



LOWER PUTAH CREEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE

TO: Interested Persons
FROM: Rich Marovich, Streamkeeper (SK)
DATE: January 11, 2018

SUBJECT: Agenda for January 11 Decision Meeting of the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee at Winters City Hall Downstairs Conference Room, 318 First Street, Winters, Abbey Street Entrance from 3:30 to 5:00 PM

#	min	Item	LPCCC Admin Patterned Calendar
1	10	Public Comment: The public may comment on matters pertaining to Putah Creek.	
2	5	New Members: New members will be introduced.	
3	5	Election of Officers: The LPCCC will elect a Chair from the Yolo Parties and a Vice-Chair from the Solano Parties.	
4	5	Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the December meeting will be reviewed.	
5	10	2018 Patterned Calendar: LPCCC will adopt a patterned calendar for 2018	
6	10	Winters Putah Creek Park Update: SK will report on the Phase 3 project.	
7	15	The LPCCC will review: A. Grant Project Budget B. Nursery Operations C. Equipment Inventory D. Grant Applications	
8	10	Planning Subcommittee: The LPCCC will form a planning subcommittee to develop the FY 2018-2019 work plan	
9	10	Member Reports: LPCCC members will have an opportunity to report.	
10	5	Correspondence: LPCCC will discuss any significant correspondence.	
11	5	Next Meeting: The LPCCC will hold a discussion meeting of the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee on Thursday, February 8 at Solano Irrigation District Monticello Room, 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Vacaville from 3:00 to 5:30 PM.	

2018-01-11 LPCCC agenda.doc

810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203, Vacaville, California 95688 ♦ Phone: (530) 902-1794 ♦ Fax: (707) 451-6099
<http://www.watershedportals.org/lpccc>

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



LOWER PUTAH CREEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Rich Marovich, Streamkeeper (SK)

DATE: December 14, 2017

SUBJECT: Minutes of Thursday, December 14, 2017 Discussion Meeting of the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee – Solano Irrigation District Headquarters, 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 201, Vacaville, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM

No.	Min	Item	
1	10	Public Comment: Alan Pryor complained about heavy equipment work alleging that fill was placed in the creek and that the course of the creek was altered at Mertz.	
2	5	Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the November meeting were approved.	
3	5	Annual Report: The LPCCC approved the annual report.	
4	30	Habitat Connectivity: Patrick Huber discussed habitat connectivity on Putah Creek	
5	20	Grant Applications: LPCCC approved a FEMA application for Thompson Canyon erosion control.	Patterned Calendar
		Report from Putah Creek Council: Kent Anderson provided an update.	
		Interagency Communications: SK reported on Interagency Communications	
6	10	Form of LPCCC Minutes: Alejandro will work with the Streamkeeper on revisions to the way minutes are recorded, especially for action items. Roland asked Alejandro to produce a draft of minutes and action items the way that Alejandro wants them to be recorded.	
7	5	Member Reports: Andrew reported that the arboretum water pumps are operational and work to improve water circulation should be completed by mid-January. Alejandro walked the Dry Creek Confluence area.	
8	5	Correspondence: No correspondence to report.	
		Next Meeting: The LPCCC will hold a Decision Meeting on Thursday, January 11 th [moved to Winters City Hall] from 3:30 to 5:00 PM	

Attendees: Alejandro Garcia Rojas, Andrew Fulks, Thomas Pate, Felix Riesenber, Dennis Kilkenny, Harold Anderson, Patrick Huber, Roland Sanford, Eric Davis, JD Kluge, Jessica Jones. Staff: Rich Marovich, Mark Snyder, Chris Lee. Guests: Chris Rose, Alan Pryor, Kent Anderson.

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Memorandum

To: SCWA and LPCCC

From: Friends of Putah Creek; Jeff Tenpas, Director and President; Alan Pryor, Director and Secretary/Treasurer

Date: December 14, 2017

Re: Disturbances on Putah Creek

A number of our members have observed and documented substantial heavy equipment work altering the floodplain and stream bed in Putah Creek this last season. We have not heard this work announced at meetings or seen plans discussed for it at various LPCCC meeting and question whether the planning for this work has been properly vetted and approved by the LPCCC, SCWA, and various regulatory agencies.

These activities include:

- Fill placed in the creek in four locations (see below)
- Altering the course of the stream in two locations Mertz and NAWCA 3)
- Bulldozing a half mile trail on the north bank downstream of Dry Creek
- Bulldozing another trail on the south bank downstream of I-505
- Extensive trenching and floodplain modification for groundwater mitigation work in Phase 2

These activities taken together add up to acres of clearing of vegetation, soil disturbance, and disturbance to the stream, floodplain, and riparian ecosystem. We know of no CEQA compliance, environmental review, or other permits being issued for these specific projects. As of December 10, 2017, most of the disturbed ground is still bare ground, without mulch or cover, and liable to substantial erosion in winter rains and floods.,

Following is more information on the recent work.

Fill placed in the creek - In two locations fill has been used to narrow the creek, permanently filling part of the channel. The fill of open water areas was estimated up to 30 feet wide and over 100 feet long at each site. These locations are between the Diversion Dam and Dry Creek. The third point of fill placement was at the mouth of Dry Creek where a small deep pool at the confluence was filled. The last point of fill was some 1000 feet below I-505 at a point where the stream divided into two branches and fill was used to dam the stream and block flows in one branch.

Altering the Stream Course – Stream course alteration occurred in two places. One was at the Mertz property, the second was at the site below I-505 (described above). On the Mertz property a new channel was dug on the north bank, 100-200 feet long. According to Mr. Mertz (personal communication), this was done by the SCWA to alter the stream elevation, and was done by trespassing on his property without his permission. At the place below I-505, one branch of the creek was blocked effectively drying up about 1000 feet of stream.

Bulldozer Trail downstream of Dry Creek - This trail starts at Dry Creek and runs downstream on the north bank and crosses the creek a little upstream of the car bridge. A trail a ½ mile long and 8 feet wide is cleared of all vegetation and was constructed in October or November. The trail's purpose according to

the SCWA's Streamkeeper is to provide access for weed control and an herbicide sprayer. This work did not come before the Winters Putah Creek Committee (WPCC) as we learned the last meeting. The exposure of so much bare, unprotected soil at this time of year is poor timing, and an unfortunate aspect of this trail is that it greatly increases access for the homeless where there already has been problems with homeless camps on private property.

Bulldozer Trail downstream of I-505 – This trail was bulldozed in October or November and runs about 600 feet long and 8 feet wide on the south bank of Putah Creek and within feet of the water. Some of the fill slope spills directly into the creek. What is the purpose and need for this trail? Why was it built so late in the year? And why are there no measures to prevent erosion?

Floodplain Mitigation work in Phase 2 - This work has occurred in the last half of November and covered over an acre of ground. A large excavator dug nine trenches, 8 feet deep, 3 feet wide, and 50 to 100 feet long. The trenches were filled with an 18 inch layer of gravel in the bottom then back-filled with spoils of the trench. While we appreciate that the LPCCC and SCWA now recognize the negative impacts of the Phase 2 project on floodplain regeneration and are trying to fix it, the timing on this work is bad because there is no time to grow a vegetative cover to protect the floodplain from erosion. The greater problem is that the project is only designed to get floodplain vegetation to regrow, and not designed to restore groundwater recharge. In previous communications with the SCWA, we've shown there has been a large decrease in groundwater recharge in Winters, due to the Phase 1 and 2 projects. Unfortunately this mitigation project does not address and wastes the opportunity to address that problem. In fact, trees are already being planted in the trench lines and will stand in the way of any future effort to restore groundwater.

Request of the SCWA/LPCCC. We respectfully request:

- That the agency take immediate measures to stabilize the work sites and bare soils against erosion from winter rains and high water events
- That the Boards and agency review agency policies and controls over uses of heavy equipment in the stream and floodplain
- That there be a review of this work, its purpose and need, CEQA compliance, and environmental permit requirements, including Section 401, Section 404, and Section 408 permits from the USACE, Water Quality Certifications, Stream bed Alteration Permits, encroachment permits from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP)
- That these and future stream bed alteration activities be disclosed to the resource agencies and the public so that they may undergo proper scientific review and scrutiny.

See photos on following pages

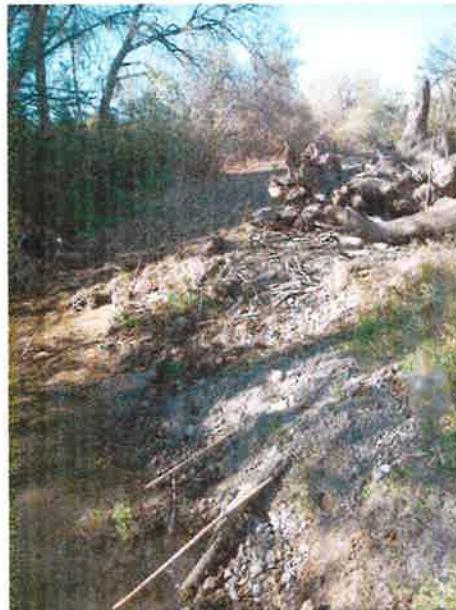
Stream Fill 1



Stream Fill 2



Pool Filled at Dry Creek Confluence



Channel Plug at NAWCA 3



New Channel



Blocked Channel NAWCA 3



Dry Creek Dozer Trail



NAWCA 3 Dozer Trail



2018 LPCCC PATTERNED CALENDAR

Proposed 1/11/2018

D = Final Decision / Approval

U= Update

R = Review

F= Form Committee

TOPICS		2018											
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
LPCCC meeting dates*:		1/11	2/8	3/8	4/12	5/10	6/14	7/12	8/9	9/13	10/11	11/8	12/13
Location**		WCH	SID	DPD	SID	DPD	SID	DPD	SID	DPD	SID	DPD	SID
Decision Point Agendas	Planning: Full Committee			2	4	6							
	Ops Budget				R		D		R				R
	Grant/Project Budget	R							R		D		R
	Streamkeeper Annual Evaluation			F		D							
	Ann. Accord report to court										R		D
	Review of Nursery Ops	R		D					R				
	Outreach Comm. Plan / Process					R							
	Grant App process	R											
	Riparian Diversion Process			R		D				R			R
	Equipment Inventory	R							D				
	Appointment to WPCP committee								D				
	Annual Workplan				D								
Issue Working Agendas	Planning Subcommittee***	1	3	5									
	Planning: Full Committee		4										
	Greenhouse Ops Updates		U				U				U		
	Riparian Diversion Updates		U				U		U		U		
	Interagency Comm. Updates		U	U		U		U		U		U	
	Outreach Comm. Updates			U									
	Grant App . Updates			U					U				U
	Ann. UCD Wildlife Report		R										
	Report from PCC Exec Dir					U							U
	Fish Monitoring Updates		U						U				
	Financial Reserves			U					U				U
	Annual Workplan		U										F

* All meetings on Second Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:00 PM

** WCH Winters City Hall Downstairs Conference Room, 318 First Street, Winters (enter from Abbey St)

DPD Davis Police Department Community Room 2600 Fifth Street, Davis

SID Solano Irrigation District Monticello Room 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Vacaville

*** Planning subcommittee meets at Putah Diversion Office at dates and times TBD

Planning process (adopted 5/10/12):

1. Planning subcommittee formed
2. Introduce and invite input
3. Collect input, brainstorm, rank planning subcommittee second meeting
4. Progress report
5. Develop draft plan
6. Present draft final and adopt or revise

