300-400 acres of Black Willow forest and habitat (threatened species, priority #2) lost on Nature Conservancy property—how it became a cattail nightmare.
 7. C.V.P. project in local area—what it was like before and how it relates to current project.

- B. **Hardstem bulrush benefits (once outlawed by water district because of fear they would over-populate).**
 A quick view-for water quality, as presented on video tape.
 Present reluctance-historical residual of policy.
- C. **Project design concept- verbal discussion while on site.**
- D. **Potential and benefits of restoration**
1. **Floodout and flood control – levee protection downstream**
 2. **Groundwater recharge**
 3. **Improved water quality downstream**
 4. **Estuary impact-added benefits to Cosumnes river and estuary**
 - a. **Reduction of siltation**
 - b. **Cleaner water addressing:**
 - i. **Urban runoff (city of Galt)**
 - ii. **Storm drain runoff**
 - iii. **Agricultural runoff (primarily vineyards)**
 - iv. **Zooplankton-food source for smolt salmon, steelhead, and splittail**
 - v. **Refuge (concealment) for smolt salmon**
 - vi. **Permanent spawning access for splittail (no longer dependent on high water floodout conditions or seasonal access during drought conditions)**
 5. **Lending support to Nature Conservancy's projects, primarily the salmon-steelhead restoration program.**
 6. **Restoration of original habitat**
 7. **Use of project as a model for demonstration/education-a water filtration system designed for California.**
 8. **Relative low cost of project-based on renewable resources-self-regulating-little or no maintenance.**
 9. **Microbes-enzymes-key element of restoration-a new, exciting field of science to study and implement-handouts available at meeting.**
 10. **Area of concern:**
 - a. **Will this area, left unprotected, become another toxic waste dump?**

Problem solvers: High-tech solutions-Livermore lab and U.C. Berkeley
 Dr. John Todd-microbes-computer chip
 Wastewater-TVA mining projects
 11. **Pintail duck restoration project-captive breeding, brood ponding, monitoring of released waterfowl.**

12. Pintail project-continued-
To establish that a higher percentage of offspring can be produced per acre-feet of available water space utilizing tule habitat, compared to accepted policy models. Explanation of basis for tule marsh habitat.
13. University level research. U.C. Davis has some excellent personnel involved in microbe research.
14. Public participation/education. A view tower. Signage indicating that wildlife viewing and educational materials are available.
15. To prove, disprove or challenge:
Exceed existing waterfowl projects, reference, Chuck Williams, Executive Director, Elk Grove Sanitation Facility.
Exceed by higher percentage of species diversification
(Manual available at meeting)
16. All of the above is to lend value to an innovative water filtration system designed specifically for California and its present, ever-growing needs.

To prove, disprove, or challenge...the validity of project proposal regarding D.W.R. 480 acre parcel on New Hope road.

Parcel 11, Plot Map 146-14

The project presents a unique opportunity for Cal-Fed (its partners) to significantly and positively impact California's water quality through multi-use and multi-benefits from the North Delta to the San Francisco bay.

The project site is located near the juncture of the Mokelumne and Cosumnes rivers, one stream (Dry Creek) and two sloughs (Grizzly slough and Bear slough), and the badly-fractured estuary on the Cosumnes river (C.V.P.) It is important to note that historically, this area consisted of tule tidewater marsh prior to the impact of the C.V.P.

The parcel floods from four different directions—Dry Creek, Bear Slough, Grizzly Slough and the Cosumnes river. This parcel has always been floodplain. Late season rainstorms will flood the back half of the property without overflow from the Cosumnes river, creating resting and feed habitat for waterfowl. The parcel has long been part of a migration corridor for wildlife species on what is now the Cosumnes Preserve, as they migrate into the Mokelumne river and Dry Creek areas, animals such as deer, rabbits, foxes, coyotes, mink, river otter, and occasionally mountain lions.

An endangered species known to use this migration corridor is the San Joaquin kit fox. A strong probability exists that the Riparian brush rabbit uses this corridor, in that two presently-known populations are connected by this corridor.

Habitat description for the brush rabbit as described in the Cal-Fed manual, page 292, is an exact description of the 85 acre parcel adjacent to the 480 acre parcel being discussed.

Mitigation and restoration of the 480 acre parcel under discussion in this treatise is vitally important, in that it would open the doors for discussion regarding current accepted policy on restoration, protection, and management of our ecosystems, and in many ways challenge what is now an ineffective status quo.

The alternative to restoration and ecological management of the the 480 acre parcel under discussion is that it may become vineyard if the opportunity to prevent that slips away.

The ideal scenario, of course, would be the restoration and effective management of The 480 acre parcel, the 85 acre parcel adjacent to it (which I and my partner are negotiating the purchase of , and seeking acquisition funding for currently), and the 350 acre parcel directly to the east of the 85 acre parcel, which is currently dry pasture used for cattle grazing. The restoration and management of these three parcels, 900+ acres, would effectively offset downstream toxic migration of water, with all three parcels working together as a filtration system.

EDUCATION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cal-Fed rates this as a #1 priority. The 480 acre parcel, possibly along with the two additional parcels, could function in the following ways:

1. Public viewing from a non-intrusive position. A view of a fully-functioning tule marsh with the opportunity to view wildlife in a natural environment.
2. Additional support and area for the Crane Festival, which has been drawing larger numbers of people each year, in addition to increasing revenue.
3. Educational billboards to inform the public regarding the creation and purpose of the marsh as a vegetative filter to impact water quality in the Delta.

4. Research conducted by various qualified factions, such as U.C. Davis, to study the effects and impact of such a vegetative filtering system on the watershed and the Delta.
5. Provide additional support for the Woodbridge road Crane Preserve and T.N.C. educational area.
6. Involvement of local and regional school districts in educational programs is the cornerstone of our future. Fostering stewardship of the resource is the single, most important aspect of all that we are attempting to accomplish.