



L O W E R P U T A H C R E E K C O O R D I N A T I N G C O M M I T T E E

TO: Interested Persons
FROM: Max Stevenson, Streamkeeper
DATE: November 13, 2025, 3:00-4:30 PM

SUBJECT: Agenda for November 13, 2025, Meeting of the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating in-person at 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203, Vacaville, California 95688 from 3:00 to 4:30 PM.

#	time	Item
1	3:00	Approval of the Current Agenda: Members can remove items, add items subject to Brown Act Emergency Rules, or suggest future agenda items.
2	3:05	Approval of Minutes: Review Minutes from September 11, 2025
3	3:10	Public Comment: The public may comment on matters pertaining to Putah Creek.
4	3:15	Pattern Calendar (both Oct and Nov): a) Ops Budget b) Grant/Project Budgets c) Annual Accord report to court d) Interagency Communication Updates
5	3:20	2025 Salmon Run Update
6	3:50	Review and Approval of Homeless Issues Letter from LPCCC
7	4:15	Streamkeeper Report: review of activities on Putah Creek
8	4:25	Member Reports: LPCCC members will have an opportunity to report.
9	4:30	Next Meeting: January 8, 2026

This meeting is in-person.

There is an option for public participation by zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/3022736169?pwd=SIBZMlRxMFVjWUN5QTE5TjJSYlZPZz09>

Meeting ID: 302 273 6169

Passcode: JbDB0b

+16699009128,,3022736169#,,,,*810751# US (San Jose)

+16694449171,,3022736169#,,,,*810751# US

Meeting ID: 302 273 6169

Passcode: 810751

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acKkEoqpy2>

810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203, Vacaville, California 95688 ♦ Phone: (707)451-6090 ♦ Fax: (707) 451-6099
<https://www.scwa2.com/lower-putah-creek-coordinating-committee/>

*The Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee consists of:
Cities of Davis, Fairfield, Suisun City, Vacaville, Vallejo and Winters; Counties of Solano and Yolo;
Solano and Yolo Riparian Landowners; Maine Prairie Water District; Solano County Water Agency;
Solano Irrigation District; Putah Creek Council and University of California, Davis*

Sept 11, 2025, LPCCC Meeting Minutes.

Meeting in-person at 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Vacaville, CA 95688 (zoom available for public)

Attendees:

Michael Hether, Justen Cole, John Hasbrook, JD Kluge, Chris Lee, Patrick Huber, Carol Scianna, Tara Thronson, Alex Rabidoux

Staff and Public: Max Stevenson, Tim Salamunovich, Gavin Poore, Sayetsi, Rich Marovich

Convened at: 3:07 PM

Quorum: Yes

Hether acted as chair, until Cole arrived at around 4 pm.

1. Approval of the Current Agenda: Move to adopt the agenda: Huber Second: Hasbrook. The agenda was adopted unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes of July 10, 2025 Meeting: Move to adopt the minutes: Scianna. Second: Huber. Minutes were adopted unanimously. Minor edits from Scianna and Thronson.

3. Public Comment: There were no public comments.

4. Planning Subcommittee Update:

Three past LPCCC Meetings focusing on homeless issues.

May 8 – UCD/SJSU Urban Stream Homeless Camp Survey

June 12 – City of Winters staff, Don Sanders

July 10 -Health and Human Services -Marisa Green, Yolo County and Water Quality Impacts

LPCCC Planning Subcommittee will meet again and bring considerations of possible committee actions to the full LPCCC next meeting. The Committee will not be able to end homelessness, but needs to decide what actions to implement to better protect and manage Putah Creek.

Thronson noted that Yolo County budget has a structural deficit and that funding will be more challenging to come by for Putah Creek homeless issues.

Huber noted that better communication between agencies would help. There is an existing 2x2 between Yolo County and City of Winters. There is not a 2x2 for Yolo / Solano?

Hasbrook asked about water quality testing in Putah Creek. There is no regular program of water quality testing for contact recreation in Putah Creek. Huber and Chris Lee suggested reaching out the American River Parkway beach monitoring program. Hasbrook added he could reach out to Butte Creek agencies to ask about water quality testing.

5. Pattern Calendar

a) Grant/Project Budgets were briefly reviewed:

CURRENT GRANT PROJECTS	GRANT AMT
LRCD FISH PASGE	\$ 825,000
NISHIKAWA	\$ 750,000
IDR Planning	\$ 297,712

b) Annual Accord Report to the Court

Streamkeeper will bring a draft report to the Committee in December.

c) Fall Attraction Flow Timing

Data from Mokelumne River show that the Chinook salmon run begins in early October. A fish ladder would solve the timing issue (later for ducks, earlier for salmon). A new fish ladder design is in the works for 2026. There will be no fish ladder for 2025. Kluge asked about aquatic vegetation removal below the Los Rios Check Dam. Permitting has not allowed removal of the vegetation yet this year. Huber offered to help communicate permit concerns to the State. Reid asked about Big Notch flows competing with the attraction of pulse flows from Putah Creek. Stevenson answered that up to 1,000 cfs could be flowing in the Toe Drain starting Nov 1, versus 50 cfs in Putah Creek. Due to water conditions extra flow in the Toe Drain this Nov is unlikely.

d) Interagency Communications Update

Stevenson would like CDFW to be a part of the 25th Anniversary celebration.

e) Grant Applications Update

SCWA submitted a planning grant for \$1.21 million for a planning grant to address fish passage at County Rd 106a. This project is not part of the Water Agency's obligations for restoration under the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes program.

f) Fish Monitoring Updates (non-salmon)

Species diversity monitoring has been done regularly on Putah Creek by Tim Salamunovich since 1991. Kluge asked is the invasives when caught could be destroyed. Salamunovich stated the practice is to return all fish to the Creek after measurement. Salamunovich is reaching out more to other monitoring programs to try and share his institutional knowledge.

6. Streamkeeper Report

The Activity Log on Putah Creek was reviewed.

Streamkeeper Activity Log (Highlights, not comprehensive)

- a) Gravel Scarification
- b) Gravel Augmentation
- c) HEC-RAS Habitat Modeling
- d) 106a Fish Culvert
- e) Salmon Counting Weir
- f) Los Rios Check Dam removal timing
- g) No Fish Ladder this year
- h) Pulse Flow Timing
- i) Aquatic Weed management
- j) Low Dissolved Oxygen in the Toe Drain
- k) Fall Operation of the Big Notch (Fremont Weir)

l) HRL Putah Tributary Science Plan

m) Monitoring Data Management Plan (UCD contract)

7. Member Reports:

Scianna met with CDFW for mobile fish tank placement during the Salmon Festival.

Hether mentioned an ACWA tour of the Oroville Spillway in October.

Reid asked about flow meter installations. Stevenson answered that 11 flow locations have been installed.

Salamunovich asked about Wallace Weir Fish Rescue Facility and if the Chinook salmon from Wallace Wier could be brought to Putah Creek. Likely not, but UC Davis is going to do genetic testing to see if those Wallace Weir fish were born in Putah Creek.

8. Next Regular Meeting is in-person Nov 13, 2025 in Vacaville. The October meeting was cancelled.
Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 PM

Draft “Homeless Issues” Letter for Review

DRAFT FOR LPCCC REVIEW

11/6/2025

To:

Yolo County Board of Supervisors
Solano County Board of Supervisors
City Councils of Davis and Winters

Subject: Protecting Putah Creek Through Coordinated Action on Homeless Encampments

Dear County and City Leaders,

On behalf of the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee (LPCCC), we write to bring attention to the growing challenges posed by homeless encampments along Putah Creek, particularly in the Winters Creek Park area. While we acknowledge the complex social and economic realities of homelessness, the impacts on water quality, environmental health, and public safety require urgent and coordinated action across jurisdictions.

Environmental and Safety Risks

Encampments near the creek introduce human waste, litter, and pollutants directly into the waterway, threatening aquatic ecosystems and degrading habitat for fish and wildlife. Debris, vegetation removal, and makeshift trails destabilize creek banks and accelerate erosion. At the same time, fire hazards, unsafe debris, and restricted park access create risks for both the unhoused and the community.

LPCCC's Restoration Investments

For more than two decades, LPCCC has led restoration and stewardship efforts along Lower Putah Creek. These investments include riparian habitat restoration, fish passage improvements, erosion control, and the re-establishment of native vegetation to support wildlife and enhance water quality. Through partnerships with landowners, local governments, universities, and community groups, millions of dollars in public and private funds have been invested to improve ecological health and ensure the creek remains a valuable community and regional resource.

Encampments along sensitive creek corridors threaten to undermine these hard-earned gains. Damage to vegetation, contamination of water, and habitat loss not only compromise the creek's ecological function but also waste years of public investment and volunteer contributions. Protecting these restoration investments is essential to maintaining the ecological and community benefits that Putah Creek provides.

Need for Stronger Regional Coordination

Findings such as those outlined in the recent Yolo County Grand Jury report make clear that *more needs to be done to address homelessness in a coordinated and effective way*. While individual cities and counties have developed valuable programs, the scale of the challenge requires counties and cities to work together to ensure services are accessible, data is reliable, and natural resources are protected.

Because Putah Creek flows across both Yolo and Solano Counties, LPCCC urges the creation of a collaborative, cross-jurisdictional forum where counties, cities, service providers, and community groups can come together to develop shared solutions. Such a forum would help ensure that social service needs are met, while also safeguarding the environmental and community values of the creek.

Interim Recommendations for Winters Creek Park

While long-term coordination is essential, LPCCC recommends the following immediate steps to reduce encampment impacts in Winters Creek Park and protect water quality and public safety:

- Expand trash collection and organize cleanup efforts with volunteers and community groups.
- Post clear signage prohibiting camping, fires, and dumping.
- Provide temporary sanitation options such as portable toilets and sharps disposal containers to reduce direct contamination of the creek.

Conclusion

The Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee remains committed to its mission of protecting and restoring Putah Creek as a vital environmental and community resource. We ask Yolo and Solano Counties, together with their cities, to take leadership in developing coordinated solutions that balance compassion for the unhoused with stewardship of our shared natural resources.

We look forward to participating in and supporting these discussions, and to working together toward lasting solutions for both people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Justen Cole, Chair, Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee