

**TAdN Steering Committee Meeting
September 21, 2005
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Resource Center
Davis, California**

Program Updates and Discussion

Introductions

Those present included Dwight Holford (Upper Putah Creek), Greg Ksander (USDA-ARS), Jessica Olson (SEC), Katie Pilat (San Francisco Watershed Council), Susan Mason (CSU, Chico Research Foundation), Bob Lossius (Lake County Public Works), Pat Bestrianos (Lake County Public Works), Todd Adams (Napa County Flood Control District), Kristin Carter (CSU, Chico Research Foundation), Ron Unger (EDAW, Inc.), Cece Sellgren (Contra Costa County Flood Control District), Sharon Weaver (San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust), Lia McLaughlin (CALFED/USFWS), Mark Newhouser (SEC), and Bob Hass (SEC).

CBDA Monitoring and Evaluation Proposal

This is an opportunity for existing CBDA projects in need of additional funds for monitoring and evaluation. We put in a proposal for close to \$400K. They offered \$111 as a directed action and requested a response from us. We may need to resubmit our proposal within the next few weeks.

WIMS Development and Training

Deanne DiPietro was sick so was unable to report. We renewed our subcontract with ICE, who we have been working with on database development to correct some of bugs in the Weed Information Management System (WIMS). We have also been working on the user interface so partners will have the ability to input data easily. The next WIMS training will be held on October 20 for any Phase 1 or 2 partners who were unable to attend the previous one. Details on the training will be announced shortly. Since we've changed databases, it is important that all partners get up to speed using this new data management system.

Project Time Extension/Amendment Proposal (for Phase 2)

Due to delays in contracting, GCAP said we have valid justification for requesting an extension of time so partners can add another eradication season to their work. Do partners want an extra season for follow-up treatments and monitoring, and if so, how many additional months? Many other projects have already requested amendments to their projects, partly because bond money has to be spent by a certain time, and also because future CALFED funding appears tenuous. Several people felt any time extension should continue several months past the eradication season in order to allow partners to complete final program and financial reports.

The Steering Committee decided that it wanted to apply for an amendment to extend the time for follow-up treatments and monitoring through an additional full year, unless this would conflict with the date funding will be cut off.

Environmental Compliance

Ron Unger of EDAW, Inc., who is overseeing this aspect of AECF's Phase 2, reported on what is planned. He indicated that a high priority currently is for partners to return EDAW's permitting survey, which was handed out at the last TAdN meeting. EDAW is trying to determine which partners need certain permits, such as a Stream Alteration Agreement (any substantial disturbance to a river or lake), or a 404 Corps of Engineers permit. For the latter, we anticipate getting a nationwide permit, and hopefully one that does not require a wetland delineation (which requires more work and is more limiting).

The gist of permitting is to ensure protection for endangered, protected, and sensitive species and for water quality in waterways. On the other hand, we understand that you want to do your work efficiently. We want to know what different tools you anticipate needing in different areas. If you want to be able to use certain equipment or methods to increase the efficiency of Arundo removal, we'll work with you to figure out what the best permitting approach may be. The assessment we've given you is to determine what you need and how we can best accommodate you. We also need to know what data you already have, since the permitting process relies on existing data.

Whether we can get regional permits is largely an agency-by-agency task, since permits are under the control of different agencies. We are aiming to get regional permits for two different districts for each agency. Ultimately, however, this depends on the methods each partner intends to use and the areas affected. Be sure you include surfactants you wish to use when you fill out the survey. Steering Committee members said they wanted to be able to get permits that also allowed the use of imazypyr, since many feel it is quite effective against Arundo.

Partner Updates and Discussion

Eradication Plan Preparation

Phase 1 partners only need to update their Eradication Plan, not develop a new one.

The next TAdN Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2005, 10am-12noon at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.