



CITY OF ARCATA WETLANDS AND CREEKS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL 2007

Presented at the May 16, 2007 City Council Meeting

Committee Members:

Scott Bauer, Chair (Liaison, Parks & Recreation Committee)

Bob Brown, Vice-Chair

Dan Gale

Chris McAuliffe

Douglas Kelly

Vanessa Metz

Chet Ogan

(Liaison, Open Space Committee)

Staff Liaison:

Mark André, 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 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.
2. The Committee met with staff from the California Department of Fish and Game to discuss in-stream and riparian issues.

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 has applied for
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetland Reserve Program Grant (applied)
 - National Coastal Wetlands Grant – Arcata Baylands -\$930,000 (Awarded)
 - Jacoby Creek Water Rights dedication for fish (awarded \$30,000)
 - Sunny Brae Forest Road/Erosion Inventory (applied)
2. The Committee heard updates and gave input on enhancement projects on Beith Creek, Gannon Slough, Janes Creek, McDaniel Slough, the Janes Creek/West End Road flood remedy project and Jacoby 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. 30th Street Commons Planned Unit Development, Janes Creek, stream protection area
3. Restoration of the wetland behind Jacoby Creek School.
4. Approval of the Humboldt Bay Housing Development Corporation's Janes Creek Meadow Land Trust Development.
5. Review of mitigation monitoring of the Janes Creek Meadows subdivision.

D. General Comments

- The 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*.
- Adoption of the Final Environmental Impact Report for McDaniel Slough.

E. Future Tasks:

1. Review and Comment on Management Plans for Bayview Ranch and the Sunny Brae Forest property as it is amended into the Forest Management Plan.
2. Assist with review of creek and upland restoration efforts in the Sunny Brae Forest.
3. Assist with regional trail planning efforts that may improve public access to wetland resources and tidelands (Bay levee trail).
4. Provide development review assistance.
5. Continue to assist with Stormwater Management Program and Master Plan Implementation.
6. Assist Open Space Committee regarding recommendations of open space funding mechanisms.