



## 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.

### **Meeting Notes** - Thursday September 16, 2021, 1:30 to 4:00PM

Webinar URL: [www.gotomeet.me/BobHollis](https://www.gotomeet.me/BobHollis), phone +1 646-749-3112 (PIN: 705-840-021)

Notes in italics.

Meeting video and materials at

<https://www.valleyfoothill.org/american-river-basin-collaborative-arbc/>

**Attending:** (If you are not included below and would like to be on our mailing list, please send your name and email to [valleyfoothill@gmail.com](mailto:valleyfoothill@gmail.com).) Alta Tura - SACC; Dylan Wood – CDFW; Bob Hollis – Mobius Intelligent Systems; Amy Bailey, Kristine Atkinson – DWR Division of Regional Assistance; Lisa Moretti – City of Sacramento; Matt Ocko – City of Roseville; Brad Brewer, Katie Conkle – Placer Co FCD; Randy Smith – resident; Sherill Huun – Sacramento City Stormwater; Bill Templin – Arcade Creek Adopt a Creek; Adam Laputz, Rich Muhl – SWRCB; Jennifer Buchanan – GEI Consultants; Gregg McKenzie – Placer County Conservation Plan; Tonia Herrera – Nevada Irrigation District; Harry White – California Native Plant Society; Monica Garcia – Regional Water Authority; Gregg Bates – VFWC.

1. 5 Self-Introductions, interests, background. Who should be added?
2. 5 Review agenda - **Meeting objective:** info sharing, project updates, project development.
3. 5 Review June 17, 2021 meeting notes
4. 50 Presentations
  - **Hemphill Dam** - Tonia M. Tabucchi Herrera, Senior Engineer, Nevada Irrigation District. The Hemphill Diversion Structure, located in Auburn Ravine, diverts water during the irrigation season to NID customers via the Hemphill Canal. The structure is a barrier to migrating anadromous fish that spawn in Auburn Ravine as well as resident fish. NID has completed an environmental review and selected a roughen rock ramp fish passage to replace the existing structure. The new fish passage will allow access to approximately 6 miles of Auburn Ravine upstream of the structure while still providing irrigation water to NID customers.  
*Tonia has been with NID 16 years. The existing 8 foot high, 60-foot-wide flashboard dam has been repaired many times due to siltation and voids. The project will remove the existing dam, construct a 180 foot roughened rock channel, install a fish screen, modify the canal, and install bank stabilization. It's hoped that Placer County Conservation Plan permitting will cover the project. Construction is planned for 2022 depending on funding availability. The project page is at <https://nidwater.specialdistrict.org/hemphill-diversion-structure>. Presentation at <https://www.valleyfoothill.org/american-river-basin-collaborative-arbc/>*
  - **Placer County Conservation Program** - Gregg McKenzie, PCCP Administrator. The Placer County Conservation Program (PCCP) is a federal Habitat Conservation Plan and California Natural Community Conservation Plan adopted by the County, City of Lincoln, Placer County Water Agency, and South Placer Regional Transportation Authority in 2020. The Program also includes a County Aquatic Resources Program that provides overarching conservation and permit and mitigation requirements for waters, wetlands, streams, and rivers. The Program became fully operative with the approval of its state and federal

Incidental Take Permits on April 22, 2021, and received programmatic Section 401/404 permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board on May 18, 2021.

*The PCCP is implemented by a JPA. The PCCP is working to get implementing procedures in place throughout the member organizations. The PCCP covers listed species. A 47,000-acre conservation reserve is projected at the end of 50 years. The County Aquatic Resources Program (CARP), a part of the PCCP, includes priority projects such as Hemphill Dam, Coppin Dam, Cottonwood Dam, and Doty Ravine Diversion. Funding from development fees and grants will determine project progress. The CARP will trigger development fees and measures such as setbacks outside of the designated conservation areas of the PCCP. Fees will fund research such as monitoring by associated organizations such as William Jessup University, ECORP, and EDNA Technologies. It may be possible to work outside the PCCP area to accomplish PCCP goals.*

*Comment – Issues such as illegal campers throughout watersheds will affect the viability of projects in the PCCP.*

Presentation at <https://www.valleyfoothill.org/american-river-basin-collaborative-arbc/>

## 5. 20 Discussion- Opportunities for collaboration

- Dry Creek Spawning issues – Where have the salmon gone?
- Sharing drone imagery for multiple uses.  
<https://www.esri.com/about/newsroom/arcnews/improving-trash-monitoring-with-drone-imagery-artificial-intelligence-mapping/> .
- Continue consideration of an LID/Watershed conference.

*Several possibilities for collaboration are listed above but one missing is collaboration of the many groups listed on the agenda working on trash monitoring and cleanup. All activities listed are part of watershed management activities. Some are driven by community groups and some by agencies. Some are able to use citizen volunteers and others may not. **The ARB Stewardship and Citizen Science Project** is aimed at using citizens and college interns to assist local government in mapping trash for agency action as well as removing it. **City of Sacramento** is currently looking at grant funding from Caltrans as a source of support for community organizations working on trash management. One possibility might be a website that can help organize volunteer activities. Beautify San Jose is an example from another area. Some are concerned that picking up trash is not enough, since trash reappears in the same spots after they are cleaned up. **Bob Hollis of Moebius Intelligent systems** offered to develop a collaborative data website that could focus attention on trash management and other watershed issues such as fish migration. He suggested forming a small committee to define the purpose of the site and develop a process for entering data. **Creekweek.net** lists groups doing cleanups and resources, as well as how to work with agencies. Some info might be - project status, success stories, and studies available. It's suggested that fish should be the centerpiece of the website. Why have they disappeared from the Dry Creek Watershed the past two seasons? Other wildlife could be featured, as well as the benefits and pleasures of our urban watersheds. An invitation will be sent for the development meeting.*

6. 20 Update - Status of projects/grant proposals (Additional projects to include?):  
*No discussion. Information provided by project participants.*

## Trash Related Projects

- **Steelhead Creek bed and bank cleanup** - was temporarily suspended after 6 days because of earlier than usual rice field draining that created unwadable conditions. On the first clean-up day SRCC crews removed 7.5 tons from abandoned camps. The draft horse and

- boat clean-up of the creek bed at the Arden Garden Connector bridge removed 425 items weighing 7,300 pounds. Debris covers the substrate preventing organisms (fish food) from burrowing, as well as forming islands or peninsulas that reduce channel capacity and impede fish passage. The clean-up is expected to resume in mid October.
- **Arcade Creek Adopt A Creek Project** - Led by Bill Templin, there have been 27 creek cleanups since February. So far, 115 volunteers have worked 528 hours to remove 20,578 lbs. of mostly illegal campers' trash from Arcade Creek and its floodplains. A primary driver is to improve salmon and steelhead spawning habitats in Arcade Creek to offset losses of habitat above Folsom Dam.
  - **Steelhead Creek Multi agency clean-ups** - The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has worked with multiple local and state agencies for the past three years to remove trash from Steelhead Creek. Last year, due to COVID-19, the collaborative effort utilized heavy equipment to remove trash and debris. We started by passing out trash bags to the homeless campers to maximize our efforts. The trash bags were a success in some of the camps and a limited success in other camps. We had several campers who asked for additional trash bags. The trash bags and other trash and debris were picked up the first day by Reclamation District 1000, the second day by American River Flood Control and the third day by the City Parks Department. The City Park Rangers provided a high level of coordination and support. In the end, last year's effort picked up a total of 15,300 lbs. of trash and debris from the watershed. Over the past three years, the collaborative effort has picked up a total of 195,000 lbs. of trash and debris. We plan to conduct another clean-up effort in early October of this year.
  - **ARB Stewardship and Citizen Science Project** – Cecile Carson, Keep California Beautiful. ARB IRWMP/DWR, A VFWC/KCB project funded as part of the package developed by RWA for the IRWMP implementation funding. The project will demonstrate use of a phone app for mapping trash and other parameters. The team led by Keep California Beautiful has worked with multiple cities to identify locations for the research project and updated the KCB Environmental App through field-testing at multiple sites. The current plan for collecting data and cleanup of a minimum 1,200 foot road (6) and waterway (6) section within the American RiverBasin include the following sites with activities from September 17-October 10. Each site will have a combination of individuals involved including KCB Intern and Consultants along with local volunteers and university/college students and government staff as needed. If anyone would like to participate in the quarterly data collection events from Sept 2021-Sept 2022 at these sites or have other sites they would like to recommend, please let us know.
    - Roadside Survey (American River Watercourse) - Sacramento State University, Sacramento, CA - State University Dr & Bay Laurel Way
    - Creekside Survey (American River Watercourse) - Bushy Lake Preserve, Sacramento, CA - Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail
    - Creekside Survey (Secret Ravine Watercourse) - Secret Ravine Creek, Rocklin, CA - Sierra College Nature Trail
    - Roadside Survey (American River Watercourse) - Cordova Park Neighborhood, Rancho Cordova, CA - Croetto Way & Mills Park Dr.
    - Creekside Survey (Dry Creek Watercourse) - Royer Park, Roseville, CA - Miners Ravine Trail
    - Creekside Survey (Arcade Creek Watercourse) - Arcade Creek, Sacramento, CA - Auburn Blvd & Garfield Ave

- **Steelhead Creek Drone Survey** – DWR consulted with CDFW to review potential barriers (log jams, human obstruction, Riffle, beaver dam) in the video. Their conclusion, in part, is: [in review of the drone video,] “the ‘human obstructions’ (ARBC’s words) are large quantities of trash largely from unhoued encampments and potential water quality / flows. We hear Valley Foothill group’s concern that the trash may make migration more difficult (potential physical and water quality impediments) especially at low flow conditions during the migration periods. Also, the trash can mobilize with flow to downstream locations and there is more trash input over time. The trash we saw in the drone footage doesn’t appear to be complete barriers to fish passage... Our funding for field investigations is somewhat limited at this time, so gathering locational information of where we might do further investigations [of barriers] is helpful in planning out next possible steps.
- **Sacramento Area Creeks Council cleanup projects** – Alta Tura, President. From 6/17/21 notes - SACC organized a Sac County event for 30 years with as many as 2,000 volunteers per year. It was canceled due to Covid restrictions. Now they provide support for local groups to keep the cleanup network going. SACC provides protocols to group leaders. There are a number of groups including one on Arcade Creek, in Orangevale, and in Folsom. The City provides a guide for trash collecting. SACC posted safety protocols at creekweek.net.
- **Placer court ordered community service** – Paul Comiskey, Dry Creek Conservancy. We have been out every Saturday. The Roseville PD ousts homeless campers and we haul out wheel barrow loads of clothes, food containers, household items, furniture, bedding, drug paraphernalia and many other items. Other issues include graffiti, feral cats, and goats that ravage young willow trees near the creek. We are asking for more places to deposit dog poop. We are designing signs with birds, animals and fish to help people appreciate that the creek habitat has abundant wildlife that should be appreciated and enjoyed. I’m asking Public Defenders for more referrals. Our current volunteer is contacting various agencies that offer volunteer opportunities. I hope to get more leaders to expand the operation to other segments of the trail.
- **Lincoln Adopt-a-Creek** - Mona Bass – From 6/17/21 notes. About 15 volunteers walk AR in Lincoln every Wednesday morning for 2 hours. Distribute trash bags to homeless to be left in designated spots. Adopt-a-Creek (AaC) picks them up. Most campers are Lincoln residents who have come and gone at over two years at about 15 active sites. City provides bags, pickers, vests. City of Lincoln also provides carts and transports the trash picked up to the dump via a trailer that we load. The group collected 11 tons the first year and 24 the second.
- **Elk Grove Anti-Trash Community Cleanups** – From 6/17/21 notes - David and Khaliah, started picking up trash along the creek trail and posted about their effort at Next Door and Facebook. Others wanted to help, and the group receives help from City of Elk Grove to remove collected trash. Sharon and others provide support to help the group document efforts, post events, educate re proper disposal, share experience on social media, provide acknowledgement for volunteers, and memorialize efforts. Events last about one hour every Saturday. The organizers contact City homeless officers and scout the area. Trash pickup is arranged with city stormwater and parks departments.
- **City of Roseville Adopt a Creek** – contract development is in process for this season’s fall/spring cleanups organized by VFWC. The program was carried out in 2017, 2018, and 2019 with a year off during Covid.
- **Sacramento Picks It Up.** A loosely formed group that posts cleanup efforts and elevates opportunities to join others.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/163602908932101/?ref=share>

## Restoration Projects

- **Dry Creek stream restoration and streambank stabilization** – Matt Ocko, City of Roseville. All creek construction activities have been completed, equipment has been removed, and site access to the public has been restored. Restoration plantings are scheduled to begin in late October (weather dependent). There is a short drone video published on September 3<sup>rd</sup> located on the Roseville Utilities Facebook page, if you would like to see the progress or share the link. The project moved the channel away from a street, recontoured the bank, restores a natural riverine system, and provides fish habitat.
- **Morrison Creek DWR Urban Streams Restoration Program grant** – Esther Tracy grant manager. The Grant Agreement with the City of Sacramento was signed on August 10, 2021. The Grant is for \$697,000 that will be used to develop a plan to revitalize Morrison Creek by reshaping the creek channel, planting native vegetation, and improving pedestrian transportation options along 1.2 miles of Morrison Creek. The Project will restore the north side of George Sim Park by creating flood plain terraces and planting native vegetation. The Project will evaluate options to create an amphitheater at Elder Creek Elementary School, construct a shared use path on either side of Morrison Creek, assess crossing locations for future bridges, and evaluate trail connections throughout the corridor.
- **Cordova creek** - Erica Bishop, Water Forum Program Manager. No milestones to report on just yet. Stay tuned!
- **Hedgerow at Doyle Ranch** – Brian Pimentel, Placer RCD. This Placer County Parks project has received funding for plants from Xerces Society to augment existing pollinator habitat especially for monarch butterflies. On August 20<sup>th</sup> the Placer Parks Division with the help of a probation crew, laid down plastic to begin the solarization of the area for the Pollinator Hedgerow at Doyle Ranch Park. In late October when we will disc, amend, and add irrigation. Preirrigation will begin the first week of November with the expectation to plant the hedgerow during the second week of November
- **Cottonwood Dam Removal/Restoration Project on Miner's Ravine**. From 6/17/21 notes - Placer County, CDFW, Hidden Valley HOA, and local stakeholders. New grant funding opportunities and recent adoption and state/federal permitting of the Placer County Conservation Program have renewed the project.

## Other Projects

- **WASH:URC lower American River pilot** – ARB IRWMP, a pilot project to discover stakeholders' interests; provide water, sanitation, and hygiene services; and to provide connections to organizations providing a variety of services to homeless persons. Joanna Lessard at Yuba Water Agency is working with Be Encouraged (a 501c3) on the development and construction of a mobile sanitation unit that is expected to be in region in October timeframe. Be Encouraged will staff the unit. The unit and some of the staff time is covered under the DWR disadvantaged communities involvement grant program. We expect to reach out to stakeholders in the region soon to set up a meeting on how we might be able to coordinate efforts to make the best of this opportunity to benefit the unhoused population and the ecosystem.
- **Uncover sac** - <http://uncoversacramento.org/>. Free webinars on depaving projects. From 6/17/21 notes - the project received seed money from the City stormwater grant fund to encourage LID and decrease paving. The proposed project lays the foundation of a new nonprofit to promote and support removing excessively paved urban

areas for water quality, stormwater management and capture, habitat, climate mitigation and adaptation, and urban greening benefits in the Sacramento area.

7. 5 Announcements, correspondence, resources

- Valley Foothill Watersheds Collaborative and Dry Creek Conservancy (and many other nonprofits) have openings on the board of directors. See [www.valleyfoothill.org](http://www.valleyfoothill.org) or [www.dycreekconservancy.org](http://www.dycreekconservancy.org) for more information. Please contact Gregg at [dccgregg@gmail.com](mailto:dccgregg@gmail.com) if you would like to explore the VFWC or DCC boards further.

8. 5 upcoming events of interest –

9. 5 Next meeting –December 16 .

2022 meeting schedule proposed – Quarterly 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

March 17, June 16, September 15, December 15

Possible topics: spawning issues, Trash issues, Roseville Dry Creek stream restoration and streambank stabilization, drone collaboration opportunities, regional LID conference, Arcade Creek Adopt-Creek, Steelhead Creek cleanup, Friends of Auburn Ravine, Cordova Creek Project, Racoon Creek

*Estimated time 120 minutes*