

**Arcade Creek Watershed Group
Public Meeting
May 21, 2007, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Mira Loma High School, Music Building**

Meeting Summary

The City of Sacramento has received grant funding for Phase II Arcade Creek stream corridor environmental improvements (i.e., establish a watershed group, improve water quality, reduce flood damage, enhance habitat, and increase recreation opportunities). The Phase II effort is a continuation of the Phase I effort that began in 2002. To kick-off the Phase II effort, a reinvigorated Arcade Creek Watershed Group meeting was held on May 21, 2007, with the following agenda items:

- I. Welcome and Introduction
- II. Meeting Purpose
- III. State Water Resources Control Board/CALFED Grant to Support Arcade Creek
- IV. Del Paso Park Wetland Project
- V. Arcade Creek Corridor Management Plan
- VI. Community Involvement and Stewardship
- VII. Next Steps and Review of Action Items

This meeting summary is based on the above meeting agenda. Any related discussion items are listed after each agenda item

I. Welcome and Introduction

Arcade Creek Watershed Coordinator Danielle Wilson facilitated welcome and introductions (Wilson is employed by Jones & Stokes, the Sacramento-based natural resources management and environmental consulting firm that has been retained by the City of Sacramento to assist with implementation of the tasks as part of the Phase II efforts). Self-introductions by representatives of stakeholder agencies and organizations followed.

II. Meeting Purpose

Wilson presented the meeting purpose, reviewed the agenda and discussed other logistical items. The meeting purpose was to re-establish the Arcade Creek Watershed Group, present plans for Arcade Creek watershed restoration, and provide an update on the Del Paso Park Wetland Project.

III. State Water Resources Control Board Grant to Support Arcade Creek

Karen Leone, from Jones & Stokes, provided a quick summary of Phase I and Phase II efforts and how these efforts were being funded, with assistance from Patrick Sanger, City of Sacramento Arcade Creek Watershed Group liaison. Phase I efforts were funded through Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Water Resources

grants. Phase II efforts are being funded through a CALFED grant in conjunction with the State Water Resources Control Board. Phase I efforts included formation of the Arcade Creek Watershed Group in 2002; preparation of a feasibility study; and preparation of the Phase 1 Watershed management Plan. Phase II efforts include increased public participation and education in support of the Arcade Creek Watershed; efforts to expand the Phase 1 Watershed Management Plan; development of an Invasive Species Control Plan; and Construction of the Del Paso Park Wetland and Detention Basin.

Discussion Question

- Is this project fully funded and how long will it last?
 - Reply: Yes, it is fully funded and the grant funds are expected to fund the project for the next two years.

IV. Del Paso Park Wetland Project

Leone presented an update on the Del Paso Wetlands Project. The Project, which was initially proposed to the community at a public meeting in April 2003, and later discussed in more detail in September 2004, had been adjusted based on input from meeting participants. The revised plan includes: replacement of an upstream culvert; installation of a flow diversion structure; construction of a detention and filtration wetland; construction of a foot bridge; replacement of a downstream culvert; construction of a wetland overlook, an interpretive exhibit, and graded knoll; construction of ADA-compliant parking spaces and trails; and installing a native cover crop and plantings.

Discussion Questions

- Is this area wet all year?
 - Reply: No, the wetland will be a seasonal wetland that is generally wet during the rainy season and dry during the summer.
- What is the difference between a diversion basin and a wetland?
 - Reply: The diversion basin has been designed to provide water quality and flood reduction benefits during storm events and provide wildlife habitat year-round, during both wet and dry periods.
- Could video cameras be effective to discourage miscreants? What about the safety of children?
 - Reply: Maybe a police department representative could be invited to a future watershed group meeting to discuss effective ways to discourage miscreants. This will be included as an action item.
- Will restroom facilities be available?
 - Reply: There are currently restroom facilities located at the baseball diamond at Del Paso Park but these are only open during baseball games. There are also restroom facilities located at the Children's Discovery Museum, located further down on Auburn Boulevard.

- How will upstream areas be impacted? (Past projects, such as the Arcade Creek Business Park, built in the late 1980's/early 1990's, caused upstream flooding because of construction impacts and run-off from the parking lot.)
 - Reply: There will be no effect; the environmental permitting will look at all impacts as a result of developing the wetlands.

- Who is the contact for erosion upstream of the Del Paso Park Wetland project area?
 - Reply: The entire length of Arcade Creek will be walked by Jones & Stokes field crews to identify these problem areas, among other data that will be collected, and this information will be presented at the next watershed group meeting; Danielle Wilson, the Arcade Creek Watershed Coordinator can also be contacted at dwilson@jsanet.com.

- Could the open area around the Del Paso Park Wetland be used to store excess water from Arcade Creek during storm events to prevent flooding?
 - Reply: No, the open area is not big enough to have any substantial effect on floodwaters from Arcade Creek.

- How will native oaks be protected?
 - Reply:
 - As required by the City of Sacramento Native Oak Tree Ordinance, times the number of oak trees impacted will be planted (currently three oak trees are expected to be impacted).
 - Preserved oaks and other native trees will be fenced off at their drip line prior to the start of construction activities.

- Will new trails be added next to existing trails?
 - Reply: No; however some existing trails will be improved.

- What will be impacts on local groundwater wells upstream of the wetland with respect to contaminants?
 - Reply: The groundwater gradient flows to Arcade Creek. The wetland plants and soils will filter water that will be diverted into the wetland and if any water percolates beyond the clay substrate will most likely flow toward Arcade Creek.

- Is there a possibility of finding Native American sites?
 - Reply: Some Native American sites have been found in the vicinity but it is doubtful they will be found at the wetland site. If sites are encountered, the CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration report described a process for handling this situation.

- What does the CALFED grant funding cover?
 - Reply: Design and construction; the City of Sacramento will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the wetland.
- How closely will the City of Sacramento maintain the Wetland?
 - Reply: The City of Sacramento, Department of Utilities, Field Services will maintain the wetland.
- What will be done about the traffic speed near the proposed ADA parking spaces?
 - Reply: The ADA parking spaces will be setback from the Auburn Boulevard using a pull-in style parking space.

V. Arcade Creek Corridor Management Plan

Leone presented an update on upcoming fieldwork by a Jones & Stokes biologist and a geomorphologist, the development of an Existing Conditions Assessment Report, and the development of a Stream Corridor Plan. Persons who own homes or property adjacent to the Watershed were invited to participate in the fieldwork. Science program students from Mira Loma High School were invited to join the fieldwork in an effort to enhance the Arcade Creek Watershed Program studies offered through the school.

Discussion Question

- What can be done about the condition of native oak trees on private property backing up to the creek (e.g., brittle limbs)?
 - Reply: Homeowners should consult with a certified arborist to prune trees appropriately.

VI. Community Involvement and Stewardship

Wilson led an open discussion on what efforts the meeting participants thought worked-well/did not work well during Phase I public outreach efforts. Meeting participants were happy to see the Watershed Group re-started and brainstormed on possible future meeting agendas (see item VII below).

VII. Next Steps and Review of Action Items

Watershed Group Future Meeting Schedule. Wilson and meeting participants discussed a future meeting schedule, including: quarterly meetings (this would provide community members and elected officials enough lead time to get the meeting on their schedules); deliverable-driven meetings; or bimonthly meetings (i.e., held every other month). The group agreed that, at a minimum, the next meeting should coincide with the results of the fieldwork occurring in the summer in support of the corridor management plan. During this fieldwork, existing creek and floodplain conditions would be identified, invasive vegetation would be mapped, and restoration opportunities would be identified. Leone indicated that there would be much for the group to discuss regarding this information and that input timing would be important as restoration efforts

moved forward. Since this information will be ready for presentation in September, the next Arcade Creek Watershed Group meeting will be scheduled in September as well.

Watershed Group Future Agenda Items. Based on input from the Watershed Group during the meeting, upcoming agenda items or invited guests may include:

- Review plant and animal species found in the watershed.
- Discuss community actions that contribute to watershed impacts.
- Invite Mira Loma High School students to present their work in the watershed.
- Invite public agencies that provide services within and in the vicinity of the watershed (e.g., mosquito abatement district, fire department, police department, and other public service providers) to discuss ways to improve delivery of those services.
- Invite PG&E to discuss impacts to lands adjacent to the watershed and what efforts they are making to support watershed conservation efforts.
- Schedule field tours, especially of projects similar to the Del Paso Park Wetland.

Review of Action Items. Wilson reviewed action items and asked responsible parties to respond them prior to the next watershed group meeting (tentative date for next meeting is September 2007).

- Send a copy of the CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration report sections regarding mosquito issues to John Mayfield and Gregg Kassis. Responsible party: Leone.
- Send meeting notes to attendees and post on project website. Responsible party: Wilson.
- Follow-up on suggestion to encourage the involvement of local boards and agencies to participate in the Arcade Creek Watershed Group. Responsible party: Wilson.
- Provide similar example projects to Del Paso Park Wetland that stakeholders could visit. Some examples were provided at the meeting: Auburn Boulevard near Costco in Sacramento; Miners Ravine downstream of Sierra College in Roseville; and the Bufferlands near Woodland/Davis. Responsible party: Leone.
- Identify contact for placement of wood chips along trail edges to encourage native plants and discourage invasive species. Responsible party: Wilson.
- E-mail homeowner's association website/contact info to Wilson. Responsible party: All meeting participants.
- E-mail additional mailing list contacts to Wilson. Responsible party: All meeting participants.

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Meeting Attendee

Barbara Arbour
Brian Dunn
Edward Dunn
Mark Elliott
Gail Hughes
Judy Hughes
Paula Johnson
Gregg Kassis
Karen Leone
John Mayfield
TJ Newman
Jenna O'Neill
Patrick Sanger
Cindy Suchanek
Paul Townsend
Frank Wallace
Danielle Wilson

Affiliation

Resident
Resident
Resident
City of Sacramento, Utilities Department
Resident
Resident
not stated
not stated
Jones & Stokes
Resident
Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District
Jones & Stokes
City of Sacramento, Utilities Department
Mira Loma High School
California Native Plant Society
California Native Plant Society, Weed Warriors
Jones & Stokes