



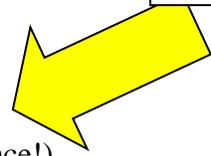
DIFFERENT LOCATION AND TIME!!

Public Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.
Roddy Ranch Golf Course (Round Up Room)
1 Tour Way, Antioch, CA 94531

(Thank you Roddy Ranch for providing meeting space!)

DIFFERENT LOCATION AND TIME!!



Agenda

- 1) **Introductions.** Attendees are invited (but not required) to sign in. This is also an opportunity for committee members (and meeting participants) to provide updates on their organization's activities.
- 2) **Public comment** on items not on the agenda. Public comment will also be accepted on each agenda item during discussion of that item.
- 3) **Consider approving the Meeting Record** from the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy ("Conservancy") Public Advisory Committee ("PAC") meeting on February 11, 2016. The Draft Meeting Record is attached.
- 4) **General Update** on recent actions of the Governing Board. The complete Board agenda and packet can be referred to as background and is posted on the Conservancy's website at: <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/cd/water/HCP/Meetings/GB.html>
 - a) Acquisition and Restoration update
 - b) Draft Annual Report (see Attachment to Item 7 of the April 25th, 2016 Board meeting online at link above)
 - c) Updates on other items as requested by meeting participants.
- 5) **Review Draft Research Request For Proposals** and provide suggestions to staff and refer to the Governing Board. (Draft RFP is attached)
- 6) **Drive to Preserve System property and tour Horse Valley/Roddy Ranch*** (approximately five minutes from meeting location). Attendees will carpool to Horse Valley (Roddy Ranch). To see most areas of you will need to hike off-trail or on uneven roads. It will not be possible for attendees to take their own vehicles on the tour. **NOTE:** Field trip attendance will be limited (for safety reasons). If fewer than three people RSVP by May 10th at 5 pm, the tour portion of this meeting will be cancelled.

12:00 (noon) **Adjourn** (next regular meeting date is on August 11, 2016)
Note: The restaurant at Roddy Ranch will be open for lunch.

*Site Tour:

- 1) **RSVP to attend the tour is required by 5 pm on Tuesday, May 10th.** This will allow staff time to plan transportation to the site. To RSVP, contact Maureen Parkes by email at maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us or by phone at (925) 674-7831. Please provide your name and contact information.
- 2) Wear closed toed sturdy shoes and clothes appropriate for walking off trail in a natural area. We anticipate doing mild hiking so it is necessary for safety reasons to wear the proper shoes.
- 3) You may want to bring a water bottle, as it may be warm.
- 4) You may want to wear a hat and sunblock to protect yourself from the sun.

Times are approximate. If you have questions about this agenda or desire additional meeting materials, you may contact Maureen Parkes of the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development at 925-674-7831. The Conservancy will provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities planning to participate in this meeting who contact staff at least 72 hours before the meeting.

EAST CONTRA
COSTA COUNTY
HABITAT
CONSERVANCY

City of Brentwood

City of Clayton

City of Oakley

City of Pittsburg

Contra Costa County

Public Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Record

Thursday, February 11, 2016
 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1) Introductions.

Committee Attendees:

Private Permit Seekers	Conservation Advocates	Landowners/Agriculturalists	Suburban/Rural Residents
East Bay Leadership Council: Josh Huber	California Native Plant Society: Absent	Agricultural/Natural Resource Trust of Contra Costa County: Liz DiGiorgio	Dick Vrmeer: Absent
Discovery Builders Inc.: Noelle Ortlund	Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed: Barry Margesson	Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust: Kathryn Lyddan	Sharon Osteen: Absent
Home Builders Association of Northern California: Lisa Vorderbeueggen	Save Mount Diablo: Juan Pablo Galvan	Contra Costa County Farm Bureau: Mike Vukelich	Kelly Davidson: Present

Conservancy Staff members in attendance:

Abby Fateman, Conservancy Staff

- 2) **Public comment on items not on the agenda: Public comment will also be accepted on each agenda item during discussion of that item.** Barry Margesson (FOMCW) announced that Doug McConnell filmed an episode of his show about the Marsh Creek Watershed. The episode is expected to air on March 20th.
- 3) **Consider approving the Meeting Record from the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (“Conservancy”) Public Advisory Committee (“PAC”) meeting on November 12, 2015.** The Meeting Record was approved.
- 4) **General Update on recent actions of the Governing Board.** Ms. Fateman provided updates on recent activities of the Conservancy Governing Board. The discussion included a summary of topics discussed at the December 2015 Board meeting including: budget, work plan, Antioch HCP/NCCP and PAC membership.
- 5) **Update on the development of a potential Antioch HCP/NCCP.** Ms. Fateman discussed the work to date on the development of an Antioch HCP/NCCP. City staff, Conservancy staff and a consultant have been working to develop an interim permitting strategy that will be discussed with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. The hope is that an interim permitting strategy will

allow the City to start working with the ECCC Habitat Conservancy to provide permit coverage for projects, while the City works to develop a separate plan.

6) Update on the Nunn acquisition (Knightsen area)

Ms. Fateman provided an update on the Nunn acquisition. The property closed escrow on January 29, 2016. The property is 645 acres in size, mostly in use as irrigated agriculture. The northern 80 acres is fallow and does have remnant sand dunes. The Conservancy was successful in being awarded a grant for \$240,000 for initial surveys/studies and concept design for the property. The restoration of the property will be multi-objective addressing needs for habitat, flood control, water quality and recreation. There is a Knightsen Community Services District meeting on March 3rd where the project will be discussed. PAC members are welcome to attend.

7) Consider referral from the Governing Board on PAC composition, member selection process and PAC attendance policy.

Ms. Fateman discussed the Governing Board's referral to the PAC and requested specific recommendations from the PAC on attendance policy, geographic scope, terms, group representation on the PAC, organization versus individual seats. The PAC extensively discussed the topics and provided concurrence that they did not want to create a new structured policy. They indicated that with the better understanding of the expectations the group will be able to self-regulate. The PAC indicated that they felt that the annual review was appropriate. Generally summarized the recommendations are as follows:

Terms: The PAC did not feel that terms (or term limits) would be helpful in PAC operation. They indicated that continuity is important in the PAC discussion and in providing input on HCP/NCCP implementation policies. Instituting terms would create additional work for the Board, Staff and PAC members in having to apply, review and select members.

Attendance Policy: There are four meetings a year. The expectation is that all members would be present at every meeting. Missing one meeting, with notification to staff in advance is acceptable. Missing more than one meeting is not acceptable. Public members do not have the option of having an alternate, and the attendance expectation needs to be more lenient. However, staff should be notified prior to every absence.

Geographic Scope Represented: The PAC indicated that they did not have concerns regarding the geographic distribution of stakeholders on the Committee.

Individual vs. Agency Representation: The PAC indicated that they preferred that agencies hold seats (and not individual staff). They indicated that a staff person be listed as the primary participant and that it was that person's responsibility to make sure that the agency was represented at the meeting.

- 8) **Update and discussion on the Conservancy's annual reporting.** The PAC did not provide and suggested modifications to the reporting. Ms. Fateman asked members to provide feedback in the next two weeks if there were suggestions.
- 9) **Consider topics for the next and future meetings.** The group discussed location and timing of the May meeting. If possible the Conservancy will coordinate a visit to Horse Valley (Roddy Ranch). The meeting time will be adjusted to 10am – noon on May 12th, as the temperatures may be very warm later in the day.

3 P.M. Meeting adjourned.

East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy Science and Research Grant Program

Overview

The East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (Conservancy) is a joint exercise of powers authority formed by Contra Costa County and the Cities of Brentwood, Clayton, Oakley, and Pittsburg to implement the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP or Plan). The HCP/NCCP provides a framework to protect natural resources in eastern Contra Costa County, while streamlining the environmental permitting process for impacts on endangered species. The Plan also provides comprehensive species, wetlands, and ecosystem conservation and contributes to the recovery of endangered species in northern California. The complete Plan can be downloaded from www.cocohcp.org.

The heart of the conservation strategy is a system of new preserves linked to existing protected areas to form a network of protected lands in eastern Contra Costa County. In addition to supporting ecosystem processes, habitat, and species, the preserves will also support other uses such as recreation, grazing, and crop production, as long as these uses are compatible with the biological goals and objectives of the HCP/NCCP. The conservation strategy is designed to achieve the biological goals and objectives established for each natural community and the covered species that each community supports (Chapter 2 of the HCP/NCCP). Goals are broad, guiding principles based on the conservation needs of the resources. Biological objectives are expressed as conservation targets or actions. Objectives are measurable and achievable within a given time frame; they clearly state a desired result and will collectively achieve the biological goal (HCP/NCCP Table 5-1, Attachment A). Because the biological outcome of many management actions is uncertain, the Plan's monitoring and adaptive management program is based on scientific principles that guide continual refinement of conservation efforts to achieve the biological goals and objectives of the Plan.

Under this Science and Research Grant Program (Grant Program), the Conservancy may fund research that endeavors to illuminate, and where possible to resolve, uncertainties associated with adaptive management of natural communities and covered species. Research selected for funding will aid in achieving the biological goals and objectives of the Plan and inform management actions and/or contribute to the general understanding of a covered species. Such research will generally relate to the following:

- The efficacy of natural community enhancement/creation/restoration techniques,
- The ecological requirements of covered species,
- The response of covered species and natural communities to implementation of management actions within the Preserve System, or
- Targeted ways to conduct management or monitoring actions that support and/or lead to better management of natural communities or covered species.

Additional Information Provided

- Attachment A: Excerpt from Chapter 5, Table 5-1: Natural Community-level and Additional Species specific Biological Goals and Objectives
- Attachment B: Excerpt from Chapter 7, Table 7-2: Potential Research Projects (Note: these were ideas set forth in the plan prior to implementation. Other research topics that inform land and species management actions are encouraged).
- Attachment C: Current Land Acquisition Map
- GIS data (available upon request)

Eligibility

The Conservancy seeks project proposals across all scientific disciplines that advance the Plan's conservation strategy (HCP/NCCP Chapter 5), monitoring and adaptive management program (HCP/NCCP Chapter 7), and/or informs successful compliance with the biological goals and objectives of the HCP/NCCP (HCP/NCCP Table 5-1, Attachment A). Potential research projects identified by the HCP/NCCP are included in HCP/NCCP Table 7-2 (Attachment B). The outreach and education activities specified in the Plan may also be funded as a part of this Grant Program.

Projects must be located within the HCP/NCCP's Inventory Area. Projects may be proposed by a governmental agency, academic institution, consulting firm, non-profit, or other professional scientific entity, or a partnership between such organizations. The applicant must be able to enter into a contract with the Conservancy and meet insurance and tax reporting requirements.

Grant Program Terms and Conditions

Grant Term

The maximum term of the grant agreement will be 2 years unless otherwise agreed to by all parties to the agreement.

Access Authorization

Prior to commencing work under this grant, individuals working on the grant must coordinate with the Conservancy to ensure proper access authorization is established. This will involve coordination with the Conservancy and the East Bay Regional Park District and their staff.

Budget

In general, the Conservancy is unlikely to fund proposals that request over \$20,000 (not including matching funds). The Conservancy may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. There is a budget of \$XX,XXX for this round of awards. Note that overhead cost may not exceed 5% of the requested funds.

Matching Funds

The Conservancy has limited funds. It is anticipated that funding provided by the Conservancy will be matched or supplemented by other entities to increase the level of research and to achieve results that integrate broader issues in the research community. Projects providing 25% or more of the project cost as matching or supplemental funds may be awarded more points than those that provide less than 25% matching funds. Matching fund sources may include contributions derived from other available funding sources, program fees, and/or the value of third-party in-kind services (e.g., volunteer and staff services, pro-bono professional services).

Schedule and Reporting

Each proposal must include a project schedule detailing approximate dates of task(s) completion with milestones. If selected, during implementation applicant will be required to provide an update via email to the Conservancy of project progress at least once every 6 months. An alternative schedule may be proposed to align with project milestones. A final report, including identified deliverables, with a possible presentation to the Conservancy's Public Advisory Committee, will be due at project completion.

Submittal Instruction and Review Process

Before submitting the request, check all calculations and ensure that all items requirements listed below are addressed. Inaccuracies and omissions will be grounds for rejection. All proposals will become part of the Conservancy's official public records and will be available for public review.

Proposal Submittal Requirements

Narratives should be formatted in 12 point typed font and minimum margins of 1 inch. **While there is no restriction on page length**, applicants should convey the purpose of the proposal as succinctly as appropriate to convey the necessary information. All proposals must:

1. Identify the organization, contact information, and individuals who will be implementing the proposal. Include qualifications of organization and key staff or volunteers.
2. Provide a complete project description including: necessary activities, duration of activities. If the project is associated with a specific location, please include a map.
3. Include information on how the project advances the Plan's conservation strategy, supports the land and species management, and/or informs successful compliance with the biological goals and objectives of the HCP/NCCP.
4. Include a budget that includes the requested amount of funding and the proposed use of the funds. If the project includes distinct tasks, the budget should list each separate task for which funds are being requested.
5. Provide relevant information on any matching funds.
6. List any local, state or federal permit clearances that have been acquired and/or are needed, where applicable. If a recovery permit(s) pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(a) of the ESA is required to complete the research, identify the individual(s) with that qualification.

7. Include a project schedule detailing approximate dates of task(s) completion with milestones and deliverables.
8. Proposals must be submitted electronically to Maureen Parkes at Maureen.Parkes@dcd.cccounty.us by **DATE/TIME**.

Criteria for Decision-Making

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria, with points awarded up to the following maximum points per criteria:

- Organizational Capacity and Relevant Experience – 10 points
- Evidence project supports the conservation strategy and/or biological goals and objectives of the Habitat Plan – 25 points
- Project addresses a data/information gap in land and species management practices in the Preserve System – 25 points
- Budget Narrative and Financial Management/ Percentage of Project Cost Provided by Applicant's Matching Funds – 20 points
- Project readiness – Extent that the organization has completed initial planning and permitting requirements and approvals – 20 points

Schedule

The Conservancy will accept research proposals until **DATE/TIME**. The Conservancy will consider applications and make decisions on awards by **DATE/TIME**. Depending on the proposals received, or the funding available the Conservancy may choose to fund multiple proposals. The Conservancy may also choose to fund no proposals.