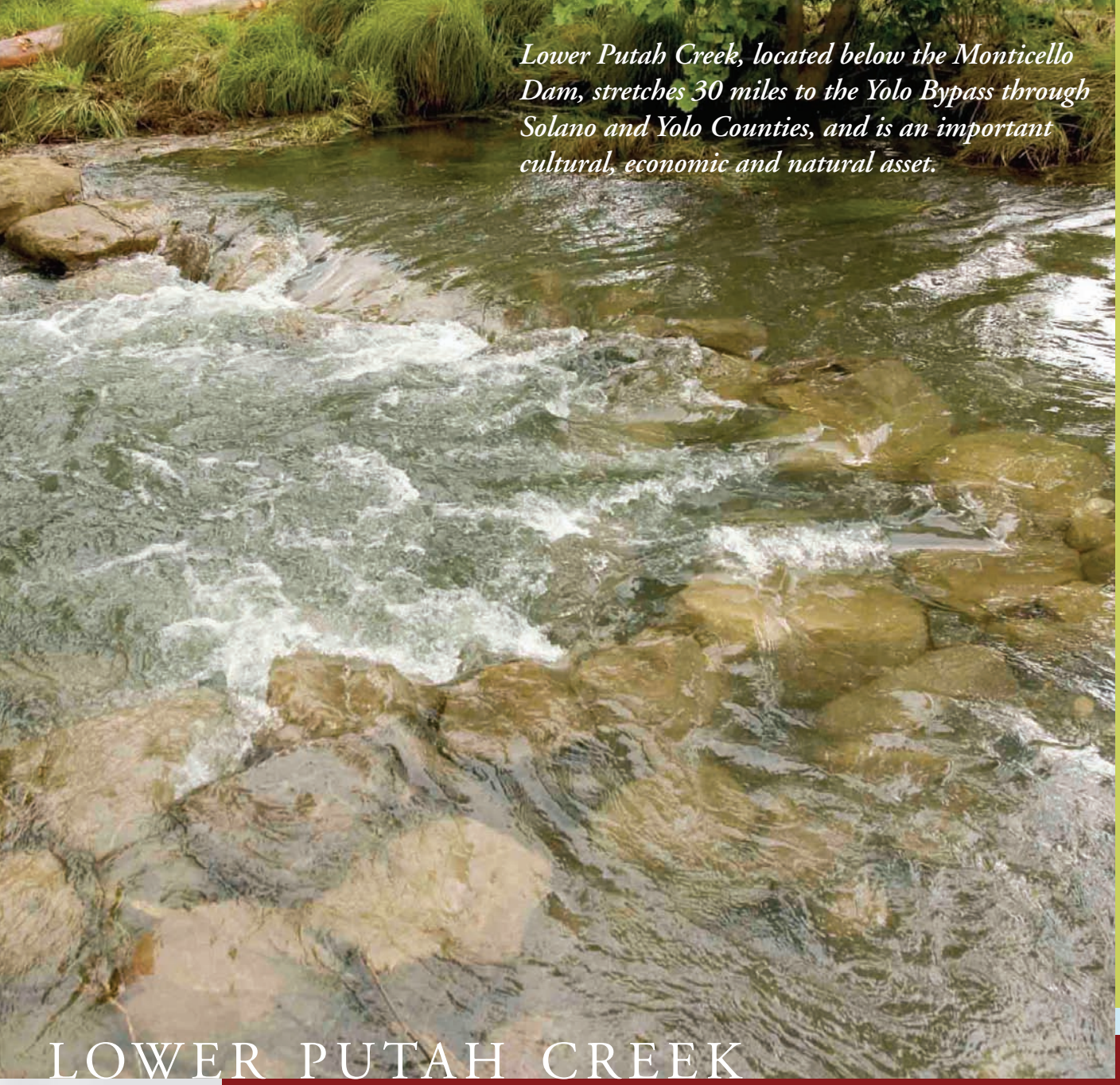


Lower Putah Creek, located below the Monticello Dam, stretches 30 miles to the Yolo Bypass through Solano and Yolo Counties, and is an important cultural, economic and natural asset.

LOWER PUTAH CREEK

COORDINATING COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

A great deal of work must be done to restore the ecological health *of Lower Putah Creek after decades of neglect and deterioration. The LPCCC is working with expert consulting groups to increase the involvement of community members and landowners to gain their input, support and participation in this restoration process. With the guiding direction and help of the community, we can restore Lower Putah Creek to its natural state and preserve and protect it for the future.*

Purpose This report documents the involvement of landowners and community members along Lower Putah Creek in setting priorities for restoration and stewardship activities. The process was generously underwritten by a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board.

Background The Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee (LPCCC) was formed in 2000 by an accord between Solano County water users and Yolo County environmental advocates to protect fish and wildlife resources of Putah Creek. The LPCCC represents the Boards of Supervisors of Solano and Yolo Counties; the Cities of Davis, Fairfield, Suisun, Vacaville, Vallejo and Winters; Solano County Water Agency; Solano Irrigation District; Maine Prairie Water District; the University of California, Davis; Putah Creek Council; and riparian landowners.

guiding principles

To initiate the process and provide a framework for discussion, the planning team drafted a set of "guiding principles" to initiate discussions with the community. These principles were validated by the community during the first meeting and through written comments. All aspects of the process would be consistent with the following guiding principles:

- *The Creek is a Community Asset*—Benefits achieved at individual locations serve the broader interest of the Creek and the community.
- *Private Property Rights*—The process respects the rights of the landowner.
- *Improvement and Enhancement of Lower Putah Creek*—Actions identified through the process will enhance riparian restoration and maintenance of Lower Putah Creek, including tributaries (Dry Creek below Highway 128, Pleasants Creek below Miller Canyon, Proctor Draw, and other tributaries that influence or are influenced by Lower Putah Creek).
- *Willing Participants*—The process involves willing participants. Stewardship activities will be directed to sites on private or public lands where the landowner or public land manager is willing to participate.
- *Respect for Local Knowledge*—Local knowledge is an indispensable element of the process.
- *Wide Variety of Improvement and Enhancement Activities are Eligible for Consideration*—The process will consider a wide range of activities including but not limited to: invasive plant removal, trash clean-ups, bank stabilization, erosion control, fish and wildlife habitat improvements, water quality improvements, and others.
- *Actions are Consistent with Current Regulations and Policies*—Actions recommended to improve and enhance the creek must be implemented in a manner that is consistent with local, state and federal regulations, and within the limits of the specific funding source used for each action.

The LPCCC unites the primary stakeholders overseeing implementation of the Accord and restoration activities that protect and enhance the creek's resources. One of the LPCCC's first major accomplishments was to develop a Watershed Management Action Plan (WMAP). The WMAP is divided into three phases. Phase I documents the history and present conditions of the creek and watershed and provides a comprehensive assessment of the biological, physical and cultural resources. The document also provides baseline information for decision-making. Phase II evaluates the opportunities and constraints for resource enhancement within the watershed, using the priorities determined by the community. Phase III covers implementation, which largely depends on funding, permits and regulatory approvals.

Setting Priorities for Creek Restoration Lower Putah Creek, located below the Monticello Dam, stretches 30 miles to the Yolo Bypass through Solano and Yolo Counties, and acts as the county boundary for much of its length. It is an important cultural, economic and natural asset for the community. The process documented in this report also addresses major tributaries including: Dry Creek below Highway 128, Pleasants Creek below Miller Canyon, Proctor Draw, and other tributaries that influence or are influenced by Lower Putah Creek. About 100 private landowners own over 70 percent of the creek front acreage, while public entities (including the City of Winters, City of Davis and the University of California at Davis) own the remaining 30 percent. More than 70 percent of the land along the riparian corridor is used for agriculture, with the remaining stretches offering a mixture of urban, rural residential, conservation and recreational uses. Water quality is generally considered good, and Lower Putah Creek is an important source of drinking water. The creek is also used for fishing, boating, and swimming.

In 2005, the State Water Resources Control Board provided funds on behalf of the LPCCC for Solano County Water Agency to hire consulting assistance to develop a process in setting restoration priorities. Previous efforts to involve the community in creek restoration discussions were unsuccessful because community members were not yet willing to trust a new and unproven organization. Over the past six years, the LPCCC has worked steadily to build positive working relationships and establish a portfolio of successful creek restoration projects. Many of these projects were initiated at the request of private landowners and public agencies needing help with urgent projects, such as repairing a severely eroded bank undercutting a public road, or removing legacy trash heaps.

The LPCCC hired Joan Chaplick of Moore Iacofano Goltsman (MIG), Inc., to design and implement the process. The LPCCC also hired Dennis Bowker, an independent consultant, to assist with productive communications with private landowners. Rich Marovich, LPCCC Streamkeeper, completed the three-person team that planned and implemented the community involvement activities described in this report. The process was designed to encourage broad participation while providing opportunities for in-depth discussion, especially with private landowners. The planning team mapped out a five-month process that included two to three large community meetings, and approximately six smaller working group meetings. The schedule and number of meetings were modified as necessary depending on the needs of the participants. Interviews were conducted in advance with a few community members to help identify key issues.

Community Meetings The first community meeting was held on June 28, 2006 from 7-9 pm at the Winters Community Center. Approximately 90 community members attended. The outcomes of the first meeting began developing community-based priorities for stewardship activities on Lower Putah Creek; helped to develop a shared understanding of the LPCCC's role in the process; and provided review and discussion of the draft guiding principles. The meeting opened with a welcoming statement from Lois Wolk, Assemblywoman, 8th District. Assemblywoman Wolk has been very active in efforts to protect Lower Putah Creek, and was one of the signators of the Putah Creek Accord.

Following Ms. Wolk, Rich Marovich, LPCCC Streamkeeper, provided an overview of the LPCCC's role and presented several restoration projects the LPCCC has successfully implemented along the Creek on both public and private lands. Much of LPCCC's involvement in these projects came as a result of landowner and agency requests for assistance in dealing with urgent erosion control, sedimentation and bank stabilization efforts. Following the LPCCC presentation, Ron Unger, Director of Watershed Planning from EDAW, Inc., summarized the data included in the Lower Putah Creek WMAP and provided a description of its three phases. The results of the three phases of the WMAP will serve as a plan for restoration activities along the creek for the next 5-10 years.

This first community meeting was designed to share information about the LPCCC and creek and provided an opportunity for community members to develop guiding principles for the process. Members provided comments during the meeting, or in writing by turning in a comment card at the end of the meeting. The group reviewed and discussed the guiding principles and how they would be applied to this process.

Community members then signed up to participate in working groups to allow for more in-depth discussion. One working group dealt with potential project opportunities on public lands along the creek, and the other dealt with projects on privately owned lands. The meetings were facilitated by the consultants. Any community member was eligible to participate in either or both working groups regardless of their status as a landowner. It was anticipated the working groups would meet 1-2 times and then present their findings to the community for discussion by the larger group. The working groups would then reconvene to incorporate the feedback received from the community and refine the projects list. More than 50 community members signed up to participate in one or both groups.

The first working group meetings took place on July 18 (private lands) and July 20 (public lands) at the Winters Community Center. Each working group was tasked with developing a draft list of projects for review and discussion by the community.

Public Lands Working Group About thirty community members attended the public lands working group on July 20 at the Winters Community Center. Participants included local residents, agency officials and members of community based-organizations. The group discussed the types of stewardship and restoration projects that could be implemented on public lands. Project types identified by the group included increasing public access, monitoring water quality, stabilizing banks, and completing restoration work to improve water quality. The group then brainstormed a general list of potential projects for the publicly owned lands along the creek. The public lands discussed included: public fishing areas,

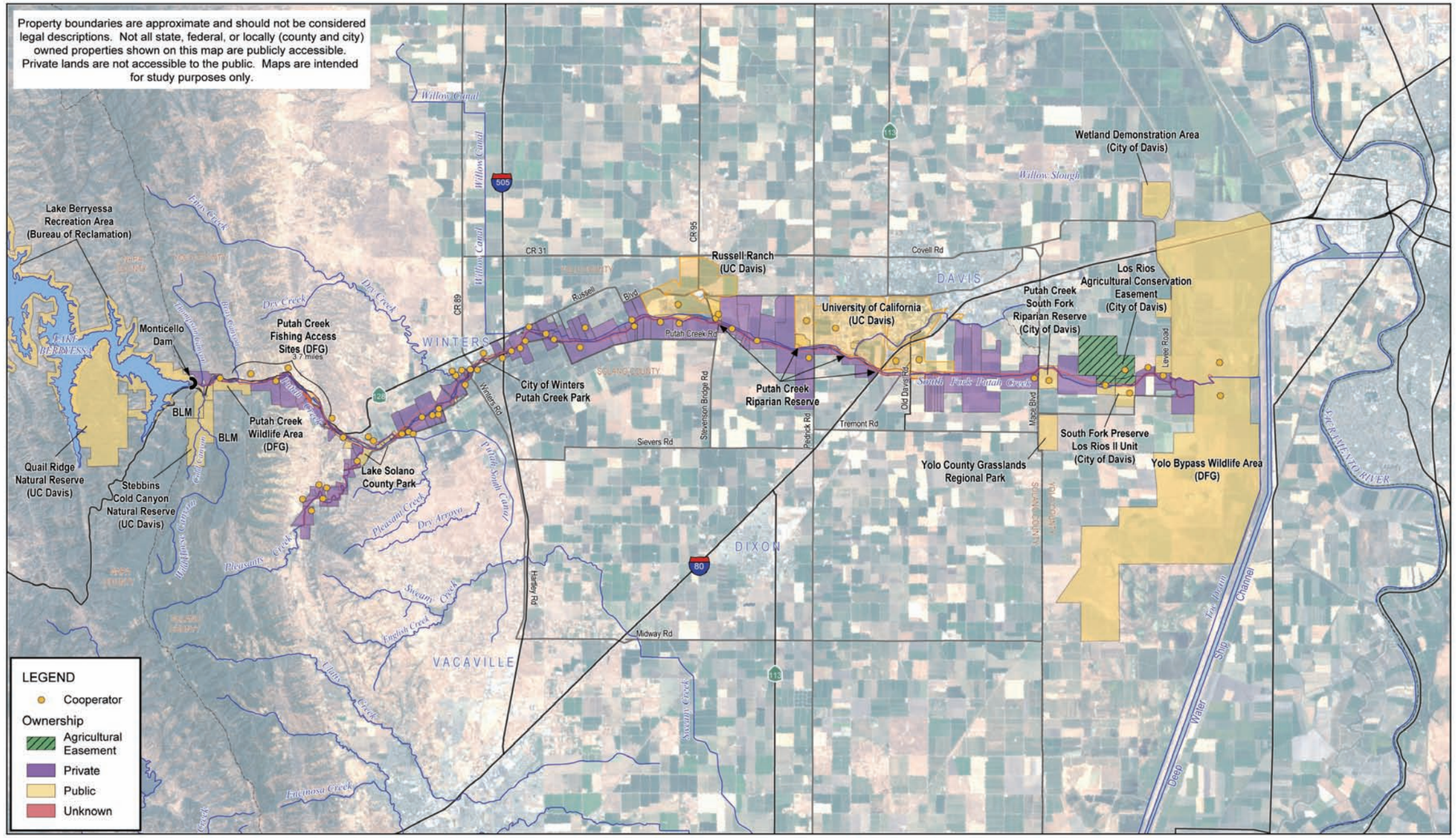
Winters Putah Creek Park, the area below Monticello Dam, Lake Solano County Park, Stevenson's Bridge, UC Davis Reserve, City of Davis lands and the Yolo Bypass. Participants were encouraged to consider the guiding principles as they suggested potential projects. Participants agreed that actions suggested by this working group should also be consistent with those recommended by the private lands working group.

Participants recognized the limitations on their ability to identify specific projects because more detailed planning, community involvement and environmental review would be needed by the land management agencies. However, the proposed project list helped identify areas of community interest and potential support. The LPCCC agreed to use this list as a basis for contacting public land managers to identify projects of mutual interest.

After the discussion, participants agreed the first working group meeting accomplished its purpose and the group did not need to meet again. Participants also agreed that a tour of demonstration projects along the creek would be beneficial, and requested that one be organized by the LPCCC. The tour was held on August 23, 2006 from 5:30 – 8:00 pm.

Private Lands Working Group The private lands working group met on July 18 and on August 1, 2006. About 20 community members attended the July 18 meeting. Participants brainstormed a list of potential projects that could be accomplished on private lands along the creek; participants who were land owners were then asked to identify specific restoration activities that could be implemented on their own properties. The group created a consolidated project list and agreed to discuss and refine it further at the next meeting. Participants reviewed the listed projects to ensure their consistency with the guiding principles and recognized that LPCCC will only pursue projects where the landowner has expressed interest in participating. Participants were encouraged to discuss the process with their neighbors and to encourage anyone unable to attend to contact the LPCCC if they were interested in having their project included in the process.

The second working group meeting was held on August 1, and 16 community members attended. Participants were asked to identify project types they believed would provide the highest restoration benefits. The group discussed several project types, and Rich Marovich provided several examples to help community members understand the benefits of different project types. The group agreed on four main project types (see sidebar, next page).



Sources: USGS 2003, Yolo County 2002, Solano County 2002, UC Davis 2005

Lower Putah Creek Ownership Map

Lower Putah Creek Watershed Management Action Plan

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EXHIBIT 3-1

Selection Criteria Along with the four project types, working group participants also identified criteria that would be used to set priorities for project selection. The criteria include:

- **High level of landowner cooperation**—the landowner is cooperative during all stages of the process including planning, implementation and maintenance.
- **Landowner commitment to long-term maintenance—**the landowner commits to supporting project maintenance and providing access for monitoring and follow-up activities by LPCCC.
- **On-site availability of materials for restoration—**the availability of on-site materials can greatly reduce project costs. For example, downed eucalyptus trees on-site can be used as revetments for bank stabilization activities.

project types

The committee agreed on four main project types:

INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL. These projects remove invasive species responsible for geomorphic change in the creek (patterns of scour and deposition, including bank erosion, channel deflection, elevation of floodplains, etc.). Invasive plants such as Arundo, Tamarisk, and Himalayan Blackberry are known to cause geomorphic change. To be effective in the long term, these project plans must also address site restoration and the long-term maintenance needs of the site.

BANK STABILIZATION. Stable banks are the foundation of all stewardship and water quality protection efforts along the creek. Bank erosion is the primary source of sedimentation in the creek, and contributes to declining water quality and degradation of fish and wildlife habitat. The stability of many banks has been compromised by the presence of invasive plants, some of which were originally introduced and planted with the intention of improving bank stability. Because invasive plant removal and bank stability are intertwined at many sites along the creek, it is critical that these two activities be planned and implemented concurrently. Priority will also be given to other bank stabilization activities, such as weir installation, as long as they help achieve multiple benefits at the site.

TRASH CLEAN-UP. Historically, the creek was used as a dumpsite and many landowners inherited significant debris deposited on their property. Some of the large debris has been there many years, and the items (abandoned cars, old appliances, etc.) often require heavy equipment and skilled operators to remove them. Removing these gross pollutants can provide significant habitat and water quality benefits, and improve the appearance of the creek. Debris removal also reminds potential dumpers that this practice is no longer acceptable, and that keeping the creek free of debris is a priority for landowners and the community.

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT. Because the protection of salmon habitat was a catalyst for many of the issues addressed by the Lower Putah Creek Accord, priority should be given to projects that improve and enhance habitat for salmon and other fish and wildlife in and along the creek.

- **Project qualifies for available/multiple funding sources—**most restoration activities will be accomplished with support received from competitive public and private grant sources.
- **Project is on lands contiguous with other projects—** cumulative project benefits can be achieved when restoration efforts are contiguous.
- **Project location allows for public education—**projects that are visible from public access points, such as a bridge or nearby public lands, can be used to inform others about the benefits and value of these projects.
- **Project is located upstream—**some activities, such as erosion control or invasive plant removal, will achieve the greatest benefit if the activities begin on upstream properties.
- **Project includes multiple project types—**properties where the multiple benefits of all four project types can be accomplished in one location will be given priority.

CONSENSUS ON PROJECT TYPES AND CRITERIA The working group participants (of whom 14 out of 16 were private landowners) gave a unanimous vote of confidence to Streamkeeper Rich Marovich's ability to further refine the priority order of the projects using the selection criteria. They agreed that no additional working group meetings were needed. Prior to reconvening with the large group for the community meeting, the participants requested a tour of demonstration projects.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TOUR In response to the requests of both working groups, the LPCCC hosted a tour of three demonstration projects along the creek on August 23. Twenty participants from the private and public lands working groups toured the properties of three landowners who provided access to their lands. Participants visited Herb Wimmer's property to see the results of the extensive Himalayan Blackberry and Arundo control project. They also visited the Dry Creek Confluence Bank Restoration project, which prevented the undercutting of Lower Putah Creek Road during winter storms in 2005 and 2006. The tour ended at Dennis Kilkenny's property where participants saw the fish restoration activities implemented and enjoyed a reception hosted by Dennis and Jessica Kilkenny. The reception provided an opportunity for members of the two working groups to meet and informally discuss restoration activities along the creek.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR LOWER PUTAH CREEK On October 16, from 6:30–8:30, community members reconvened to review the proposed list of projects drafted by Rich Marovich using the results of the working groups. Approximately 30 community members attended the meeting. Many of the participants had a project under consideration and were interested in learning the status of their project. The project list included 63 projects, all of which were consistent with the guiding prin-

PROPOSED ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

	PROJECT BY PROPERTY OWNER	EXISTING AGREEMENT	INVASIVE SPECIES	BANK STABILIZATION	TRASH CLEAN-UP	HABITAT ENHANCEMENT	ON-SITE MATERIALS	MULTIPLE FUNDING	CONTIGUOUS LAND	VISIBILITY	NOTES
TIER ONE PROJECTS	Winters Putah Creek Park	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*One mile reach from Winters Car Bridge to Hwy 505*
	Carl Ramos	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*Dry Creek confluence*
	Ken Bertinoia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*Dry Creek confluence*
	Herb Wimmer	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		*Winters Oxbow*
	Tony Morales	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		*Below Putah Diversion Dam*
	Dennis Kilkenny	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	*Putah Creek Road East of 505*
	Craig McNamara	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	*Largest Parcel on Putah Creek*
	Yolo Housing	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	*Low income housing—CALFED Prop 13*
	UC Davis Russell Ranch	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	*Above Stevenson's Bridge*
	UC Davis Campus	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	*Pedrick Road to Old Davis Road*
	City of Davis	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	*Below Mace*
	Solano County 505	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*South Bank 505 and East*
	Ethel Hoskins	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	*First Arundo Control and Bank Stabilization project*
	Don Jordan	•	•		•	•	•	•			*Above Stevensen's Bridge*
	John Neil		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	*27 acres above Winters Car Bridge*
	Glide Ranch		•		•	•	•	•	•		*2.5 miles north bank creek frontage*
	John Hasbrook	•	•			•	•	•	•		*Original Rock Weir*
	John Pickerel	•	•		•	•			•	•	*Below Putah Diversion Dam*
	John Vickrey	•	•	•	•			•	•		*Riparian restoration after fire*
	Catholic Church		•		•	•	•	•	•		*Between 505 and Stevenson's Bridge*
	Joe Vonkugelgen	•	•	•		•	•		•		*Below Stevenson's Bridge*
	Joe Castro		•	•	•			•	•	•	*Above Winters Car Bridge*
	Stevenson's Bridge	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	*South Bank East of the Bridge*
	DFG Yolo Bypass		•		•	•		•	•	•	*Fish passage*
TIER TWO PROJECTS	Richard Lopez	•	•	•					•	•	*Pleasants Creek*
	William Nichols	•	•	•					•	•	*Pleasants Creek*
	Jannes Echols	•	•	•					•	•	*Pleasants Creek*
	Stan Mertz	•	•			•		•	•		*Winters Oxbow*
	Tom Ramos		•	•	•		•		•		*Ag property on Dry Creek*
	Valerie Whitworth	•	•	•				•	•		*Ag property on Dry Creek*
	Woody Fridae	•	•	•			•		•		*Dry Creek*
	Al Graf		•	•			•		•	•	*Dry Creek*
	Matt Kimes	•	•	•			•		•		*Dry Creek*
	Don McLish	•	•	•				•	•		*Between 505 and Stevenson's Bridge*
	John Ott	•	•				•		•	•	*Below Stevenson's Bridge*
	Harvey Olander	•	•			•	•		•		*Below Stevenson's Bridge*
	Ed Virgin	•	•		•			•	•		*Below Road 106A*
	Lake Solano Park		•	•				•	•	•	*Interdam Reach*
	Mike Martin		•	•			•		•	•	*Interdam Reach*
	Gary Bertagnoli		•	•					•	•	*County bank restoration project on Pleasants Creek*
	Cory Nichols	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	*Pleasants Creek*
	John Barbee		•	•	•				•		*Proctor Draw*
	Richard Harris	•	•	•					•		*Below Putah Diversion Dam*
	Duane Balough	•	•	•					•		*Ag Property on Dry Creek*
	Ken Snyder	•	•		•			•			*Between 505 and Stevenson's Bridge*
	Los Rios Farms		•		•			•	•		*Below Mace*
	Fishing Accesses		•		•				•	•	*Interdam Reach*
	Dewey Wann	•			•				•	•	*Above Mace*
	Joshua Friewald		•	•		•	•				*Interdam Reach*
TIER THREE PROJECTS	Bruce Gates		•	•					•		*Pleasants Creek*
	Pat Shurnas		•	•						•	*Pleasants Creek at Putah Creek Road*
	Milo Shammas		•			•			•		*Winters Oxbow*
	Viona Hague			•			•		•		*Dry Creek*
	David Nishikawa	•	•						•		*Above Pedrick*
	Mike Madison	•	•						•		*Below Stevenson's Bridge*
	Pearse Family	•	•						•		*Above Winter's Car Bridge*
	DFG Cold Canyon		•						•	•	*Below Monticello Dam*
	Mack Cody		•						•		*Below Putah Diversion Dam*
	John Seeger		•						•		*Interdam Reach*
	John Hammond		•						•		*Interdam Reach*
	Stan Lester		•						•		*Putah Creek above Dry Creek*
	Robert Boshoven			•							*Pleasants Creek*
	John Fawcett		•								*Below Stevenson's Bridge*


ciples. The list included projects on public and private lands, and was separated into three tiers.

Tier One projects include most priority project types and met the selection criteria described by the private landowners. These projects feature a high degree of landowner willingness, as evidenced by the executed agreement between the LPCCC and the landowner or land management agency. Tier Two and Three projects feature some of the project types and meet several of the selection criteria. (Please see the project list on page 7 and map on page 4.)

Rich Marovich reviewed and briefly discussed the 63 projects on the list, stopping periodically to answer questions. Participants were asked if they believed any projects should be revised, moved to a different tier, or removed from the list. They were also asked to identify any projects that may have been omitted from the list. There was consensus among the group that the list of projects reflected the results of the working groups, and there were no requests to modify the list. Tier 1 projects will be funded and implemented first. However, should resources or opportunities allow for a Tier 2 or Tier 3 project to be achieved in a cost-effective and efficient manner, these projects will be considered earlier.

While a list with 63 priority projects may appear ambitious, not all projects require the same level of resources or LPCCC project management. The LPCCC has a proven track record of leveraging funds and resources and managing multiple projects concurrently. The LPCCC owns a fleet of specialized vehicles and heavy equipment, such as earth movers and hydroseeders, that can accomplish specific restoration tasks very effectively. Projects can be accomplished using several models of LPCCC involvement, including:

- LPCCC staff perform the work, or hire contractors to provide specialized assistance.
- LPCCC partners with a landowner or public land manager to jointly accomplish project tasks.
- LPCCC works with local community based organizations to involve volunteers and students in restoration activities, such as trash clean-up or planting native plants.
- LPCCC loans the use of its vehicles or specialized equipment to landowners who prefer to do the work themselves.
- LPCCC provides herbicides or other in-kind resources to landowners seeking to remove invasives and maintain sites over the long-term.

Conclusion Lower Putah Creek community members care deeply about the long-term health of the creek and their community. There is a strong commitment from private landowners, public agencies and the general public to take action to protect this important resource. The productive and solution-oriented discussions allowed the group to identify and list priorities in a relatively short timeframe. Much of this was due to an emphasis on the guiding principles, especially the principle to respect the rights of landowners. Almost 60% of the landowners along the creek have agreed to participate and have a project on the priority list. The LPCCC continues to develop and sustain relationships within the community and build its portfolio of successful restoration projects. This process provided an opportunity for the whole community to actively participate in setting a course for future restoration activities. The LPCCC intends to sustain this interest and momentum by hosting an annual meeting to report on its progress, and share the challenges and opportunities for restoration activities along Lower Putah Creek.

Acknowledgements The Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee extends its appreciation to the State Water Resources Control Board for its financial support in this process, and to the more than 150 community members who participated in the development of the project priority list by attending a community meeting, participating in the public and/or private lands working group, participating in a tour of demonstration projects, or providing comments in writing via e-mail, comment card or letter.