



CITY OF ARCATA WETLANDS AND CREEKS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL 2008

Presented at the April 2, 2008 City Council Meeting

Committee Members:

Bob Brown, Chair

Dan Gale

Chris McAuliffe

Douglas Kelly

Todd Kraemer

Vanessa Metz, Vice-Chair

Chet Ogan

(Liaison, Parks & Recreation Committee)

(Liaison, Open Space Committee)

Staff Liaison:

Juli Neander, Resource Specialist, 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). The sections reviewed by the Committee were:
 - 9.59-Environmental Sensitive Habitat Areas Protection and Preservation;
 - 9.66-Urban Runoff Pollution Control
 - 9.64-Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control
 - 9.34-Landscaping Standards. Comments were related to ESHA impacts, stormwater impacts, xeriscaping, native plants, no invasives, no pesticides.
 - 9.42.190-Windmills. Need for biological assessment for impacts to ESHA's

B. Management of City-owned Creeks and Wetlands

1. Jacoby Creek Estuary Plan
2. Handling water run off from fire fighting
3. McDaniel Slough brackish pond construction and public access policy
4. Klopp Lake and Oxidation Pond levee repair

C. Development Projects

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

1. Trillium Creek Village Subdivision
2. Mad River Properties
3. O Street Planned Unit Development
4. Cal Trans 101 corridor draft Environmental Impact Report
5. Slack Property
6. Town and Country Mobile Home Park

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*.

E. Future Tasks:

1. Setback recommendations on creek side parcels
2. Development Standards-Streamside Protection Area Guidance Manual
3. City of Arcata Detention Basin Setback Area Guidance
4. Recreational use in and adjacent to sensitive habitats
5. Stormwater management and water quality — promoting good design – LID, promoting infiltration over detention basins, ongoing education for residents and various business sectors
6. Continue to assist with Stormwater Management Program and Master Plan Implementation
7. Assist Open Space Committee regarding recommendations of open space funding mechanisms
8. Review and comment on County General Plan update as it applies to City of Arcata planning area and wetlands/creek resources
9. Review and comment on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan updates