

**Santa Barbara County  
Regional Conservation Strategy**

**Conservation Steering Committee Development  
Meeting**

**Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, Santa Maria  
Wednesday, November 29, 2006**

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**Committee Members Present:**

Martin Potter – CDFG  
Katie Drexhage – USFWS  
Bill Shipsey – Local Jurisdictions (City of Santa Maria – Planning)  
Ronda Lucas – Farming Community (Farm Bureau, Sacramento)  
Jerry Bunin – Development Community (Home Builders Association)  
Susan Petrovich – Ranching Community (Hatch & Parent)

**Alternate Committee Members Present:**

Willy Chamberlin – S.B. County Cattlemen, S.B. County Ag. Advisory Committee  
Teri Bontrager – Farm Bureau, Santa Barbara County

**Project Staff Present:**

Grady Williams – Project Manager, Santa Barbara County  
Whitney Wilkinson – Project Coordinator, Santa Barbara County  
Marc Ebbin – ESA Specialist, Attorney at Law

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- 1. Meeting Minutes from October 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**
  - a. Agreed to strike the term “stakeholder” from decision #3. Now reads “representing environmental interests on the committee.”
  - b. Agreed to strike the term “staff” from the agreement from decision #7d.
  - c. With these changes, consensus reached to adopt the minutes.
  
- 2. ESA Conference Highlights Presentation:** GW presented a summary of some of the more relevant information provided at the CLE Conference in San Francisco 2 weeks earlier. No decisions required.
  
- 3. Organization of Meetings:**
  - a. Discussed committee’s wish on placement and duration of public comment on agenda items to conform to the Brown Act. The consensus of the committee was to allow public comment at the beginning of the meeting and at each agenda item. In both cases comments may be limited to 3 minutes per person if needed to limit total public comment time. Total public comment period on non-agenda items shall not exceed 15 minutes. Further, the consensus of the committee is to keep public participation unrestricted; imposing the agreed upon limitations only when necessary given the level of public participation.

- b. Agreed that agenda and approved meeting minutes to be posted on web page, in addition to official posting board.
4. **Status of Environmental Community Representative:** Consensus was reached that Professor Sam Sweet and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will be added to the committee's membership to represent Species Conservation, subject to their acceptance. Staff reported that Professor Sweet has expressed willingness to accept, and Staff will meet with TNC January 5<sup>th</sup> to solicit their's.
5. **Discussion of Facilitator:** Staff reported that funding for a facilitator has been identified; the FWS has agreed to fund \$10,000 of the estimated \$40,000 required per year. Regarding individuals to fill the role, staff proposed two requirements; 1) that their fee meet budget, and 2) that they be outside of Santa Barbara County and without appearance of partiality. FWS suggested Bob Copper, recently retired Deputy CAO from San Diego County who managed their process. Consensus was that names and resumes of individuals that other committee members may know will be brought to the next meeting, and the committee will decide which to interview.
6. **Revised Project Goals:**
- a. #1 and #12: Consensus to combine #1 and #12 into the mission statement.
  - b. #4: Consensus to revise to read; "Provide regulatory streamlining predictability and certainty."
  - c. #6: Consensus to revise to read; "Establishment of a plan and process that creates a conservation strategy for the covered species that satisfies the requirements of the federal ESA resulting in take authorization for the covered species."
  - d. #7: Consensus to revise to read; "Result in less costly and more efficient CESA, ESA, and CEQA, and NEPA compliance processes".
  - e. Agreed that "Regional Conservation Strategy" should be used as a general term and should be lower case, and "CTS" should be replaced with "covered species."
  - f. Agreed that "Stakeholder" be removed from title of Steering Committee.
  - g. Consensus reached that committee will reach final consensus on goals and adopt them only after being rewritten and presented again to committee.
  - h. There was discussion of goals being allowed to evolve as the project evolves, but not allowed to "mutate". Some felt there should be no change. Some felt they should be allowed to change. This needs further consideration by the committee.

**7. Definition of Consensus:**

- a. Consensus reached that definition should allow for those who do not agree with certain aspects of the plan, to prepare a minority report for inclusion in the public record.
- b. There was general discussion and agreement that the meaning of consensus should consider two levels of agreement; one for specific issues, and one for the plan as a whole.
- c. Consensus of the committee was that SP and RL will propose specific language to be collaborated on with Staff (ME).
- d. There was consensus that meeting minutes be sent to EDC and similarly interested parties so they are well aware of what we are doing. Staff will create such a mailing list, as well as a mailing list for interested general public.

8. **Next Meeting:** December 20th, 10:30 a.m., in the same room – BOS Hearing room, Santa Maria.