

HCPA East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan Association

HCPA Coordination Group Meeting

Thursday, August 18, 2005

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ← [Note late start this time!](#)

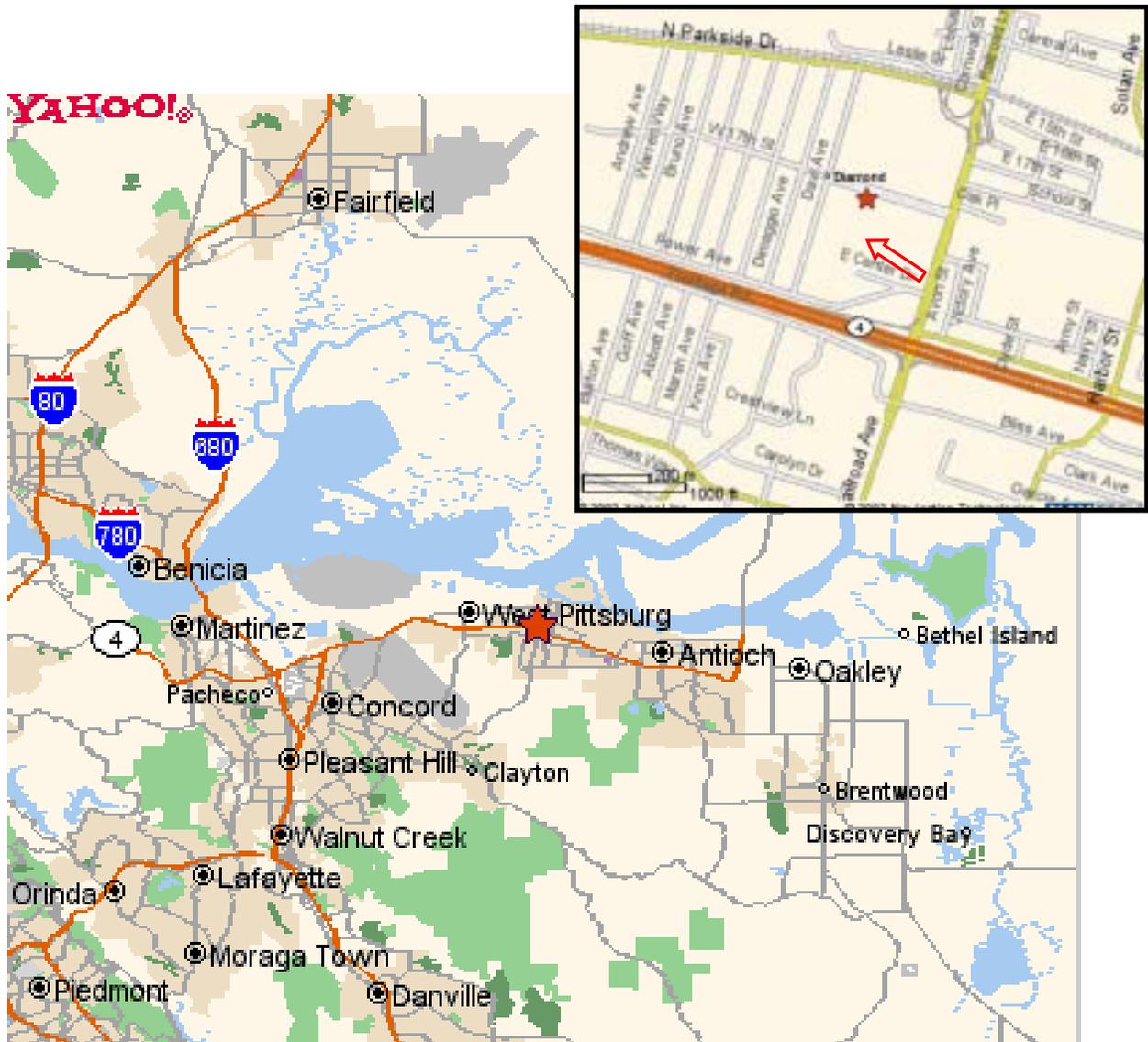
City of Pittsburg Council Chambers
65 Civic Drive in Pittsburg, 3rd Floor
(see map on reverse)

Agenda

- 2:00 Introductions. Review contents of meeting packet. Review and approve Draft Meeting Record of the July 21, 2005 Coordination Group meeting.
- 2:05 Updates:
- General update on status of planning effort, including comment deadline on Draft HCP/NCCP
 - Wetlands permitting update
 - Critical habitat for California tiger salamander and request for exemption
 - The 3rd Annual Workshop: Regional Conservation Planning from Tahoe to the Bay is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2005 in Vacaville. The East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP has been invited to provide a discussion panel.
 - Additional updates from Coordination group members
- 2:30 General discussion on Draft HCP/NCCP. Any questions so far as you review the Draft HCP/NCCP?
- 2:50 Solicitation of ideas for additional public outreach on the HCP/NCCP (i.e., please consider requesting that a presentation on the Draft HCP/NCCP to be made at an upcoming meeting of the organization to which you belong)
- 3:00 Continued, workshop-style discussion of creating an overview document (booklet) to explain key issues and aspects of the HCP/NCCP and document the status of stakeholder negotiations on the HCP/NCCP. A draft template of the booklet will be distributed and discussed.
- 3:50 Confirm upcoming meeting dates. Upcoming Coordination Group meetings are scheduled as follows for the City of Pittsburg Council Chambers (usually 3rd Thursdays):
Thursday, September 15, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Thursday, October 27, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (note, this is the 4th Thursday and may also serve as a formal public meeting on the EIR/EIS)
- 3:55 Public comment.
- 4:00 Adjourn.

Times are approximate. If you have questions about this agenda or desire additional meeting materials, you may contact Abby Fateman of the Contra Costa County Community Development Department at 925-335-1272. The HCPA will provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities planning to participate in this meeting who contact staff at least 72 hours before the meeting.

Map and Directions to Pittsburg City Hall 65 Civic Drive



Directions from I-680, Central County

- 1) Take Hwy 4 East toward Antioch/Stockton
- 2) Follow Hwy East over the hill (Willow Pass)
- 3) Exit Railroad Ave. (the 2nd exit after the hill)
- 4) At the end of the exit ramp, turn left on Railroad Ave.
- 5) Turn left at the second intersection, East Center Drive (signs for various city offices will also point you this way)
- 6) Immediately bear right into the large parking lot next to City Hall
- 7) Meeting is on the 3rd floor

Directions from Antioch and points east

- 1) Take Hwy 4 West toward Martinez/Richmond
- 2) Exit Railroad Ave.
- 3) At the end of the exit ramp, turn right on Railroad Ave.
- 4) Turn left at the next intersection, East Center Drive (signs for various city offices will also point you this way)
- 5) Immediately bear right into the large parking lot next to City Hall
- 6) Meeting is on the 3rd floor

DRAFT MEETING RECORD

East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan Association (HCPA) Coordination Group Meeting

Thursday, July 21, 2005

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

City of Pittsburg Council Chambers

1:00 Welcome and Introductions. Meeting attendees introduced themselves. Coordination Group members and staff in attendance were:

Chris Barton, City of Pittsburg
Paul Campos, Home Builders Association
Joe Ciolek, Ag Trust of Contra Costa
Abigail Fateman, CCC Community Dev.
Jeff Garrigues, City of Oakley
Jim Gwerder, CLA
John Kopchik, CC County Community Dev.

Dee Munk, CCC Farm Bureau
Cece Sellgren, CCC Public Works
Ethan Veneklasen - Contra Costa Council
Dick Vrmeer, CNPS
Mike Vukelich, CCC Farm Bureau
David Zippin, Jones and Stokes

Also in attendance: Phillip Torres

Review and approve Draft Meeting Record of the June 30, 2005 Coordination Group meeting. The meeting record was approved.

1:05 Updates:

- **General update on status of planning effort, including wetlands** John Kopchik provided a brief update on wetlands efforts. The group is working to get the wetlands planning caught up to the HCP. Staff are still working with US Army Corps of Engineers and the State/Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- **Additional updates from Coordination group members** Paul Campos was interested in having Coordination Group members sign on to a joint letter requesting exemption from critical habitat designation within the HCPA planning area. People who are interested in participating in the letter should contact John Kopchik or Paul.

1:15 General discussion on Draft HCP/NCCP. Any questions so far as you review the Draft HCP/NCCP? John Kopchik provided a general update on the anticipated timeline. There will be a 90-day comment period starting the day the Notice of Availability of HCP/NCCP documents appears in the Federal Register. John will email the group to alert them of the official start of the 90-day period. The final HCP/NCCP documents will probably be available in early 2006.

1:40 Workshop-style discussion of Executive Summary (attached) and Framework document and discuss creation of an overview document to use to explain and discuss key issues aspects HCP/NCCP. Please review the Executive Summary prior to the meeting as that will be the starting point for creating the overview document. The overview document could also serve to document the status of stakeholder negotiations on the HCP/NCCP. John Kopchik presented group with a number of examples of informational brochures developed by other HCPs. Group members were

enthusiastic about the creation of such a brochure and provided substantial input. Some Coordination group input outlined:

- medium length, full-color brochure or booklet (maybe 12 pages or so)
- document should indicate that the Coordination Group is the primary author; this will enable the document to contain opinion and perspective on the merits of the Plan
- address the benefits of the HCP to different stakeholder groups.
- provide the history/evolution of consensus building
- rely on graphics and illustrations
- detail can be left to other documents; no need to reiterate Mission Statement, Principles of Participation, or other similar items (plus this should be a summary focused on what is proposed not how we got to it)
- emphasize cooperation, efficiency, community input, proactive management, streamlined permit process
- Implementing Entity – role and function / oversight
- Participants generally amenable to signing booklet or to having their names listed on booklet as contributors to the development of the HCP/NCCP and to the booklet

2:45 Discuss work plan for Coordination Group for remainder of the planning process.
The group decided to continue meeting regularly every month.

2:50 Confirm upcoming meeting dates. Upcoming Coordination Group meetings are scheduled as follows for the City of Pittsburgh Council Chambers (usually 3rd Thursdays):

Thursday, August 17, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 15, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

2:55 Public comment. None

East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan Association
Home Builders Association of Northern California
Contra Costa County Farm Bureau
Save Mount Diablo
Contra Costa Council
Contra Costa County Citizens Land Alliance

August 3, 2005

Wayne White
Field Supervisor
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Request for exemption from California tiger salamander (CTS) critical habitat designation for areas covered by the East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP.

Dear Mr. White:

The undersigned have been working collaboratively for more than three years to assist the development of the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) / Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) in order to conserve species and other natural resources, streamline the permitting process for new development, and compensate private landowners on a willing-seller basis for permanently conserving their land in a natural state. That partnership is reflected in the publication and release this June of the Draft East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP. A Final HCP/NCCP is expected to be available in early 2006.

Consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service policy on designating critical habitat in areas addressed by HCPs, the undersigned request that lands proposed for permit coverage within the inventory area of the East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP be exempted from the critical habitat designation for California tiger salamander upon approval of the Final HCP/NCCP. The requested exemption would apply to those portions of the inventory area that are proposed for permit coverage as urban development, as rural infrastructure, or as new preserves, including those areas of private land ownership that have been evaluated for habitat acquisition in the HCP/NCCP.

When approved, the East Contra Costa HCP/NCCP will conserve in perpetuity approximately 24,000 to 31,000 acres of land in large connected blocks. More than \$100 million will be spent in the first 30 years to enhance, restore, monitor and adaptively manage the resource values of the acquired lands. California tiger salamander is one of 28 species covered by the HCP/NCCP and the Plan includes a number of conservation measures designed specifically to benefit CTS and contribute to its recovery. Conservation of this magnitude and with this level of coordination and scientific oversight would not be possible absent the HCP/NCCP, and offers far more benefit to species such as California tiger salamander than a critical habitat designation.

Successfully implementing HCPs requires the active participation of the private sector, both as permittees and as willing sellers of habitat lands. To achieve this active participation, the

Mr. Wayne White

August 3, 2005

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HCP/NCCP must demonstrably simplify regulatory requirements, and an overlapping critical habitat designation could undermine some permit streamlining aspects of the HCP/NCCP.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our comments. Should you have any questions on this request, please contact Paul Campos of the Home Builders Association of Northern California at (925) 820-7626 or John Kopchik of the Contra Costa County Community Development Department (Coordinating Agency for the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan Association) at (925) 335-1227.

Sincerely,



Ethan Veneklasen, Deputy Director
Contra Costa Council



Jim Gwerder, Secretary
Contra Costa County Citizens Land Alliance



Seth Adams, Director of Land Programs
Save Mount Diablo



John Viano, President
Contra Costa County Farm Bureau



Paul Campos, Vice President of Governmental Affairs and General Counsel
Home Builders Association of Northern California



John Kopchik, Principal Planner
Contra Costa County Community Development Department, Coordinating Agency
East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan Association

cc: Executive Governing Committee, East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan
Association