



CITY OF ARCATA WETLANDS AND CREEKS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL 2006

Presented at the June 21, 2006 City Council Meeting

Committee Members:

Scott Bauer, Chair	(Liaison, Parks & Recreation Committee)
Bob Brown, Vice-Chair	
Dan Gale	
Mary Ann Madej	(Liaison, Forest Management Committee)
Douglas Kelly	
Vanessa Metz	
Chet Ogan	(Liaison, Open Space Committee)

Staff Liaison:

Mark André, Deputy Director, Environmental Services Department



The Wetlands and Creeks Committee was established in 1992. The Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council, City Manager and City staff in matters related to policies, management and projects affecting creeks, wetland and tideland resources in Arcata.

The Committee is to have regularly scheduled meetings every month, on the third Tuesday of the month. Its seven members, appointed by the City Council, serve overlapping three-year terms and represent various areas of expertise, knowledge/interest.

The Committee had its regular meetings during the past year, as well as study sessions and subcommittee meetings.

A. Creek and Wetlands/ Policies/Ordinances

The Committee reviewed and made recommendations of the following items:

1. The Committee was involved in the discussion regarding the potential for gaining access to the Mad River.
2. The Committee made additional recommendations on the draft *Land Use Code* (LUC). Specifically, regarding limitations of how much of the wetland/creek setback can be used for community garden and or stormwater detention use.
3. Public comments received on the McDaniel Slough Environmental Impact Report.

B. Management of City-owned Creeks and Wetlands

The Committee reviewed and, in some cases provided recommendations regarding several issues relating to management of wetland/riparian vegetation on city-owned property, including:

1. Committee provided input on grants that the City was awarded.
 - The Arcata Baylands \$ 930,000
 - Jolly Giant Creek Reroute \$95,000
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service Small Wetlands Grant (South Fork Janes Creek) \$50,000
2. The Committee heard updates and gave input on enhancement projects on Beith Creek, Gannon Slough, and Janes Creek.

C. Development Projects

The Committee reviewed and made recommendations on the following development projects involving creek and wetland issues:

1. Creek and wetland setbacks for development at the Zanzi property located on Giuntoli Lane adjacent to the Mad River.
2. Stormwater issues and wetland delineation and mitigation for the 30th Street Commons Planned Unit Development, Janes Creek.
3. Foster Avenue Annexation/Subdivision, wetland delineation/mitigation to Janes Creek as well as stormwater issues.
4. Q Street Subdivision.

D. General Comments and Future Tasks

- City continues to leverage its own funds with state, federal and foundation grant funds to accomplish a large amount of project work.
- Looking forward to a smooth implementation of the new City *Land Use Code*.
- Next year will provide update on the implementation of the City's Stormwater Pollution Reduction Plan.