

**Arcade Creek Watershed Group
Public Meeting
August 16, 2007, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Discovery Museum, Planetarium Room**

Meeting Summary

The Arcade Creek Watershed Group met on August 16, 2007, to discuss the following agenda items:

- I. Welcome and Introduction
- II. Meeting Purpose
- III. City of Sacramento Disc Golf Course
- IV. Del Paso Park Wetland Project: Construction Update
- V. Del Paso Park Wetland Project: Public Health Concerns Related to Mosquitoes
- VI. Arcade Creek Corridor Management Plan
- VI. Sacramento Weed Warriors: Arundo Eradication Efforts Update
- 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 watershed group members and representatives of stakeholder agencies and organizations followed.

II. Meeting Purpose, Review of Agenda, and Review of May 21, 2007 Watershed Group Meeting Action Items

Wilson presented the meeting purpose and reviewed the agenda. The meeting purpose was to maintain the Arcade Creek Watershed Group forum; describe the disc golf course planned for Del Paso Park; provide a construction update and address concerns about public health and mosquitoes as related to the Del Paso Park Wetland Project; present results from recent field work for the Arcade Creek Corridor Management Plan, including restoration opportunities, and get feedback on prioritizing the opportunities; and provide an update on Arundo (giant reed) eradication efforts on Arcade Creek.

Wilson also provided an update on the action items from the May 21, 2007, watershed group meeting:

- 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. COMPLETED.
- Send meeting notes to attendees and post on project website. Responsible party: Wilson. COMPLETED.
- Follow-up on suggestion to encourage the involvement of local boards and agencies to participate in the Arcade Creek Watershed Group. Responsible party: Wilson. ONGOING
- 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. COMPLETED.
- Identify contact for placement of wood chips along trail edges to encourage native plants and discourage invasive species. Responsible party: Sanger. ONGOING – Sanger is speaking to City Parks and Recreation about the possibility of using donated wood chips from a watershed group member’s tree maintenance company in City parks.
- E-mail homeowner’s association website/contact info to Wilson. Responsible party: All meeting participants. ONGOING.
- E-mail additional mailing list contacts to Wilson. Responsible party: All meeting participants. ONGOING.

III. City of Sacramento Disc Golf Course

Roy Tatman, with the City of Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation, presented the City’s plans to install a disc golf course adjacent to the Del Paso Park Wetland Project in Del Paso Park. Tatman presented a map of the course location and proposed layout, as well as various photos depicting typical disc golf courses and types of equipment used for this sport. Tatman shared with the group that the City held a public meeting in May 2007 to present the plans for the course and concerns raised by Sacramento Police Department, Horseman’s Association, and others have been addressed with the final design. The Sacramento City Council voted to amend the Master Park Plan to allow the course to be installed. Equestrians and pedestrians will have the right of way during shared use of the course and surrounding trails. Disc golf participants are generally self-policing. Tatman indicated that participants provide their own discs and there is no safety concern in terms of discs hitting participants or persons in the area. He stated that this a free, non-revenue producing activity, and that installation of these courses tends to provide a positive influence in the areas where they are built and cited a course in Orangevale.

Discussion Questions

- Will the adjacent parking lot be locked and unlocked during the hours of use and non-use?
 - Reply: Yes, the parking lot will be unlocked during daylight hours and locked at dusk to discourage inappropriate uses of the area. In addition, the City's Department of Parks and Recreation Safety Department will be patrolling the area more frequently.

- Who will be installing the course?
 - Reply: The course and supporting equipment will be installed by volunteers and City of Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation employees.

- Will trees be trimmed or removed for purposes of developing the course?
 - Reply: Yes, a couple of smaller trees have been identified to be removed by the City's arborist. Some larger, mature trees may need to be trimmed slightly, but will not be removed. Disc golf courses use trees to add to the challenge of the course.

- Will the City keep the area mowed?
 - Reply: The area will be mowed in the same fashion and on the same schedule as it is now. Disc golf participants enjoy and promote a more open space look and feel; the longer grass is appropriate for this sport.

- Can the City consider installing a dog park at Del Paso Park?
 - Reply: A dog park is not currently part of the disc golf course or plans for the park, but the City is willing to consider as a future use.

IV. Del Paso Park Wetland Construction Update

Mark Elliott, with the City of Sacramento Utilities Department, presented an update on the construction of the Del Paso Park Wetland 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, includes: replacement of an upstream culvert near Auburn Boulevard; installation of a flow diversion structure in Norris Tributary; construction of an off-channel detention and filtration wetland; construction of a wetland overlook, an interpretive exhibit, and graded knoll near the constructed wetland; construction of a foot bridge over the wetland outlet; replacement of downstream culverts at the end of Norris Tributary and construction of a raised trail over the culverts; construction of ADA-compliant parking spaces and trails; and installing a native cover crop and plantings. Elliott stated that construction began this month and was proceeding on schedule. The wetland basin is about 75% excavated. After the wetland is completely excavated, work will begin on the downstream culverts and raised trail.

Discussion Questions

- Do water trucks have special permits to use the new Bridge Road Bridge? The bridge is rated for vehicles that do not exceed five tons.

- Reply: No, given the weight restrictions of the bridge, the water trucks should not be using this route. Elliott indicated he would investigate this further and make sure it would be addressed.
- Is the wetland 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.
- Will new trails be installed in the area?
 - Reply: The public will be using existing unimproved trails, except for a section of an existing trail along Auburn Boulevard that will be improved to connect the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) required parking spaces on Auburn Boulevard to the wetland overlook. This improvement is necessary to comply with the ADA.
- 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.
- 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. This project is intended to improve water quality. Regular testing of the water will be conducted by the City.
- Will the City conduct sediment testing?
 - Reply: The City does not currently have plans to conduct sediment testing, but will certainly consider it.
- How closely will the City of Sacramento maintain the wetland?
 - Reply: The City of Sacramento, Department of Utilities, Field Services will maintain the wetland according to the Operations and Maintenance Manual prepared for the project.

V. Del Paso Park Wetland Project: Public Health Concerns Related to Mosquitoes

Joel Buettner, with the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (District), presented information on the recent spraying of mosquitoes in the Arcade Creek Watershed. The spraying was necessary because mosquito sources were coming up positive for West Nile virus. Buettner indicated that as of the date of the meeting, there were 621 identified mosquito sources in the watershed. As of July 5, 2007, through the date of the meeting, 14 of these sources were coming up positive for West Nile virus. The Arcade Creek Watershed is one of the hottest spots for the virus in the

Sacramento-Yolo region. Buettner stated that educating people in the community is the key to addressing the issue. Buettner also indicated the District's full support of the Del Paso Park Wetland Project. The Del Paso Park Wetland Project was developed in coordination with the District and the design and operation of the wetland has flexibility built-in so that adjustments can be made in the operation of the wetland to best address mosquitoes, invasive species, and other challenges a facility like this may need to address (water can be prevented from entering the wetland and water can be pumped out of the wetland). Buettner lastly reminded people to focus on the Seven D's:

- **DRAIN** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes.
- **DAWN** and **DUSK** are times to avoid. These are the times when mosquitoes are most active.
- **DRESS** appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors.
- **DEFEND** yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.
- **DOOR** and window screens should be in good working condition.
- **DISTRICT** personnel are available to address any mosquito problem you may be experiencing by calling **1-800-429-1022** or visit us online at **FIGHTtheBITE.net**.

Discussion Question

- Is your agency able to take enforcement measures against those most egregious offenders?
 - Reply: Yes. We are able to go onto private property and address the sources that are left unattended.
- How effective was the recent spraying?
 - Reply: That is hard to quantify. The agency believes that spraying is a key component to supporting all of the efforts to address the spread of the virus.
- Are mosquito fish native or non-native fish?
 - Reply: Mosquito fish are non-native fish to the Arcade Creek Watershed. They are quite effective in controlling the mosquito population in the watershed.
- Does your agency plan to spray again this season?
 - Reply: We currently have no plans to spray again this season, but are not ruling it out as it may be necessary should conditions change. Check the District's website for updates and notices regarding spraying locations.
- Does your agency want to be informed about dead birds?
 - Reply: Yes. Any findings of dead birds, standing water, or large populations of mosquitoes are helpful and most welcome.
- What is the most recommended form of repellent to use?
 - Reply: Application of a product that contains at least 20% to 25% Deet is the most widely recommended repellent to use to deter mosquitoes. Other products include Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.

VI. Arcade Creek Corridor Management Plan

Jeff Peters, a geomorphologist with Jones & Stokes, presented information on the recent fieldwork conducted by Jones & Stokes in preparation of an Arcade Creek Existing Conditions Assessment Report/ Corridor Plan. Persons who own homes or property adjacent to the watershed were invited to participate in the fieldwork along Arcade and Cripple creeks. Science program students from Mira Loma High School were invited and able to join the fieldwork in an effort to enhance the Arcade Creek Watershed Program studies offered through the school. Peters summarized the existing geomorphic, vegetative, and aquatic conditions for the entire lengths of the Arcade and Cripple Creek corridors. Peters also presented information on the restoration opportunities in the Arcade Creek corridor. The six primary categories of restoration activities and examples Peters presented included:

- Removal of invasive vegetation and revegetate with native species;
- Removal of trash/debris/old structures in channel;
- Stabilization of stream banks (removal or restoration of hardscaped areas on stream banks, replacement of pipe outfalls in poor condition);
- Control of runoff from parking lots and other paved areas;
- Restoration of recreational trails; and
- Other restoration opportunities (e.g., channel widening).

Following the presentation, Peters walked the Group around the room to review the field maps and photographs that depicted existing conditions and restoration opportunities within Arcade Creek. The Group was encouraged to comment on the maps and photographs and was also asked to share their prioritization of restoration efforts in the Watershed either verbally, by comment card, or by e-mail. All maps and photographs displayed around the room during the meeting are scheduled to be posted on the Arcade Creek Watershed website at www.arcadecreek.org. Meeting participants will be notified once the materials are available on the website.

VII. Sacramento Weed Warriors Arundo Eradication Project in Arcade Creek Watershed

Frank Wallace of the Sacramento Weed Warriors presented information on his organization's efforts to eradicate Arundo from the Arcade Creek Watershed. He and two interns and several volunteer groups have worked throughout the summer to remove large clusters of Arundo along Arcade Creek. Wallace stated that such challenges as removal of the debris, availability of debris containers, contaminated or unsafe sites, and coordination between the local jurisdictions have presented challenges along the way. Additional support in terms of donation of services by public and private agencies, as well as monetary support would go far in addressing these issues. The Group was very appreciative of Wallace's efforts and all of the volunteer hours he has personally contributed to the health of the Arcade Creek Watershed.

VIII. Next Steps and Review of Action Items

Watershed Group Future Meeting Schedule. Wilson and Group confirmed future watershed group meetings would be scheduled around deliverables and agreed the next meeting would be held in October 2007 to discuss the Arcade Creek Existing Conditions Assessment Report/ Corridor Plan, including restoration prioritization.

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

- Arden Arcade Watershed – needs help and wants to start a watershed group (A. Kohl). Responsible party: Sanger will forward request to appropriate County of Sacramento Dept of Water Resources staff.
- Mowing 30-foot setback along Auburn Boulevard was done in previous years but not this year. Responsible party: Tatman.
- Explore adding a dog park to Del Paso Park. Responsible party: Tatman.
- Important to lock parking lot at dusk to discourage illicit activities – check to see who will be ensuring this happens. Responsible party: Tatman.
- Soil sampling in the Del Paso Park Wetland. Responsible party: Sanger/Elliott.
- Check on use of Bridge Road Bridge by water trucks and other construction vehicles weighing in excess of five tons. Responsible party: Elliott.

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Meeting Attendee

Joel Buettner
Patrick Cochran
Susan Douglas
Mark Elliott
Buma Johnson
James Fulton
Neva Fulton
Greg Kassis
Ann Kohl
Kandance Knudson
Karen Leone
John and Debbie Mayfield
Christopher Pavia
Member

Affiliation

Sac/Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District
Homeowner
The Discovery Museum
City of Sacramento, Department of Utilities
Homeowner
Homeowner
Homeowner
Resident
Arden/Arcade Resident
Local Resident
Jones & Stokes
Homeowner
Mira Loma International Baccalaurate Creek Project

Marietta Pellicano
Jeff Peters
Cindy Pridemore
Dixie Robinson
Greg Saba
Patrick Sanger
Cindy Suchanek
Roy Tatman
Kristin Teddy
Stan Vendlinski
Frank Wallace
Lori Webber
Danielle Wilson

Homeowner
Jones & Stokes
Homeowner
Homeowner
Laguna Creek Watershed Council
City of Sacramento, Department of Utilities
Mira Loma High School
City of Sacramento, Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Jones & Stokes
Homeowner
Sacramento Weed Warriors/ Ca Native Plant Society
State Water Resources Control Board
Jones & Stokes