

HCPA East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan Association

HCPA Coordination Group Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2003

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

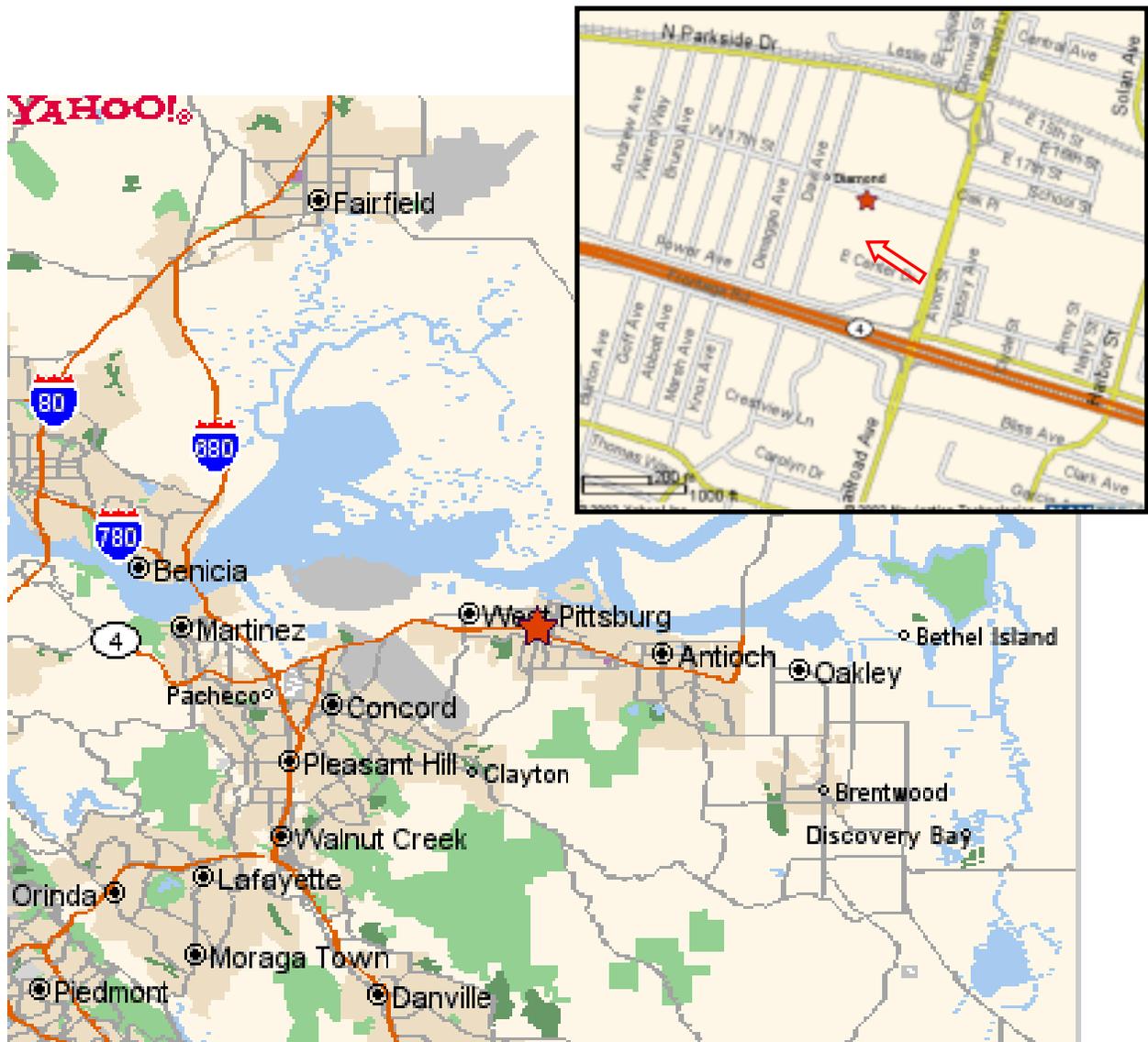
City of Pittsburg Council Chambers
65 Civic Drive in Pittsburg, 3rd Floor
(see map on reverse)

Agenda

- 1:00 Introductions. Review contents of meeting packet.
- 1:05 Review and approve Draft Meeting Record of the February 20, 2003 Coordination Group meeting.
- 1:10 Update on the Science Advisory Panel meeting on February 26, 2003.
- 1:20 Continued open discussion of Preliminary Draft Conservation Strategies and Alternatives and related draft documents. These documents (minus color maps) are available on the project website under the January 23 meeting materials. Hard copies of these documents with the color maps were handed out in January & February and a few additional copies will be available at the meeting. All of these documents may also be obtained by contacting staff.
- 1:50 Review draft Framework document that the Coordination Group may choose to use to track key decisions and remaining areas of disagreement (to be sent separately via email and available at the meeting; if you don't have email and desire an advance copy, please contact staff)
- 2:10 Discuss covered activities and permit area. Identify areas of concern and areas of agreement. See attached memo originally included in the September 2002 meeting packet. Please also see the [Preliminary Impact Analysis](#), especially pages 1,2, and 8 and the impact scenario maps, for background on the permit area question.
- 2:45 Solicit volunteers to serve on the Agriculture Subcommittee that the Coordination Group agreed to form last meeting.
- 2:50 Confirm upcoming meeting dates. Upcoming Coordination Group meetings are scheduled as follows for the City of Pittsburg Council Chambers (usually 3rd Thursdays):
 - Thursday, April 17, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (tentative)
 - Thursday, May 15, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (tentative)
 - (Executive Governing Committee scheduled to meet 3/20 at 5:30 p.m.- 7 p.m..)
- 2:55 Public comment.
- 3:00 Adjourn.

Times are approximate. If you have questions about this agenda or desire additional meeting materials, you may contact John Kopchik of the Contra Costa County Community Development Department at 925-335-1227.

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, February 20, 2003
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

City of Pittsburg Council Chambers

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

Carol Arnold, CCRCD	Suzanne Marr, U.S. EPA
Chris Barton, City of Pittsburg	Brad Olson, EBRPD
Guy Bjerke, HBABC	John Slaymaker, Greenbelt Alliance
Bradley Brownlow, Morrison and Foerrster	Eric Tattersall, CA Dept Fish and Game
Mike Daley, Sierra Club, Bay Chapter	Nancy Thomas, CCRCD
Abby Fateman, CCC Community Dev.	Jay Torres-Muga, Seeno
Janice Gan, CA Dept of Fish and Game	Donna Vingo, CCC Citizens Land Alliance
Jim Gwerder, CCC Citizens Land Alliance	Dick Vrmeer, CNPS
Barry Hand, City of Oakley	Mike Vukelich, Farm Bureau
Brenda Johnson, CA Dept of Fish and Game	Carl Wilcox, CA Dept. of Fish and Game
John Kopchik, CCC Community Dev.	David Zippin, Jones & Stokes, Inc.
Sheila Larson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife	

Others in attendance included: John Hopkins, Institute for Ecological Health, Cheryl Morgan, and Jack Wessman

1:05 Review and approve Draft Meeting Record of the February 20, 2003 Coordination Group meeting. Two changes were made to the draft meeting record. In the introductions sections, Shelia Larsen's name spelling was corrected. On the second page, under the 2:40 item, the text was amended to read 'Comments on the Preliminary Draft Conservation Strategies and Alternatives associate

1:10 Continue discussion of Preliminary Draft Conservation Strategies and Alternatives, a partial, early draft of the Conservation Strategy Chapter of the HCP/NCCP. Several preliminary draft work products will be discussed under this item, though the restoration and management components of the Conservation Strategies document and the conclusion of the Impact Analysis will be the primary focus this time:

- Cover memo putting the series of partial draft documents into context
- Main body of Preliminary Draft Conservation Strategies and Alternatives
- Preliminary Impacts Analysis Memo
- Memo on proposed approach to wetlands permitting
- Preliminary economic analysis materials, including draft memos on land valuation and potential funding sources
- Revised draft of Biological Goals

These documents (minus color maps) are available on the project website under the January 23 meeting materials. Hard copies of these documents with the color maps were handed out last month and a few additional copies will be available at the

meeting. All of these documents may also be obtained by contacting staff. David Zippin continued an overview of the Preliminary Draft Conservation Strategies and Alternatives and other associated documents. Mike Vukelich suggested the Coordination Group form a subcommittee to discuss agriculture interests and concerns associated with the HCP. The Coordination Group agreed that this was a good idea. The subcommittee will be formed at the next Coordination Group meeting.

2:40 Discuss schedule for collecting input and developing recommendations on the Preliminary Draft Conservation Strategies and Alternatives and associated documents. John Kopchik encouraged people to provide comments during meeting times so that the Coordination Group could reach a consensus. Written comments will also be accepted. All comments on the Preliminary Draft Conservation Strategies and Alternatives--as well as on prior documents--should be recorded by the end of April.

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

Thursday, March 20, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, April 17, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.(tentative)

(Science Advisory Panel scheduled to meet again on 2/26 at 11 a.m.)

2:55 Public comment.

3:00 Adjourn.



Memorandum

Date: August 8, 2002 ([updated September 14, 2002](#), and again [March 14, 2003](#), by [John Kopchik](#))

To: East Contra Costa County HCPA c/o John Kopchik

cc:

From: David Zippin, Jones & Stokes

Subject: **Covered Activities**

Jones & Stokes submitted a preliminary list of potential covered activities to the HCPA in a February 13 memorandum. This memo presents our recommendations of changes to the original list (Table 1) based on discussions with staff, the HCPA Coordination Group, and the Executive Governing Committee since February 13. Our recommendations include deletions, one addition, and several consolidations of the original 18 activities to a new list of from 9 to 12 activities (see summary list at the end of the memo). [The HCPA Coordination Group discussed the revised covered activities list at their August 15 meeting and a record of that discussion is included at the end of this memo.](#)

Table 1. Recommended Changes Regarding the 18 Covered Activities Under Consideration by the HCPA.

Proposed Activity from Feb. 13 list	Recommendation	Remaining Questions
1. Residential, commercial, and industrial development	Retain as core covered activity.	How much residential development is to be covered and where?
2. Road construction and maintenance	Refine activity to “road and highway construction and maintenance”. Estimate final impacts based on combination of on-going and future maintenance, and new construction from foreseeable major projects.	What is the length of roads outside the ULL on which regular maintenance is conducted? Are major new highways, roads or highway/road expansions planned outside the ULL?
3. Water infrastructure projects	Refine activity to “water infrastructure construction and maintenance”. Estimate impacts based on combination of on-going and future maintenance, and new construction from foreseeable major projects.	Where are major water infrastructure projects planned, besides the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion (excluded from HCP/NCCP)?
4. Flood control project construction and maintenance	Retain activity. Estimate final impacts based on combination of on-going and future maintenance, and new construction from foreseeable major projects.	Where are major flood control projects planned?

Proposed Activity from Feb. 13 list	Recommendation	Remaining Questions
5. Wind energy development	Drop from consideration as a covered activity due to the lack of foreseeable projects and the unique nature of their impact on raptors.	None
6. Sanitary system infrastructure	Refine activity to “sanitary system infrastructure construction and maintenance”. Estimate final impacts based on combination of on-going, small-scale activities and new construction of foreseeable major projects.	Where are major wastewater projects planned?
7. Recreational facility construction, maintenance, and operation	Refine activity to “rural recreational facility...” (recreational facilities within the Urban Limit Line (ULL) can be subsumed within #1). Estimate impacts based on combination of on-going and future operation and maintenance activities, and construction of new facilities needed for the HCP/NCCP preserve system.	Does EBRPD need coverage under the HCP/NCCP for construction, maintenance, and operation of their existing or new facilities?
8. Mining facility construction, operation, and maintenance	Due to the limited mining occurring in the inventory area, drop this activity unless Unamin is interested in coverage under the HCP/NCCP.	Is Unamin interested in getting their operations or future expansions covered under the HCP/NCCP?
9. Creation of parks, trails, and campgrounds	Include these activities within the ULL in activity #1; include these activities outside the ULL in activity #7. Create new category “recreational use of rural parks and preserves” to cover recreational uses within HCP/NCCP preserve system.	Does EBRPD want to include existing recreational uses in their parks in the HCP/NCCP?
10. Funeral/ Interment Services	Include these activities within the ULL in activity #1. Create new activity “miscellaneous development outside the ULL”. Estimate final impacts based on rough acreage ceiling.	None
11. Public Services (e.g., construction of fire stations, police stations, public administration centers, community centers, schools, airports (or airport expansion))	Include these activities within the ULL in activity #1; include these activities outside the ULL in revised activity #10; estimate activities outside the ULL based on rough ceiling	The Byron Airport is within the ULL; should we include development on current GP designations in the final analysis or another development footprint? Is there a formal proposal to expand the Byron Airport?
12. Construction of Churches	Include this activity within the ULL in activity #1. Include this activity outside the ULL in revised activity #10. Estimate activity outside the ULL based on rough ceiling.	None

Proposed Activity from Feb. 13 list	Recommendation	Remaining Questions
13. Utility services-electricity, solids, liquids or gas through pipes which are necessary to support principal development involving only minor structures	Include this activity within the ULL in activity #1. Include this activity outside the ULL in revised activity #10. Estimate activity outside the ULL based on rough ceiling.	None
14. Population surveys, management, and scientific research on Preserve lands or potential preserve lands	Refine this activity to include habitat restoration in preserves created by the HCP/NCCP.	None
15. Relocation of covered species or other mitigation required for direct impacts to covered species	Retain this activity but combine with #14.	None
16. New agricultural operations	Combine with #17 and redefine as "clearing, grading, or filling of grasslands, oak woodlands, chaparral, wetlands, or riparian woodland/scrub natural communities for new irrigated agriculture". Define new irrigated agriculture as "cropland, pasture, orchards, or vineyards that currently do not support these activities".	Does the agricultural community want this activity covered in the HCP/NCCP? How much is irrigated agriculture expected to expand into these natural communities during the permit term?
17. Agricultural intensification	Combine with #16; see above	None
18. On-going operations of existing agriculture	Drop activity unless agricultural community is interested in covered it in the HCP/NCCP. Define terms clearly with help of landowner representatives and based on new California Endangered Species Act revisions to agricultural exemption provision. Estimate impacts based on ceiling within current agriculture and grassland land cover types.	Does the agricultural community want this activity covered? If so, how much coverage is needed and for which on-going activities?

In summary, this new draft list of activities incorporates all of our recommendations:

1. Residential, commercial, and industrial development
2. Road and highway construction and maintenance
3. Water infrastructure construction and maintenance
4. Flood control project construction and maintenance
5. Sanitary system infrastructure construction and maintenance
6. Rural recreational facility construction, maintenance, and operation
7. Recreational use of rural parks and preserves
8. Mining facility construction, operation, and maintenance (if requested by mining companies)
9. Miscellaneous development outside the ULL (to be defined later)
10. Population surveys, species relocation, habitat restoration, management, and scientific research on preserve lands or potential preserve lands
11. Clearing, grading, or filling of natural communities for new irrigated agriculture (if requested by agricultural community)
12. On-going operations of existing agriculture (if requested by agricultural community)

(below please find a refined draft of the above list ~~that received consensus approval of showing changes proposed by~~ the Coordination Group at its August 15 meeting ~~the Coordination will review the accuracy of this summary and continue the discussion on September 19~~)

Discussion Draft of Covered Activities List¹

1. Residential, commercial, and industrial development (and other development activities, such as described in items 2 thru 4, inside the Urban Limit Line)
2. Road and highway construction and maintenance outside the ULL
3. Water infrastructure construction and maintenance outside the ULL
4. Flood control project construction and maintenance outside the ULL
5. Sanitary system infrastructure construction and maintenance
6. Rural recreational facility construction, maintenance, and operation
7. Recreational use of rural parks and preserves
8. Mining facility construction, operation, and maintenance (if requested by mining companies)
9. Miscellaneous development outside the ULL (to be defined later)
10. Population surveys, species relocation, habitat restoration, management, and scientific research on preserve lands or potential preserve lands
11. Clearing, grading, or filling of natural communities for new irrigated agriculture (if requested by agricultural community)
12. On-going operations of existing agriculture (if requested by agricultural community)
13. Wind turbines to be discussed later

1 The introductory text on this subject should explain the difference between Section 7 and Section 10 of the Federal Endangered Species Act and make clear that, while an HCP can only provide coverage under section 10, HCPs can be an instrument for identifying permit conditions under Section 7.