

**CARPINTERIA CREEK
WATERSHED COALITION**



CCWC Meeting Minutes
Carpinteria City Hall, Carpinteria, CA
October 18, 2007

Attendance:

Suzanne Feldman	CEC
Moe Gomez	Coalition Chair
Betty Songer	Carpinteria Creek Committee
Andrea Adams-Morden	Carp Nature Park/Bluffs
Nick Bobroff	City of Carpinteria
Ken Owen	Channel Islands Restoration
David Chang	SB County Ag Commissioners Office

Introduction/Announcements:

H2O (Headwaters to Ocean) Conference, Long Beach, CA – October 24 – 26

(sponsored by CalCoast and the Wetlands Recovery Project)

Culvert & Road Drainage Practices, El Capitan Canyon – October 23 – 25 (put on by the Central Coast Salmon Enhancement)

Ocean Film Festival, SB October 19 – 21

Discussion topics:

1) Carpinteria Creek Signs? – All Discussion

Moe introduced an idea that came about after he spoke with David Chang about signage for one of his projects. Perhaps there is a possibility to expand the idea of signs and actually install signs along a larger portion of Carpinteria Creek. Location ideas so far are: at Carp State Beach Park (the bridge there); the 8th St. footbridge; Carpinteria Ave. on the bridge; and then possibly along the bike path up to the ‘pocket park’ that Matt Roberts with the City of Carpinteria is currently working on. Topic ideas for the signs are so far: local history; soils/geologic history; steelhead trout; arundo removal project/nonnative plant info. Andrea added the possible topics of local birds/invertebrates. The group then came up with: rare and endangered species; general watershed information; and possibly a ‘thank you granters’ sign. Ken noted that when he was actually working on arundo removal there was so much interest by the public that was passing by, he thinks that the arundo project and local bird signs would be two very important topics.

Nick noted that permitting the installment of the signs would probably warrant an ‘encroachment permit’ if the project is proposed by an entity other than the City, and that

Matt's park will have signage, supposedly dealing with steelhead. Nick also noted that it is a long-term desire of the Parks Dept. to have a 'nature trail' along the creek, and he can bring up the idea of signage with the city. He also noted that a good place would be at the 6th Street terminus at the creek as it is another public access way.

Andrea noted that the signs at the Salt Marsh were costing about \$2K each at time of construction, but then Moe added that signs at the SB Museum of Natural History constructed by SB Signs and Graphics ran only \$300 for four. Ken noted that at the State Park the general number of people passing through will probably lead to vandalism issues, and perhaps going with a cheaper sign that can be replaced frequently is the way to go (rather than expensive anti-vandalism materials on each sign). Betty added that the ones further out of the public eye might actually be more susceptible to damage. Nick added that perhaps the bridge project can absorb the cost of the sign that would be placed there, and then the others can be permitted under an umbrella encroachment permit. David noted that he will be able to provide \$3K matching funds for signage that could be used.

The group agreed that Rich Rojas with State Parks may not want permanent signage at the Carp State Beach location, so that will have to be explored, however Moe thinks that working relationships have made progress with State Parks and perhaps now is the time to pursue SCWRP Small Grant Program money for this project. The project can be the original ice plant removal project, and some of those funds can be used for the signs. The RFP for those funds is in January, with money being awarded in late spring.

The group thinks this is a great idea and perhaps we can get even more people excited and involved. Suzanne and Moe will compile funding possibilities and talk to Matt Roberts about the cost of the signs in the new 'pocket park'.

Moe asked about general sign numbers they'd be pitching to install and the group came up with 2 at the State Beach bridge (topics: arundo, and steelhead?), 2 at 8th St. footbridge (topics: common Carpinteria birds and riparian habitat), and 2 on the bridge at Carpinteria Ave. (upstream/downstream, topics to be determined).

2) Review of Carpinteria Valley Land to Sea Tour—S. Feldman

Suzanne gave a presentation with photos of the Land to Sea Tour. The tour was a successful event with lots of participation from growers, agencies, policy makers, and environmentalists. In the spring the Ag Watershed Coalition hopes to have another tour, this time in the Santa Maria or Santa Ynez river's watersheds. Stay tuned!

3) Update of Habitat Restoration Projects

a) *Arundo donax* removal – D.Chang

David told the group that he is currently moving into the 3rd year of the arundo removal project, including follow-up monitoring and starting the primary removal of the final sites with the CCC in November. He also had some very good news, the Dept of Food and Ag granted the project \$20K which will be spent in 2008/2009 for maintenance of treated sites. Dept of Fish and Game also granted \$15K which will again be used for

maintenance and restoration. A project on Santa Cruz Island will continue the removal of the vinca (periwinkle) from the only canyon where prior work has been done. Once the eradication is complete, vinca should be completely off the island!

b) Fish passage projects – M. Gomez

Moe shared that Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) recently gave \$43K towards the fish passage projects (funds came from mitigation fees paid by an oil company to the LPNF for restoration projects). Funds will be used to remove current fish passage barriers and the native plant restoration components of the projects. Mid-Dec. the Coastal Development Permits from the County of Santa Barbara should be complete, however the winter weather will dictate when the projects will break ground in 2007.

Moe then informed the group about the County's draft reduced mitigation for environmental projects. This change in review will only apply to 'beneficial' environmental restoration projects. Criteria have been formulated to properly define 'beneficial' and thus provide the appropriate projects with the break in the mitigation requirements. Hopefully, and it seems probable, the fish passage projects will fall under these newly formulated guidelines!

Moe also updated the group that permit 'streamlining' / 'coordinating' efforts are still underway, but probably won't be completed by the time the fish passage projects need to be complete (Jan. 2009). The general understanding is for coordination efforts to be in place and apply to inland restoration projects within the next year, and those in the coastal zone to follow in the future.

c) City of Carpinteria – N. Bobroff

Nick said that the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (DMND) for the 8th street footbridge project is currently open for comment, closing the 29th of October with a public comment meeting next Tuesday, Oct. 23rd at Carpinteria City Hall at 5pm. There is a challenge with the design currently, trying to compromise safety and environmental requirements with the public's desire for retaining the old aesthetic of the bridge. The review process for the project goes from the Architectural Review Board to the Planning Commission, and can then still be appealed to the City Council and finally by the Coastal Commission.

d) Latest Newsletter – S. Feldman

The Fall newsletter was inserted in the October 18th Coastal View News! The final newsletter installment under the DFG Fisheries Restoration Program grant will be out in Spring.

e) Carpinteria Creek Cleanups as part of Creek Week 2007 – B. Songer

Betty shared that it was over 20 volunteers total who participated in the creek cleanups of Carpinteria, Franklin and Santa Monica creeks as part of Creek Week 2007 (organized by the City and County of Santa Barbara). Everyone agreed that they should do cleanups more regularly! An idea was circulated to get the high school kids involved up by the High School as there's a lot of trash in Franklin by the school, and Ken added that he can bring in volunteers with a little more lead time.

The Next CCWC meeting will be Thursday November 15th

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