



PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2 - GROUP SESSION NOTES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Goleta Valley Community Center

HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY

- Creek maintenance important, but use of herbicides raises concerns.
- How does warming of water relate to water quality/oxygen levels?
- Are there plans to mitigate external/agriculture impacts?
- County and City collaboration for conserving creek health is important.
- Important to define and understand what is allowed in creek setbacks.
- Concerns with San Jose Creek flooding, both upstream and downstream.
- With creek restoration and widening opportunities – look to provide buffers.
- Important to report impairments (e.g., flow restrictions, trash).
- Creek recharge projects – understand relationship to groundwater.
- Groundwater use - understand impacts to both flow levels and water quality.
- Management of watershed hydrology is important.
- Instream flows need to be protected.
- Provide outreach to other entities.
- Gather information on groundwater basin.
- Information included in Goleta Water District (GWD) SAFE Water Supplies Ordinance that may be pertinent; investigate GWD function with groundwater.
- Integrate Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements with trash ordinance.
- Creek capacity questions - widening vs. restoration
- Upstream opportunities for infiltration?
- Structures/development within 100 feet of creek centerline – is there a map or inventory?
- Issues with San Jose Creek flooding south of Hollister
- Bridge designs and impacts to creek flows and capacity.

BIOLOGY

- Bird habitat surveys – use existing data (e.g., from Audubon)
- Will Plan address avian issues? CWMP is restoration-focused, but bird surveys to follow (pending a contract amendment).
- Biology and other technical areas of study must be integrated together and with aquifer data.
- Identify the ecosystem productivity (for birds)
 - Groundwater and hydrology important for bird and wildlife populations
- San Jose Creek invasive species removal is important.
- General principle is to protect the good stuff and restore the “bad” or opportunity sites.
- Educate public about invasive species (e.g., Cape Ivy, Arundo) and the damage they cause. Ideas to do this included informational pamphlets and Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Ongoing training for City staff (field) to increase environmental awareness. Consider hiring strategies (staff and contractors) to lean towards environmentally aware and trained individuals.
- Old San Jose Creek is lacking hydrology – is or isn’t this a creek?
- San Jose Creek – concerns with trout habitat, algal blooms, and upstream debris basins
- Arundo clearing pros/cons – consider both
- Amphibians/reptiles use uplands as well creek corridors. CWMP should consider upland refugia.
- Who enforces complaints? CWMP should address the who, what, and when of enforcement.
 - Plan should include enforcement contacts.
- Fire clearance along creeks. Include standards in CWMP.
- Education programs should touch on all the resources, even clarifying the difference between a wood rat nest vs. debris pile.
- CWMP to clarify who is responsible for creek buffer and under what regulations (e.g., Title 17).
- Habitats
 - Lack of water due to extractions and surface diversions
 - Address City and upstream water flow diversions
 - Flag as issue
 - Add recommendation to coordinate with other agencies/jurisdictions
 - Require all extractions to offset impacts by recharging groundwater
 - Restore natural geomorphology to enhance biological resources
 - Remove impediments to wildlife resources
 - Remove concrete channels and restore with natives
 - Protect, maintain buffer protections
- Regulations
 - Address overlapping and sometimes conflicting regulations; acknowledge challenge in CWMP.
 - Address allowed uses/activities in buffers, e.g., detention basins might be compatible in buffer
 - List General Plan/zoning allowed uses for clarity
 - Consider General Plan Amendments to support CWMP.
 - Consider the City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division as a model to implement the CWMP.

GEOMORPHOLOGY

- Group 1
 - Conflict exists between the identified benefits of fallen trees and woody debris which enhance pool/riffle systems and County Flood Control removing all downed logs and trees.
 - Include Matt Stoecker's report on fish passage mapping
 - Geohydrology – what are impacts of basin pumping? Concern that a flow analysis not in CWMP scope. Important to consider both:
 - Groundwater/streamflow connectivity; and
 - Infiltration/recharge areas
 - Impairments created by concrete channels and concrete/rock revetments, which provide fish passage barriers.
 - Restore natural geomorphology to extent possible while considering flood control measures.
 - Retain wood in streams
 - Preference for biotechnical bank stabilization instead of revetments

- Group 2
 - Identify priority steelhead creeks
 - Sandpiper Golf Course – remove pipes to create a natural channel
 - Old San Jose Creek channel has variety of concerns including disconnected segments, lack of water, and overgrown with invasive species.

- Group 3
 - Goal is to restore and create natural stream environments
 - Want dynamic creeks
 - Create awareness with adjacent property owners as to creek requirements
 - Careful consideration of size and location of bridges
 - Re-establish riparian areas where possible
 - Concerned with lack of space to enhance creek riparian zones and floodplain corridors
 - Removal of concrete, naturalize channel while still conducting appropriate flow sizes