



## American River Basin Collaborative

A stakeholder group to develop, coordinate, and track projects and programs to improve water availability and ecological health of local watersheds; to reduce flood damage; and to support economic well-being of communities.

### Draft Meeting Notes - Thursday December 20, 2019, 1:30 to 4:00PM

Regional Water Authority

5620 Birdcage Street, Ste 180, Citrus Heights, CA

Phone Dial-in Number: 1-712-770-8090 Conference Code: 343623 No Participate Code

**Attending:** Christine Flowers – VFWC, Dalia Fadl – City of Rancho Cordova, Delyn Ellison-Lloyd – City of Roseville, Alta Tura – Sacramento Area Creeks Council, Etienne Ozorak - Sacramento Regional Solid Waste, Dirk Medema – Citrus Heights, Randy Smith, Gregg Bates – VFWC, Jamie Cameron-Harley, Roland Brady – Brady & Assoc., Rob Swartz – RWA, Mick Klasson – SAFCA.

**Phone:** Melinda Frost-Hurzel -Cosumnes Coalition, Marilyn Jasper – Sierra Club, Osha Meserve.

**Meeting objective:** Focus on regional collaboration to manage trash from homeless camping. Follow up on projects and ARBC stakeholder funding.

#### 1. Self-Introductions, interests, background

Alta gave an update on Creek Week. Theme – Water Colors Our World. Creek cleanup- April 13, Splash off April 4. Roland Brady – Creek Steward award.

#### 2. Review agenda –

After discussion of ARBC purpose statement, agreed to add “and programs” as seen above. Send calendar notice of meetings; post meeting documents and presentations at VFWC website.

3. Review previous meeting notes – agreed to request review of notes by email to meeting attendees and post revised version on VFWC website.

#### 4. Presentation – Managing Homeless Camps, Christine Flowers, VFWC

Christine provided info from the Illegal dumping Technical Advisory Committee (IDTAC) Conference. (More info at Cal Recycle webpage.) Illegal dumping is a pervasive problem in region and state. Volunteering for Point in Time survey helps in understanding the issue. Etienne introduced himself and described his program at Sacramento Regional Solid Waste Authority. The program is funded by an agreement with haulers that sends 10% of their revenue to Sacramento County who shares it with trash operatives such as parks departments, code enforcement, and law enforcement. There is no comprehensive strategy to coordinate community response to illegal dumping. Sacramento has a call number (311) for residents to report trash. The Metro Portland Dashboard is a good model for coordinating. Procedures for picking up trash are working but there is little coordination to assess the cost. Etienne’s budget is \$2-4mm and there is ability to raise rates. The community needs more information about the trash issue. Local departments need to develop relationships with each other.

Dirk observed that there is overlap of solid waste operations with the trash amendment such as homelessness and stormwater issues. IDTAC can encourage cleanup by waiving tipping fees at

the landfill. The City of Santa Rosa police target a specific homeless camp each week for cleanup.

## 5. Presentation – Managing trash on Steelhead Creek in Sacramento, CA, Roland Brady, Professor Emeritus, CSU Fresno

Roland has been working two years on Steelhead Creek which is an important local resource with dense riparian habitat. The creek drains rice fields so has a year round flow and important wildlife habitat. There is a need to cultivate a constituency to preserve flood protection and wildlife benefits. Homeless camping impacts include soil compaction, erosion, wildlife disturbance, hazardous waste, and debris. We need to balance concern for the homeless with concern for the environment. There is not a good way to dispose of waste from camping; trash on the banks goes into the creek. Roland has coordinated cleanups with American River Parkway Foundation. Some campers are concerned with the trash problem and can be enlisted to encourage other campers to dispose of waste properly. One cleanup hauled out 23,000 pounds of debris. Sixty to ninety percent of the creek substrate is covered by debris which is a barrier to burrowing and rooting wildlife.

It would be beneficial to align trash categories used to assess Steelhead Creek trash impacts with other protocols being adopted. Interested parties in this issue include ecologists, regulators, residents, and volunteers.

It was noted that if the debris in the water is toxic or resulted in toxins then a toxicity TMDL could be used to attack the problem.

There is precedent for employing homeless to do cleanups and paying them with gift cards for food. These could be people from a larger area than the Steelhead Creek area.

Camping outside the AR Parkway isn't illegal by Parkway regulations. RD 1000 has removed debris. No specific agency is responsible for trash removal upstream of El Camino. Some legal leverage might be Cal Penal Code #374, 404 permitting, CDFW regulations.

Questions – How much comes from upstream? What is the effect on salmon?

Based on Roland's surveys the Central Valley RWQCB coordinated a cleanup with RD 1000, and American River Flood Control District to remove about 60 tons of debris. That amounted to about 40% of the estimated amount.

Comment – It's important to note this isn't an anti-homeless campaign.

Comment – A Bakersfield program provides jobs cleaning debris to help homeless transition.

Suggestion – Designate the creek area as a nature area or preserve and post signs with information. Work with private landowners.

Possible parameters – from west El. Camino bridge to Silver Eagle, cleanup, prevention, and restoration.

Add to Supplemental Environmental Projects list at CVRWQCB. Engage Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency to provide mitigation opportunities. Engage USACE.

**Action** – Define a project that can be on the ARB IRWMP project list and apply for funding. Include restoration. Make it a topic at the LID conference.

## 6. Discussion – Managing trash from camping in natural areas of the Sacramento region.

See 4 and 5 above.

## 7. ARB SWRP – State Water Board request for quantified project benefits

No discussion.

## 8. Project update – project status, new projects

### a. Follow up on gravel pits as recharge areas

No discussion.

9. Funding update – opportunities to support the ARBC stakeholder process

Suggestion – Recruit a sponsor for each meeting. Calculate cost per meeting.

10. Announcements, correspondence, resources

11. Next meeting and future agenda items – Thursday March 21, 2019

Data Collection-How Can we Share/Collaborate?