

STEVENS CREEK VISIONING WORKGROUP

Date: February 2, 2004
Time: 4:30 PM
Place: Sunnyvale Community Center, Community Room
Website: http://www.valleywater.org/_WMI/Stewardship_plan

Attendance List - Please see list at end of Meeting Notes.

Action Items/Next Steps

For Stevens Creek, the Project Team will

1. review/reflect on ideas discussed at this meeting, ideas from team discussions and from information collected/analysis conducted for Stevens Creek
2. produce a GIS-based map with narratives for compiling the visioning chapter of the Lower Peninsula Watershed Stewardship Plan
3. District staff along with stakeholders will get a chance to review draft as a part of the Lower Peninsula Watershed Stewardship Plan

For Other Creeks needing a visioning statement, the Project Team will

4. transfer ideas discussed at this meeting as appropriate, ideas from team discussions and from information collected through stakeholder interviews/analysis conducted for the respective creek
5. produce a GIS-based map with narratives for compiling the visioning chapter of the Watershed Stewardship Plans
6. District staff along with stakeholders will get a chance to review draft as a part of the Watershed Stewardship Plan

There was a general recognition that ideas discussed need to be evaluated in the context of the historical and existing conditions and within the context of the District's Mission and Ends Policies. The team along with District staff is being relied upon to come up with a concise vision statement along with an illustration depicting how these ideas apply where along the creek and within the watershed for review/input.

Meeting Notes

I. Introductions

The Stewardship Plans Project team and attendees introduced themselves. Mondy Lariz opened the meeting and turned it over to Sarah Young for an introduction on the Water District's mission and District's Ends Policy.

II. Introduction to the Stewardship Plans

Clayton Creager presented an overview of the Stewardship Plans and the information that will be presented in the Plans, covering the following points:

1. Purpose of the Plans
2. Potential Uses
3. Scientific Approach on conditions and restoration potential
4. Overview of historic and current conditions: overview of preliminary findings on:
 - a. Historical Ecology – changes in population, land and water use, structures, etc. over time
 - b. Land Use – to understand impacts of development on watershed health
 - c. Channel Conditions/Aquatic Habitat – data on erosion, incision, fish barriers
 - d. Trails and Open Space – trail system in riparian zone
 - e. Water Supply – dams and reservoirs for recharging the groundwater

III. Comments for Project Team on Historical Ecology Preliminary Findings

There were great interests in the historical ecology findings, and the team took note of the following:

1. Need to resolve inconsistency between 1862 map and 1876 map (provided today by Libby Lucas). Also, the eastern fork of Permanente used to go into Stevens Creek, judging from the riparian cover. (Alice gave Libby's 1876 map to Isabelle for her to give to Robin.)
2. Mondy has found some old maps that hinted at a channel older than 1862. So this issue may not be easy to resolve.
3. There is some debate about whether Stevens emptied directly into the Bay. There is agreement that at best it was seasonal and in dry years did not connect to the Bay. But it may have had a slough/channel, at least in wet years. The maps may have been done in dry years/seasons for other purposes.
4. Consider conducting geologic reconnaissance to look at the Permanente-Stevens connection
5. Consider looking at progression of disturbance caused by various land uses.
6. Consider collecting anecdotal information on fish abundance. For example, SPCWC received a report of current sighting of salmon at 200 meters south of L'avenida.
7. Need a comparison of historic to current vegetation cover.
8. Is there any historical account of conditions before Europeans arrived? What do we know about native use patterns? Shellmounds distribution indicates that native settlements were widely distributed.
9. Is anyone doing excavation research on the shellmounds? In the East Bay, they have found Chinook salmon bones in one. The Water District knows of an excavation under a landfill.
10. Any information on how wide the riparian woodland was, and would be without human intervention?
11. Railroad map may be influenced by their desire to present the creek as a stable channel that does not empty into the Bay.

III. Visioning Exercise

David Early led the group in an exercise to solicit ideas from stakeholders about the vision for the future of the Stevens Creek Watershed, and for future possible projects to support that vision. The group discussed ideas by subjects.

A. Ideas Related to Land Use

Vision-related Comments	Comments Related to Project Ideas	Other Comments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Water District influence Cupertino's General Plan? 2. In areas with more intensive development, require stormwater management for new development to mitigate impacts of development. 3. What Land Use changes will be needed to achieve an ecological stable, healthy creek? In the long term, we need a geomorphic assessment to help us answer the question of what land use changes are needed. 4. Purchase or move existing uses that encroach on the stream. 5. Daylight the sections of Permanente creek that are underground. 6. Ensure/enact adequate setbacks. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct an inventory of encroachments 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The HMP will address many of these issues (for new development).

B. Ideas Related to Channel Conditions

Vision-related Comments	Comments Related to Project Ideas
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emphasize to Cities that the west bank vegetation is a priority to keep stream cool. 2. There is a question of priorities: Do we focus on erosion first, or on fish habitat? Prioritize studies in areas with the most habitat potential. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate and inventory the drain designs (which are benign, which are lethal). 2. Conduct a geomorphic study of the channel (what it could potentially be to be a stable, healthy channel). 3. Conduct a survey just to get an idea of what's going on: for example, conduct a Rosgen Level 1 Survey, then a survey a couple sections with Rosgen Level 2. Look at sinuosity, cross section, slope, width-depth ratio of bank-full channel, etc. 4. Determine the shape of the stable channel during normal and high flows. In areas where the channel is not stable, determine what a stable channel would look like. For hardened sections, use data to determine what shape of channel should be. 5. Quantify the costs to do geomorphic study. 6. Identify areas where the creek is most erosive. 7. Conduct study on gravel deposition. 8. Do an erosion survey above the Reservoir to identify better erosion control opportunities.

C. Ideas for Habitat Conditions

Vision-related Comments	Comments Related to Future Projects	Other Comments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall analysis of biodiversity of wildlife corridor (not just coldwater fish) 2. Removal of fish barriers 3. Improve Gravel beds. Get enough gravel with sufficient depth & length to overcome any impediment 4. Incorporate large woody debris 5. Add riffle pools 6. Do something about low dissolved oxygen 7. Control invasive species; replace with natives 8. Other non-riparian restoration opportunities: e.g., Ulistac Park Oaks 9. Water temperature/water quality 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feasibility of Gravel Augmentation: if they add gravel, would it stay in the stream? How deep is enough? 2. Map existing riffle pools with GPS (refer to report done for FAHCE by Balanced Hydrologics, Inc. March 2002). 3. Comprehensive resource inventory on all plants and animals (for example, there are 2 bird species extirpated from Santa Clara Basin: Least Fells Vireo and other. What would get them back?) 4. What were the historic assemblages? 5. Identify sources of runoff, sources of pollutants 6. GPS catalog of all outfalls 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FAHCE has info. 2. Get SCVAS survey mapping non-native species submitted to SCVWD (Rick Austin).

D. Ideas Related to Trails and Open Space

Vision-related Comments	Comments Related to Future Projects
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make trail connection to County park: Connect the Stevens Creek trail (comes out at Stevens Creek Blvd. by Snyder House) to the De Anza trail 2. Make trailhead improvements and parking at end of Stevens Canyon Road. 3. Make sure trail construction does not negatively impact riparian habitat. 4. Convert the 2 large quarries to park land. 5. Acquire private property for access; identify publicly-held areas that could become publicly accessible open space. 6. Partner with Open Space District. 7. Better mgt of public lands: e.g., Make golf courses more enviro-friendly 8. Improve Los Altos Bike Trails: Some bridges/trails are boarded up, so possibly open them or provide incentives. 9. Mountain View/Los Altos/Sunnyvale “Reach 4” trail 10. Let people access the creeks, including public education, liability assessment 11. Balance creek access with stream protection 12. Pilot a natural landscape program for property owners (creek access can be an amenity to homeowners) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate more trail uses, especially in urban areas.

E. Ideas Related to Water Supply

Vision-related Comments	Comments Related to Future Projects	Other Comments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain percolation capacity of stream to protect from subsidence and recharge the groundwater. 2. Dam removal should be explored/evaluated., e.g., restoring fish access to upper watershed may be a moot effort if there is not enough water for fish habitat. 3. Use recycled/reclaimed water for landscape. 4. Promote use of gray-water systems in homes and businesses. 5. Protection of reservoir water quality (eg., District’s sourcewater protection program, source water protection zones/buffers around a reservoir, promote low-risk land uses around a reservoir, prohibit/discourage high-risk uses). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inventory water withdrawals from watershed (pumping for irrigation, etc). 2. Develop a pricing system based on elasticity of demand that discourages wasteful use of water (e.g., irrigation of non-native plants) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the Stewardship Plans, clarify whether there is “Sierran” or Aqueduct water imported into Stevens Creek. 2. Report includes analysis of relative sea water rise on within salt pond areas and lower levels of the bay.

F. Ideas Related to Flood Protection

Vision-related Comments	Comments Related to Future Projects
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No new concrete 2. Use natural flood protection program 3. Reconnect stream to floodplain 4. Restore historic storage/flood capacity 5. Urban stormwater detention and treatment 6. Extend Hydromodification plan to redevelopment and existing development. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess potential for sediment removal (investigate potential for inter-agency coordination to provide sediment to areas that need sediment supplementation)

G. Ideas for Inter-agency Coordination

Vision-related Comments	Comments Related to Future Projects	Other Comments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of a multi-agency revolving fund program to implement a no-net long term cost acquisition of floodplain land. 2. A continuing, strong watershed council. 3. Inclusion of Caltrans in the stewardship process (e.g., for Coastal Conservancy's study on barriers, Caltrans would not submit their list). 4. Better education to decision-makers in Cities. Actively engage and educate city and county officials who have potential stewardship involvement. 5. Community outreach to ensure support for stewardship decisions 6. Raise awareness so people identify with their watershed, so they realize they are citizens of a watershed. 7. Remedy the lack of active citizen groups that are pushing the Regional Board to issue watershed permits to protect beneficial uses. Get the Regional Board to use its authority to go beyond pollution control. Extend the realm of permits to address broader range of beneficial uses. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop tools (e.g., funding to Watershed Councils) to help facilitate partnerships with Land use agencies and landowners. 2. Produce a flowchart showing relationship between WMI with District, WAP and other Plans. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make sure projects recommended out of this process are consistent with projects coming out of the salt pond restoration process.

List of Attendees

Name	Organization	E-Mail
Aaron Grossman	Friends of Stevens Creek Trail	aaron_grossman@stevenscreektrail.org
Alice Ringer	Santa Clara Basin WMI	aringer@valleywater.org
Barbara Banfield	Cupertino Parks & Rec. Dept.	barbarab@cupertino.org
Beau Goldie	Santa Clara Valley Water District	bgoldie@valleywater.org
Bill Springer	Santa Clara Valley Water District	bspringer@valleywater.org
Brett Calhoun	Santa Clara Valley Water District	bcalhoun@valleywater.org
Briggs Nisbet	Save the Bay	briggs@savesfbay.org
Clayton Creager	Tetra Tech	ClayCreager@cs.com
David Early	DCE	david@dceplanning.com
Deborah Jamison	Cupertino resident	ddj@best.com
Dennis Buranek	Flycasters, Inc.	flyroddb@aol.com
Gary Bailey	Sierra Club Conservation Committee	tigergary@earthlink.net
Isabelle Min	DCE	isabelle@dceplanning.com
Jill Clay-Halloran	SCVAS	j.clay@mindspring.com
Judy Fulton		
Kelly Crowley	Santa Clara University	kcrowley@scu.edu
Kran Kilpatrick	NASA Ames Research Center	K.Kilpatrick@nasa.gov
Larry Johmann	GCRC	ljohmann@pacbell.net
Laura Young	Santa Clara Valley Water District	lyoung@valleywater.org
Leighton Nakata	Mtn. View resident/ Creekside News Editor	leightonnakata@yahoo.com
Libby Lucas	CA Native Plant Society	jluucas1099@aol.com
Mondy Lariz	Stevens/Permanente Creeks Watershed Council	coordinator@spwc.org
Pamela Treder	Creek Ed Coordinator, City of Cupertino	pamtred@comcast.net
Pat Showalter	Santa Clara Valley Water District	pshowlater@valleywater.org
Richard McMurtry	Regional Water Quality Control Bd	rmcmurtry@igc.org
Robert Kagiya	City of Mountain View	robert.kagiya@ci.mtnview.ca.us
Sandra Derby	Children's discovery Museum	sderby@cdm.org
Sandy Olliges	NASA Ames Research Center	Sandra.M.Olliges@nasa.gov
Sarah Young	Santa Clara Valley Water District	syoung@valleywater.org
Spence Everson	Private Citizen Property Owner	SpenceEverson@earthlink.net