

Cottonwood Creek and You

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Mission Statement:

“The Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group will work to preserve the environment, private property and water rights, and economic resources of Cottonwood Creek watershed through and education.

CCWG 10/27/99

Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group
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Vieva Swearingen, Coordinator

1. What is Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group?

The Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group (CCWG) formed in April, 1998, in answer to the growing concern of land and water management in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta), the largest on the west coast. The water from Cottonwood Creek watershed empties into the Sacramento River, which eventually reaches the Bay-Delta.

As a landowner-controlled effort, the Group is made up of landowners in the watershed who are working with a multitude of government agencies and other private groups on restoring the watershed, while protecting the rights and interest of property owners.

State and federal funding was made available to restore ecological health to the Bay-Delta in 1998. A steering committee, comprised of interested landowners, was created in June, 1998, to prepare grants to obtain funding, as well as make plans for the future of the group and the management of the Cottonwood Creek watershed, in cooperation with local, state and federal agencies. CCWG received funding in June, 1999 (\$161,000) to pay for the formal organization of CCWG (initially the steering committee, and as of August, 2000, a board of directors—see next Article of this issue) and to hire a coordinator. Monies were also utilized to initiate mapping of the watershed. Another grant received in 2000 from the CALFED Program in the amount of \$350,000 to complete a watershed analysis.

CCWG will need the full cooperation of the landowners in order to complete the mapping and assessment of the watershed in the least intrusive, yet timely manner.

2. From the Board of Directors

The Board would like to use this opportunity to briefly explain the structure of the watershed group, which includes their role, the role of

the watershed coordinator, and the role of the Technical Advisory Committee. More information on our organization, roles, and goals can be obtained by reading the Bylaws of CCWG, and the Articles of Incorporation, which can be obtained from the Coordinator.

A Board of Directors was created in August 2000 to provide direction and management for the CCWG. The BOD is comprised of landowners within the watershed. Primary responsibilities of the BOD include making budgetary decision with the grant monies made available to CCWG (which now, by the way, has 501-c-3 nonprofit status); provide direction to the watershed coordinator; and work closely with the Technical Advisory Committee, as well as government agencies, on restoration and other management activities in the watershed. **The BOD Members are:**
Dennis Mitchell, Chairman
Jim Noble, Vice Chairman
Robin Rich, Financial Officer
Lori Collins-Lund, Secretary
Jackie Baker
Phil Grossberger
Roy H. Richards, Jr.

The Watershed Coordinator is responsible for managing certain aspects of the budget; writing grants; obtaining information on future opportunities within the watershed; developing information and education opportunities for landowners; arranging stakeholder meetings; and coordinating activities with various governmental agencies. **The CCWG Coordinator is Vieva Swearingen** (also a landowner in the watershed).

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is comprised of representatives from various governmental agencies that have some kind of regulatory responsibility within the watershed and/or can provide technical guidance to the BOD. **TAC members are:**
Randy Benthin, CDFG
Tricia Bratcher, USFWS
Bill Brock, USFS, Shasta Trinity NF
Koll Buer, CDWR
Larry Forero, UC Davis Coop Ext.

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Tom Harrington, Sierra Pacific Ind.
Dennis Heiman CA RWQCB
Marc R. Horney, UC Davis Coop Ext.
Gerry Hubatka, USDA NRCS
John Johnson, US NMFS
Gary Nakamura, UC Davis Coop Ext.
Tricia Parker, USFWS
Harry Rectenwald, CDFG
Fraser Sime, CDWR
Dee Swearingen, ACID
Steve Turek, CDFG

Please contact Viena for more information.

3. Update On Stockpond Legislation

Bill Number S.B. No. 1775 was signed by Governor Davis on September 1, 2000. This change in regulation will make stockponds eligible for the expedited registration process available for small domestic uses and reduces the registration fee from \$2,000 to \$100. The following stockponds are eligible for this process: Diverting less than 4,500 gallons per day or less than 10 acre-feet per year; one stockpond per 50 acres; not registered before 12/31/1997. Registration is for 5 years, and the renewal fee is \$50.00. The State Water Resources Control Board maintains the applications.

Members of the Cottonwood Creek watershed are largely responsible for initially contacting Senator Johannessen on this issue and encouraging him to act on it last year. For a complete description of the legislation, contact Viena, Senator Johannessen's office, the Water Quality Control Board, /or/ go to the following website :
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/index.html>
and look up Bill No. SB 1775.

4. Volunteer Assistance Needed!

We need help with bulk mailing. This would involve a once a month

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commitment for a few hours; whatever help you can provide would be greatly appreciated and would reduce our administrative costs. Plus, there's free coffee in the watershed office!

Have an artistic flair? Well, we need a logo! It needs to be relatively simple, reproducible in black and white, and represent the watershed we live in. We would like to start using a new logo before the next newsletter comes out (April), but would prefer to select one by the end of February. Please contact Viena for more information.

5. Check it out!! Web pages to explore

Water Rights Information:
<http://www.waterrights.ca.gov>

Cottonwood Creek watershed information ala EPA:
<http://www.epa.gov/surf3/hucs/18020102/>

Taking Wing (info on neotropical migratory bird conservation):
<http://www.duck.org/>

Local field guides:
<http://www.enature.com/press/press.asp?pressID=000628>

Water use terms—dictionary:
<http://www.state.nv.us/cnr/ndwp/dict-1/waterwds.htm>

6. Questions and Answers

Please provide feedback to Viena on the following questions via phone, mail or email:

Is there a better day of the week other than Tuesday for stakeholders' meetings?

What types of subjects/speakers do you want to hear from?

What goals would YOU like to see accomplished in the watershed?

Upcoming Events

CCWG Stakeholder's Meeting Schedule:

4th Tuesday of each month at 6:15 pm

Where: Room 18 at Evergreen Middle School, 19500 Learning Way, off Bowman Road, Cottonwood, CA

January 23 (also the CCWG ANNUAL MEETING). Speaker: Alan Forkey, Biologist with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

February 27th (Speaker not yet selected)

March 27th (Speaker not yet selected)

March 1-4 in Chico, CA: "Salmonid Restoration Conference. For a complete agenda call (707) 268-8182 or visit:
<http://www.northcoastweb.com/srf/conference.htm>

Newsletter prepared by:
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