

August 2, 2007

Hello Alder Creek Watershed Stakeholders,

*We hope you are enjoying your summer!*

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the watershed project. After reading this, if you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact one of us.

### **Recent and Upcoming Stakeholder Meetings**

First Stakeholder Meeting- March 2007: Our first meeting on March 29 was well attended with about twenty stakeholders, agency staff and consultants present. Participants learned about the project background, goals and timeline and were given the opportunity to each speak about their interest in the watershed. We agreed on some ground rules for future meetings. See the attached meeting minutes (Attachment 1).

#### Upcoming Meetings:

- Our next meeting will be held in October – November. The main purpose of the meeting will be to hear from the scientists who have been busy collecting biological data in the watershed over the last few months. You will get a chance to listen to their preliminary findings and ask questions. We will also discuss our observations from the first two watershed tours.
- Following that, we will have about 4 meetings (probably bimonthly) between January and July 2008. See the proposed project schedule at the end of the March 29 meeting notes.
- Times for Future Meetings: At our first meeting, we discussed desirable meeting times, and the last Thursday of the month (AM or PM) was selected by the group as a good time. Let us know if that has changed for you.

### **Watershed Tours**

To help the stakeholders better understand the condition of the watershed and potential opportunities, two watershed tours were scheduled:

- In April, we visited various parts of the watershed, including Alder Pond/Auto Mall at the tail end of the watershed, several stops in the developed portion of the watershed north of Hwy 50 (residential and business land uses), a windshield tour of the undeveloped/agricultural land in the City's Sphere of Influence, and a visit to the site where Alder Creek is crossed by Prairie City Road. That final stop involved an ambitious trek led by Charles Alpers of USGS, down the stream bank to observe the creek under the bridge. Thank you to the City of Folsom for providing the bus for this outing, and to Bob Burnham of ERT (representing the Folsom Lake Auto Mall) for hosting

the first stop and providing maps and other useful information. Bob has offered to take a smaller group on a more in-depth tour around Alder Pond. Let Carmel know if you are interested in this opportunity.

- In May, we toured the creek as it travels through the GenCorp/Aerojet property, paralleling Hwy 50. This was a great tour of an area of the creek that has been fenced off to the public since Aerojet acquired the property from the Natoma Company in the 1950s. Thanks to our host, Tim Murphy of GenCorp, who took photos for us and also arranged for his consultants to give us a presentation about the existing biological conditions along that stretch of the creek and proposed future development plans.

## Outreach News

- We have a new watershed logo (see top of this page).
- Carmel and Sarah created a 2-page informational fact sheet (see Attachment 2) which they distributed at the City of Folsom's Open House for the Sphere of Influence area at the end of June. Many City residents attending the open house expressed interest in the Alder Creek Watershed project and the watershed map on display.
- We are working on a watershed newsletter which will include an 11x17 fold-out watershed map and photos (many taken during our tours) depicting existing conditions along various segments of the creek and its tributaries. We should have this available by the end of the summer.
- The City recently created a "Discover Folsom Creeks" poster (Attachment 3) which is intended to promote watershed and creek awareness with City residents. We would like to distribute the poster to residents, schools and businesses in the Alder Creek Watershed as a means of putting the creek in context with the other creeks and the American River.

## Highlights of the Technical Work

- The project team is continuing to collect data from the Sphere of Influence landowners related to existing biological and hydrologic conditions in the watershed. Thank you to John Hodgson, MacKay and Somps and ECORP Consultants for their help in this matter. Also, thanks again to Tim Murphy, for supplying all of the data collected and reported to date for the GenCorp property. Thanks to Michael Gross of State Parks for providing historical reports, and finally, to the City of Folsom for reproducing all the documents for the team's use.
- In May, the EDAW scientists completed their first phase of field work to collect additional data (to fill data gaps and compliment the data previously collected by others). Samples were collected at representative sites along the creek and its tributaries. You will hear about the preliminary results at our next meeting this fall. Phase 2 of bioassessment monitoring will be conducted this fall.

Joan Chaplick  
MIG, Stakeholder Facilitator



Carmel Brown  
CKB Environmental, Project Manager



## **Attachment 1**

### **March 29, 2007 stakeholder meeting minutes**

# Alder Creek Watershed Assessment & Management Plan

## STAKEHOLDER MEETING

*March 29, 2007 • 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm • City of Folsom Community Center*

### **Stakeholders in Attendance:**

Bob Burnham (ERT/Folsom Auto Mall)  
Jon Fish (LDS Church)  
Gail Furness de Pardo (City of Folsom)  
Michael Gross (State Parks)  
Jim Konopka (City of Folsom)  
Celine Livengood (County Regional Parks)

Tim Murphy (GenCorp Realty Investments)  
Jim Ray (MacKay & Soms)  
Corinna Sandmeier (Sacramento Co. Planning)  
Alta Tura (Sacramento Urban Creeks Council)  
Jesse VanHorn (ERT/Folsom Auto Mall)  
Sunny Williams (Sacramento Co. Planning)

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Sarah Amaya (City of Folsom)  
Debra Bishop (EDAW)  
Carmel Brown (CKB Environmental)  
Joan Chaplick (MIG)  
Kim Fettke (EDAW)  
Chris Fitzer (EDAW)  
Diana Sherman (MIG)

## **I. Welcome and Introduction**

Joan Chaplick (MIG) introduced the process to the group and provided an overview of the day's agenda (Exhibit 1).

Carmel Brown welcomed the group and asked that those at the table suggest any additional stakeholders who might be recommended. She noted that several invited stakeholders were not in attendance, including Caltrans and several landowners in the community. Stakeholders can contact Carmel with suggestions for additional groups to contact.

Carmel also noted that the process timeframe is somewhat flexible, outside of specific study dates. There is a starting point of today and an end point of June 2009; within this time frame, there's some flexibility based on stakeholder desires and interests.

### ***Project Background***

Carmel gave a presentation describing the background of the project and the watershed. In December 2006, the consultant team was hired. The project will be completed by June 2009. Within that time, there will be opportunities for a great deal of capacity building.

The current stakeholder group composition represents a wide range of stakeholders, including the public agencies (City of Folsom and Sacramento County), the environmental community, landowners and land managers. Later in the process, residents, businesses, and schools will be engaged. The regulatory agencies will also review and comment on work products as they are developed.

### ***Activities***

The main activities of the process include:

- Watershed assessment, a holistic look at current environmental conditions in the watershed;
- Watershed management plan; and
- Watershed stewardship, including involving schools, families and local businesses through Creek Week or other interactive community activities.

### ***Timeline***

Carmel also reviewed the project timeline. The first major milestone is the watershed assessment results, due in the fall. In the meantime, a couple of stakeholder meetings will be held, including a brief tour of the watershed. During the summer, the stakeholder group will not meet, but technical memos will be developed and presented to the group in the fall.

The plan at this point is to hold up to ten stakeholder meetings over the course of the 2+ year project.

The draft watershed management plan will be available in the summer of 2008, followed by public agency presentations in the fall of 2008. A second tour might follow that fall for anyone who might want to see the watershed at that point in the process.

The draft final plan will be available in spring 2009, with the final version released in June 2009.

### ***Agency and Stakeholder Roles***

Sunny asked what the role of the agencies is in the adoption of the plan. Carmel replied that this varies based on agency, but she would like to see an endorsement from each agency. This might take the form of a resolution supporting the project, a formal adoption of the plan, or some other acceptance of and commitment to the activities, particularly with respect to that agency's roles and responsibilities.

Alta asked about stakeholders. Additional environmental advocate groups would be a welcome addition to the process. She suggested checking with Save the American River Association (SARA) as well. Carmel noted that SARA had been contacted during the grant application process several years ago; she will follow up. She suggested that some of the representatives of the environmental community might wish to be included in a review capacity, rather than as stakeholders.

## **II. Orientation to the Watershed**

### ***Watershed Overview***

Carmel introduced the watershed, noting that not very much is known about the watershed yet. A number of studies have been done and are underway, but little of this work has been coordinated to date and the watershed boundary needs some definition. One of the first steps will be to define the watershed boundary.

Carmel displayed images of the watershed both north and south of Route 50. The photographs illustrate some of the challenges—for instance, there is an abundance of aquatic plants growing in some of the waterbodies, and residents would like yellow primrose removed from the area, but there are limits as to what City crews or others can do to maintain/ remove aquatic vegetation from water bodies designated as “Waters of the State”.

Many of the detention basins built in recent years have little documentation, as they were created for individual projects. One task is to consolidate this information into a single comprehensive source.

### ***Watershed Assessment***

Chris Fitzer (EDAW) noted that the watershed assessment process was ramping up, and they are currently identifying data gaps. He distributed a table that included all of the information collected to date on the watershed.

#### ***Watershed Character***

The lower watershed includes the Auto Mall, Alder Pond, and adjacent areas. The middle watershed runs from Folsom Blvd. to Prairie City Road and includes the developed City of Folsom portion north of 50 and the GenCorp Easton property (including the oak woodland, the main stem of Alder Creek, and the dredger tailings area) south of 50. The upper watershed runs from Prairie City Road to the headwaters and is largely oak woodland along the creek and grasslands. North of 50, the area is mainly developed with suburban commercial and residential uses.

### *Maps and Data*

Surveys that have been conducted to date include rare and sensitive species studies, geotechnical surveys of soil and groundwater, Phase I Environmental Assessment development surveys, tree surveys, cultural resource surveys, and others. EDAW is currently reviewing and synthesizing this information and developing a geographical information system (GIS) database of maps. They will also look at how the creek will react to specific condition changes and will predict what the watershed may look like in the future.

### *Field Surveys*

In addition to developing the database of conditions, EDAW will conduct field surveys of the watershed and will focus on three select areas for focused surveys, or bioassessments. Here, they'll collect information on physical aspects including condition of the banks and bed, riparian vegetation composition, discrete water quality information, and samples of the benthic macroinvertebrate community (snails, worms, aquatic insects, etc.). These data will provide clues to the overall health of the creek.

One stakeholder asked whether there would be any sediment sampling. EDAW will not do any chemical analysis of the creek bed or other soil sampling. Alta asked when this surveying would occur—Chris said it will begin this spring.

Carmel noted that bioassessment data collection is a trend across the state, to supplement the more traditional chemical water quality analysis. It tends to be a better indicator of overall stream health than chemical data. Bioassessment is also a process that is very adaptable for volunteer work or school involvement, since it is not as complex scientifically as chemical monitoring. This will allow citizen monitors to take over the process further down the line if desired. Debra also noted that bioassessment can be a valuable tool to measure the success of enhancement projects.

Carmel noted that the grant requires that there be measures of success for any actions taken.

Bob Burnham asked about mercury levels in the creek. Chris responded that no mercury testing is proposed as part of this project. But Carmel replied that they could look into this, particularly as the American River—the receiving water body—will someday have an assigned total maximum daily load (TMDL) for methylmercury. Bob mentioned that he thought there had been past sampling for mercury in Alder Creek/Pond, but could not recall the source of this information. Chris will look into this. Chris distributed a list of existing information and data and asked the stakeholders to review and comment, in order to ensure that any studies people know about are included.

### ***Stakeholder Watershed Connections***

Joan asked that group members share their connections to the watershed—lands they own, areas they're interested in, etc. as they referenced a large map of the watershed.

- Tim Murphy (GenCorp) represents the Aerojet property, one of the first identified Superfund sites. They are currently planning the Easton development on their land. Much of their land was dredged for gold by the Natomas Company and was initially destroyed, but the habitat is slowly recovering. The company has an active conservation plan, and is working with the County to preserve areas as part of the Easton development. They have also identified a potential site for an interpretive

center and open space for residents that will provide access to the land, which has historically been off-limits due to the Department of Defense activities. They also hope to connect their property to the American River Parkway bicycle trails. Alta asked what the buffer between the creek and development areas is. They're not sure, but it's probably at least 600 feet. Tim will create PDFs of his maps for distribution to the group. The development timeline is uncertain given the market and other plans for development beyond White Rock Road, but he will provide updates at the meetings as the process moves forward. Entitlements are expected in 2008.

- Jim Ray (MacKay & Soms) represents both GenCorp and seven other property owners in the Sphere of Influence (SOI) area, so he provided a brief overview of the other properties. MacKay & Soms is conducting hydrologic analyses and preparing preliminary drainage plans for the area. Much of the watershed is planned to remain open, with pipe systems in the upper reaches of the watershed. Alta asked about the pipe systems—is this for runoff? No, this will be discharge—the upper drainages themselves would be piped through the area.
- Celine (County Regional Parks) noted that some of these lands would be dedicated to County Parks, and the agency will make recommendations on some of the other properties. They envision the trails and open space in the Easton development connecting to the American River Parkway, and eventually to the Cosumnes on the south. In the Sloughouse and Cosumnes areas they're purchasing land, but most of the rest of the trail/open space system will be created using easements. Watershed plan consistency with Sacramento County plans is important.
- Gail Furness de Pardo (City of Folsom Community Development Dept.) discussed the annexation of some sections of the watershed (SOI areas) to the City of Folsom. A consultant is currently being selected to prepare the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed development, which will inform the City's General Plan amendment to include this planning area. Annexation of the area by the City of Folsom will be included as part of the project, which LAFCO will then approve. Gail will notify the group when a consultant has been selected.
- Jon Fish (Church of Latter Day Saints [LDS], the Sacramento Temple) noted that there may be additional opportunities for outreach around the watershed process with his organization in the future. The LDS temple sits on approximately 37 acres surrounded by GenCorp property.
- Bob Burnham (ERT, environmental consultant for Folsom Auto Mall owners) discussed the lower watershed and property owners there, including Caltrans and the Auto Mall dealerships. Water quality and hydrology (connection of Alder Pond to Lake Natoma under Hwy 50) issues are key in this part of the watershed. They did preliminary work for restoration projects in this area, but funding (approximately \$565,000 from the Army Corps of Engineers) was pulled due to budget shortfalls in 2003. They hope that the watershed group can play a larger role in the planning process this time around. It was noted that US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) owns approximately 13 acres of land in the lower watershed. Bob believes there is a diurnal "tidal" fluctuation at the pond created by the Hwy 50 culvert system, which carries water under the freeway to Lake Natoma.



- Michael (State Parks) noted that they manage land around Alder Pond and Lake Natoma on behalf of USBR. State Parks has divers who have volunteered to check the pond for major debris. State Parks is developing an updated General Plan for the Folsom Lake/Lake Natoma State Recreation Area, which includes three pages on Alder Creek and Alder Pond; it will be available in September. When it's ready for release, he will send it on to the group. An email list and newsletter information on this plan are also available on the State Parks web site: [http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=22322](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=22322).
- Jim (City of Folsom Parks Dept.) has a special interest in trails and in the setbacks around creeks to keep wildlife connectivity. He hopes that models like the City of Folsom's Humbug-Willow Creek Master Plan can be used to help preserve connectivity. It's difficult to go with the minimum setback distance and have the watershed back up to fences and homes, since this makes it complicated for wildlife to use the areas and has an impact on recreation uses as well. He noted that some of the watershed drainage in the developed area of Folsom north of Hwy 50 around Marsh Hawk Drive may flow north and some may flow south because of drainage improvements, and he suggested looking at the map showing where the creek has been built over. He noted that the map does not represent the connection between Humbug/Willow Creek and Alder creek.
- Sunny Williams (Sacramento County Planning) would like to see consistency with open space elements and lands across the County. Management and use of natural resources and connectivity to lands within the County system are both important.
- Alta Tura (Sacramento Urban Creeks Council) noted that there have not been Creek Week activities in the Alder Creek area in the past, though this might be a future goal. They would eventually like to organize clean ups in the Alder Pond area, but right now it's too dangerous. She observed that it's helpful that the watershed is all in Sacramento County, since it makes it easier to manage the system. Alta is also on the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Committee, and they may have data available in the future that would be helpful to this process. Debra noted that EDAW is also working on the HCP, so will incorporate relevant and appropriate data as it becomes available.
- Sarah (City of Folsom Dept. of Public Works) manages Folsom's stormwater program. The City is mandated to incorporate watershed protection policies into General Plan elements to meet their National Pollution Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] permit requirements. This project will complement the City's stormwater program activities.

*Additional Information*

Carmel noted that she did have additional information from one of the City's transportation engineers on a few proposed Caltrans projects that will impact the watershed, including an auxiliary lane project near Alder Pond, and the proposed Oak Avenue interchange project, which is still in the preliminary concept stage. There may be other projects.

### **III. Discussion of Group Process**

#### ***Group Logistics***

Joan distributed a set of ground rules to guide the group process in the coming meetings (see Exhibit 2). She asked members to review the ground rules and identify anything that is missing.

Joan and Carmel will distribute any materials for review at least ten days before a meeting, and will provide guidelines to help direct the review of these materials.

Joan asked group members to commit to attending the ten stakeholder meetings, or to send a designated representative. She also asked for a sense of peoples' willingness to review technical materials.

Bob Burnham asked if there would be an independent technical advisory group. There isn't one planned, but Carmel can look into this. Bob was thinking specifically of landowners and whether they might want an independent review of the recommendations. Jim Ray noted that they were a civil engineering firm with a hydrology focus and would be reviewing all materials on behalf of their clients, landowners in the SOI area. Carmel mentioned that the EDAW team included technical reviewers and there was the possibility of bringing in an independent engineering professor from the University of Colorado (Brian Bledsoe) if appropriate.

Joan will work with the EDAW team to identify topics and specific technical documents for the group to review and meet about. She will also look for junctures for technical review.

Jim Ray noted that he would like to review all technical materials. Joan confirmed that all stakeholders would receive these materials, and guidance will be given on what type of feedback is needed from stakeholders. Chris added that as the data become available, interim reports will be made available. Jim felt this was wise, particularly given that his firm already has a number of wetlands consultants who may have information about the area.

It was suggested that a meeting between NHC and MacKay & Soms hydrology and hydraulics staff would be beneficial for exchanging knowledge and resources.

Bob Burnham asked about in-kind services. Carmel noted that the in-kind services are not a requirement of the grant, but the fact that the project offered in-kind services was likely a reason for its selection by the grant reviewers. She will be tracking all of the in-kind hours donated by organizations for the process.

#### ***Access to Properties***

Debra brought up the issue of access, and wondered if anyone knew of any area in the watershed that EDAW would not be permitted to access. Tim Murphy said that on GenCorp property, an escort will be required, along with proof of U.S. Citizenship. Access to Auto Mall land will also need to be negotiated with the auto mall operators, but should not be a problem. Other landowners may need notice or documentation of insurance to permit access. Two weeks' notice is acceptable to most, if not all, landowners.

Joan noted that no contact information would be posted publicly, but she would like to distribute a group contact list. Let Joan or Carmel know if you would like your information left off of this list.

## **IV. Vision, Mission and Goals**

### ***Group Expectations for the Plan***

Joan asked stakeholders to identify goals and expectations for the process. Stakeholders will consider the process a success if:

- It establishes mutually acceptable criteria for all within the sphere of influence (City and landowners) to facilitate the City's planning process and management/land use policies;
- Puts solid guidelines in place to help guide development;
- Creates a program that can lead to education about the watershed;
- Connects the creek watershed to the American River Parkway and maximizes use of these unique resources for public access;
- Relies on up-to-date, valid, accurate scientific data to create a plan that will support flora and fauna as well as human recreation;
- Uses science-based decision-making processes and an ecosystem-based approach; land uses should be planned based on science to preserve ecosystem functions.
- Includes a broad base of stakeholders;
- Includes realistic project activities;
- Includes a long-term plan to pursue funding for plan implementation;
- Accomplishes tangible outcomes through ongoing fundraising and support;
- Preserves the watershed for the future;
- Creates a list of on-the-ground projects (restoration, mitigation, wildlife, recreation, etc.) that can be implemented;
- Includes restoration, mitigation, and water quality goals; and
- Results in a healthy, enhanced creek even with all of the development in the watershed area.

### ***Additional Ideas***

Kim asked if participants representing municipalities/agencies anticipate that the plan would be formally adopted by their municipality, or if it would be accepted informally (e.g. by resolution) and used as a planning guide for specific projects. Gail noted that the principles of the plan could be adopted without adopting proposed plans for specific project implementation, thus avoiding substantial California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review until specific projects are proposed for implementation. Carmel noted that EDAW is currently preparing a CEQA Categorical Exemption for the watershed management plan. The conceptual level of detail of the plan would make it difficult to prepare an EIR; the document is intended to be a first step for implementing subsequent projects. An approach similar to that of the SACOG Blueprint might work well, since that document did not need environmental review. Carmel emphasized the importance of some sort of adoption of the plan (e.g. resolution) to assist with obtaining future funding for project implementation. She

requested that representatives of municipalities investigate adoption approaches for their jurisdiction and report back to this group.

### ***Watershed Vision***

Joan asked the group to envision what the creek and watershed might look like if the process is a success.

The group felt that in the future, the creek and watershed should:

- Be an asset to the community: a sought-out place (for education, economic development, housing, recreation, and more);
- Be part of an interconnected system that links to the American River;
- Be an enhanced, self-sustaining ecosystem corridor;
- Protect against flooding for area residents and businesses;
- Preserve threatened watershed functions;
- Be a protected space;
- Help educate and instill pride and respect in community members, as evidenced by their practices;
- Be part of a functioning natural watershed;
- Have a managed creek flow to accommodate changes from new development;
- Have an integrated design to accommodate natural elements and flows;
- Host stewardship activities that educate residents about their personal practices and the effect on the creek and watershed;
- Be a natural system rather than an engineered system of detention ponds;
- Favor non-piped, above-ground drainage (e.g. treatment swales) to maximize filtration and infiltration benefits (low impact development approach); and
- Have improved water quality.

Carmel noted that new NPDES stormwater permit regulations are in the pipeline for hydromodification management (e.g., runoff reduction to minimize habitat degradation in the creek), and the plan will need to accommodate (and potentially mitigate for) these effects. She would also like the watershed plan to address maintenance and management. Perhaps the plan can encourage communities to include these concepts in their planning processes.

The next gathering may be a tour. As the group goes into the field, they may be asked to answer some questions that contribute to the vision and goals for the group.

## **V. Next Steps and Next Meeting**

Carmel asked if the end of the month worked for the group in general. Are there particular days and times that don't work? Joan asked about the early afternoon versus morning timeframes (hypothetically, on Thursdays). Most group members can make either a morning

or an afternoon tour. This will likely be from 9 am to noon. We may be able to use a city bus.

Joan asked the group to tentatively hold Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> for this tour. An email confirming time, location, and tour details will be sent out once the details are determined.

In May, the meeting could potentially be Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. This might be at Folsom City Hall or might be at GenCorp, near the Glenn Drive light rail station.

Debra asked if people could look into what it would take for their agency or constituency to adopt the plan for implementation purposes. She wondered what might be needed for respective boards and councils to decide whether or not they could adopt this—for instance, they would need to know basics about what implementation of the plan would entail.

Kim asked if participants could please review the list of available study data and documents EDAW has received (distributed earlier in the meeting by Chris) and provide any other relevant information that is not represented.

Draft meeting notes will be distributed electronically, and meeting time will be set aside to review and approve them at each meeting.

**Exhibit 1**

***Alder Creek Watershed Assessment and Management Plan  
Stakeholder Meeting***

March 29, 2007

**1:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

City of Folsom Community Center, 52 Natoma Street, Folsom

**Meeting Objectives:**

- Develop a general understanding of the process to develop and purpose of a Watershed Assessment and Management Plan
- Gain an overview of current and proposed land use activities in the Alder Creek watershed
- Learn who all the participants are including stakeholders, agency and consulting staff
- Develop general agreements around group process
- Review and discuss vision, mission and goals for the plan

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AGENDA

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**1:00 I. Welcome and Introductions**

*Sarah Amaya, City of Folsom, Carmel Brown, Project Manager and Joan Chaplick, MIG*

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**1:20 II. Orientation to the Watershed**

*Carmel Brown, Project Manager, Debra Bishop and Chris Fitzer, EDAW*

*Contributions by all stakeholders using wall map as a visual tool*

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**2:10 III. Discussion of Group Process**

*Joan Chaplick, MIG*

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**2:30 IV. Vision, Mission and Goals**

*Joan Chaplick, MIG and Carmel Brown, Project Manager*

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**3:15 V. Next Steps and Next Meeting**

*Joan Chaplick, MIG*

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**3:30** *Close*

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## **Exhibit 2**

### **Ground Rules to Guide the Group Process**

## **Alder Creek Watershed Assessment and Management Plan**

### STAKEHOLDER GROUP GROUNDRULES & OPERATING PROCEDURES

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the stakeholder group is to provide advice and feedback to assist with the development of a Watershed Assessment and Management Plan for the Alder Creek Watershed.

#### **Ground Rules for Participation**

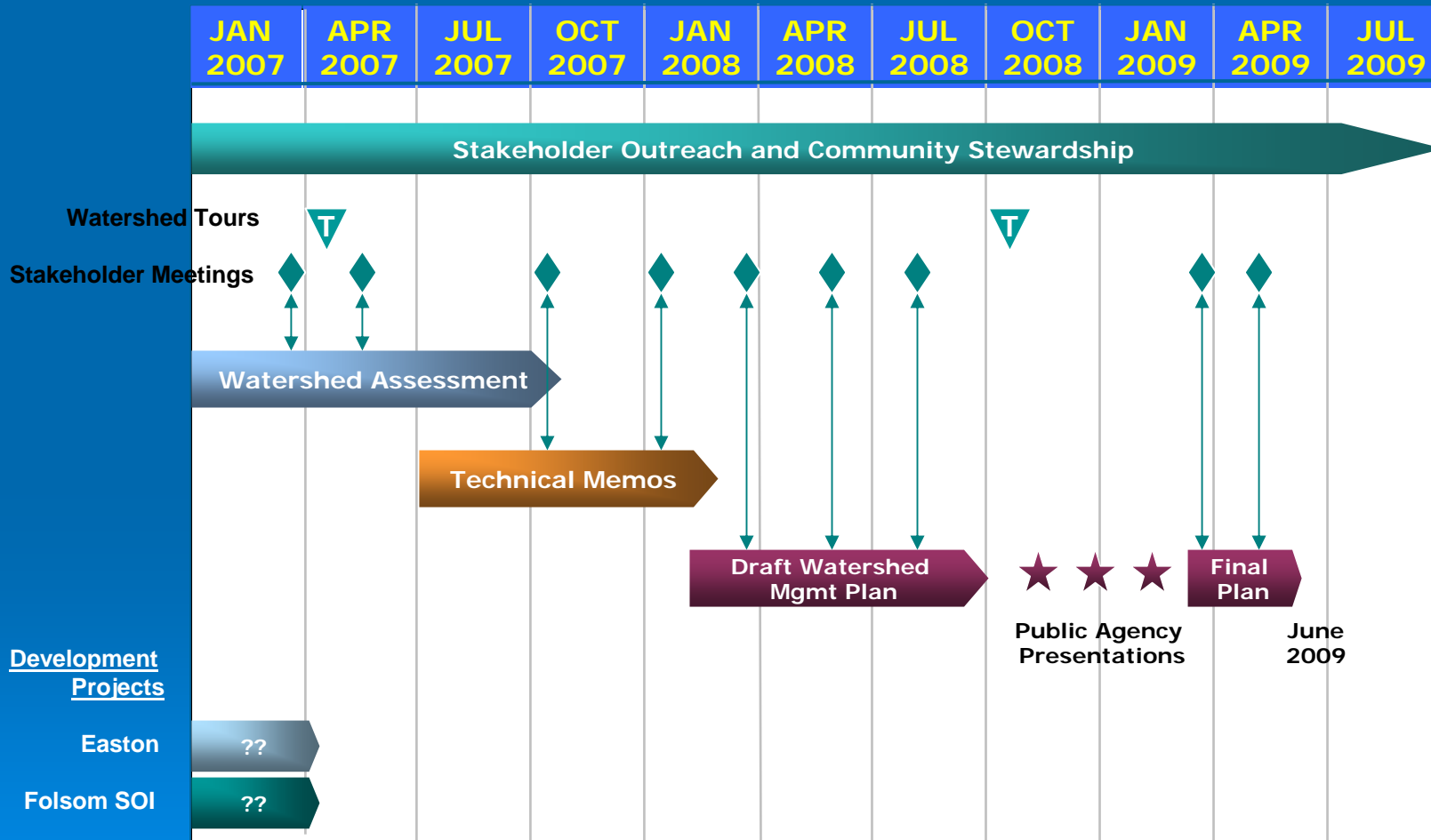
- A. Cooperate with the process, including the scope and intent of our planning effort together and specific agenda topics.
- B. Work toward shared goals, proposing strategies that relate to the goals and may be acceptable to all stakeholders.
- C. Base your opinions, ideas and comments on facts and experience rather than perception.
- D. Wait to be recognized by the facilitator before you speak.
- E. Participate fully in the group discussion.
- F. Keep your comments brief and constructive.
- G. Focus on issues instead of people or personalities.
- H. Reference the past if needed, but look to the future.
- I. Be respectful of differing perspectives and opinions.
- J. Stay with the topic at hand or hold your comment and yield to someone who has a comment on the topic at hand.
- K. Be open to new ideas and be expansive in your thinking.



## **Operating Procedures**

1. Stakeholders will abide by the agreed upon participation groundrules and operating procedures during this process.
2. We will strive for mutual agreement but note when we have a minority opinion.
3. Stakeholders are encouraged to participate consistently and attend all meetings. If unable to attend, a Stakeholder may send an alternate to ensure the organization's consistent participation.
4. Stakeholders who are participating based on their organizational affiliation represent the organization; their opinions should be consistent with and as authorized by the organization.
5. Meeting summaries will be prepared by the facilitators, and will include major points of discussion, agreements and areas of disagreement.
6. Stakeholders will receive meeting materials 10 days before the meeting to allow for advance review.
7. Stakeholders will provide review and comment during the timeframes requested.

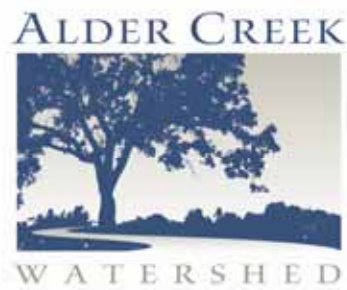
# Alder Creek Watershed Planning Timeline



**Attachment 2**

**Alder Creek Watershed Project Fact Sheet**

*(Distributed at City of Folsom Public Open House  
for Sphere of Influence, June 28, 2007)*



**Watershed Size/Location:** 11 square miles, located in Sacramento County, within City of Folsom Sphere of Influence

**Receiving Water:** Lower American River/Lake Natoma

**Project Summary:** Engage and educate watershed stakeholders, conduct a watershed assessment, prepare a watershed management plan, and complete stewardship activities.

**Vision:** A protected, healthy creek and riparian corridor with recreational, educational and interpretive opportunities for existing and future community residents and local schools (*as described in the grant application; subject to refinement by stakeholder group*)

**Funding:** CALFED/State Department of Water Resources Grant (Proposition 50) provided to City of Folsom, Department of Public Works

**Schedule:** January 2007 – June 2009

**Contacts:** *City Grant Manager:* Sarah Amaya, [samaya@folsom.ca.us](mailto:samaya@folsom.ca.us)  
*Project Manager:* Carmel Brown, [ckbconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:ckbconsulting@comcast.net)

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## Major Tasks

- Establish a stakeholder advisory team. Conduct an interest-based planning process whereby the assessment work and final watershed management plan reflect the interests of all stakeholders.
- Define interests, develop goals and a common vision for Alder Creek Watershed management amongst all the stakeholders using an interest-based process. It is expected that goals will be in terms of water quality, ecosystem, recreation, agriculture, water supply and sustainable land use planning.
- Conduct an environmental assessment of the creek and watershed resources to address water quality, hydraulics/ hydrology, creek geomorphology, fish/aquatic invertebrate populations, habitat, and land use practices (current and future).
- Complete a watershed management plan for the watershed that identifies recommended potential management actions related to protection, restoration, enhancement and/or stewardship and a preliminary implementation strategy (schedule and roles/responsibilities). Include indicators for evaluating and assessing the effectiveness of plan implementation.



## Accomplishments (as of June 2007):

- The City of Folsom selected a proposal team through a competitive bid process in December 2006 and began the project in January 2007.
- Conducted the first stakeholder meeting in March 2007 and two watershed tours in April and May.
- Compiled and reviewed all historical data and conducted field monitoring work at selected creek locations in spring 2007.
- The City met with REI (a major business in the watershed) and hopes to partner with them on future watershed stewardship activities.
- Sponsored “The Great Water Mystery” classroom assembly for the 3-5 grades at Gold Ridge Elementary in fall 2006.



## Watershed Stakeholders

The watershed is currently about 75% undeveloped, and many of the stakeholders are landowners/developers (or their representatives) who wish to develop the land into residential and commercial uses in the next 5-20 years. The agencies which will be reviewing and permitting that development are also involved.

- City of Folsom\* – Departments of Public Works; Community Development; Parks
- County of Sacramento\* - Departments of Regional Parks, Recreation and Open Space; Planning and Community Development; Water Resources
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- State Parks\*
- Caltrans District 3
- USGS\*
- Regulatory agencies: Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- GenCorp Realty Investments\*
- Folsom Auto Mall Dealers Association\* – represented by ERT Consultants
- Landowners/developers in the upper watershed south of Hwy 50 (City of Folsom Sphere of Influence)\* – represented by the Hodgson Company and MacKay and Soms Engineers
- Sacramento Chapter of Urban Creeks Council\*
- Church of Latter Day Saints (Sacramento Temple)\*
- Schools located in and near the watershed: Gold Ridge Elementary, Folsom High School, Folsom Lake College
- Residents (e.g., Willow Springs and Broadstone neighborhoods)
- Businesses in the developed portion of the watershed north of Hwy 50 (City of Folsom): REI, Costco, etc.

\*Indicates entity that participated in one or more stakeholder meetings/watershed tours in spring 2007.

**Attachment 3**

**City of Folsom “Discover Creeks” Poster**

# Discover Folsom's Creeks.....



.... Respect, Protect and Enjoy.