

Notes

Dry Creek Greenway Public Forum #1

Rocklin Library,

June 2, 2003 6:30pm-8:30pm

Kate Kirsh, Foothill Associates' project manager for the Dry Creek Greenway Master Plan, introduced Foothill Associates' and Placer County staff. She briefly explained the Greenway history and purpose. Loren Clark with Placer County Planning added conceptual history, including Placer Legacy and the framework of conservation. He pointed out that many other conservation efforts are currently underway in Placer County. The key to the Dry Creek Greenway is the amount of the watershed in private ownership, which will require significant cooperation among landowners to accomplish the Greenway.

Kate briefed the Master Plan process, including what we will and won't be doing. She described the phases of the project including goals, objectives and key phasing, review of existing plans and policies, the role of the Public Planning Team, and the continuum of trail uses from recreation to habitat preservation and enhancement. She clarified that we will not be doing detailed planning as part of this project.

A question was raised whether in our information review that we found the goals of the different jurisdictions to be consistent with respect to habitat preservation and restoration, and if the goal of the Greenway plan was to establish consistency. Kate answered that the goal is to provide recommendations for stewardship and land use practices, and that it was up to the jurisdictions to give the plan teeth. It was commented that Rocklin has been prescriptive on this, but that agreements between city agencies and developers are not always enforced to ensure compliance.

A resident asked if the team was familiar with the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG's) role in control of what happens in the streams. Kate responded that DFG has jurisdiction over the streambed by federal law, and that they are responsible for protecting habitat.

Kate presented the ArcView tour of the Greenway, and then asked if there were any questions or comments up to this point. None were raised.

After a short recess, the attendees broke into groups of 4-5 and gathered around the maps to discuss their concerns. Following this exercise, Kate summarized the comments. Some of the issues raised are presented below:

- Low flow crossings aren't always maintained and can cause a blockage to salmon migration. There was some concern that this might happen at the low-flow crossing planned for the Vista Oaks development.
- A suggested trailhead, including parking, was indicated on one of the maps.
- Four wheel drive and motorcycle use was a problem in at least one area.

- Native American sites including grinding stone artifacts are present in the watershed and should be preserved.
- Salmon have been seen on Miners Ravine in 2001.
- Public access through private property is generally unwelcome. Kate stressed that this will only occur if the private property owners want it to happen.
- Preserving habitat without infringing on private property owner's rights is an important issue.

There was a question as to whether Roseville's storm drains flow directly into the creek. It was clarified that the storm drains do, but the sanitary sewers are separate systems and discharge to treatment facilities.

Kate then opened the meeting to the floor for comments and questions. The first concern raised was with increasing peak flows and the effect of higher peaks and sharper drops following peaks on salmon. The restriction at Vernon Street was mentioned as a good mitigating structure that delays the sharp drop in water levels following a storm event. Kate briefed the group on the Placer County Detention basin studies currently underway.

A resident raised a question about the current requirements for detention in new developments. Kate summarized NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) phase two requirements for onsite detention and asked for clarification from the City and County representatives present. Kent Foster, a planner with the City of Rocklin, said that phase two NPDES had six different processes, one of which is development of new construction standards for stormwater control. The City is currently developing design standards to limit the amount of roof runoff draining into the storm sewer system, requiring grassy swales for parking lots, and other mitigation measures. Rocklin is required to develop a program over the next 5 years. This program will undergo public review and will be posted on the web. It was asked if Placer County had a similar program. Loren Clark responded that they have comparable requirements, and Leslie Gault can provide additional detail. Kate said that Placer County has requirements for stormwater detention and limiting development in the floodplain, as well as for water quality filtration and pretreatment.

One of the attendees expressed some concern about development along the creek in their neighborhood, and asked if they would have an opportunity to learn more about the development. Loren briefed the CEQA process and the public notification process whereby residents within 300 feet of a proposed development received notices in the mail. He also said that the County's website contains information on proposed developments. Anyone interested can also contact Gina Langford with Placer County's Planning Department.

The question was raised again about regulations and standards between various jurisdictions, and who enforces the policies. This was deemed a significant issue, because without enforcement, many property owners may not comply with policies established to protect the Greenway. Kate said that sometimes jurisdictions require

3rd party policing to ensure compliance, but that this is more common in more recent developments.

One resident expressed concern about the setbacks on Clover Creek. They indicated that setbacks were required to be an average of 50 feet from the stream, but that the use of the word “average” allowed significant flexibility in developing close to the stream, if other areas are set aside with larger buffers. Kate stressed the importance of public support of the Greenway plan and public review to avoid pitfalls in verbiage such as this. Loren stressed that this program is incentive-based, rather than regulatory. He also said that a study was coming out later this year or next that specified minimum setback for creeks based upon sound biological studies of fish habitat. It was requested that the Greenway Plan develop a set of policies to establish consistency between jurisdictions.

The meeting concluded with Kate distributing the photo packs.