

Meeting of the Contra Costa Watershed Forum

Wednesday September 14, 2005

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

coffee & bagel time 9:30 – 10:00

The Watershed Project (in the conference center on the UC Berkeley Richmond Field Station)
1347 South 46th Street, Bldg 445 in Richmond (Call 510-665-4356 if you get lost)

Agenda

- 9:30 Coffee, juice and bagels.** The County Community Development Department will bring food, coffee and juice; donations are accepted (*please bring a mug to minimize our use of paper or plastic cups.*)
- 10:00 Roundtable news/updates,** including, but not limited to, the following items:
- Welcome from the Watershed Project (Wendy Strickland)
 - Executive Committee Report.
 - Update on the State Grant Opportunities for Creeks and Watersheds (A speaker from the State Water Resources Control Board is invited)
 - Update on the Watershed Forum's role in assisting the SF Regional Water Quality Control Board's Supplemental Environmental Projects (Mitch Avalon / Cece Sellgren).
 - Watershed Roundtable.
- 10:30 Update from the Forum Subcommittees:**
- Volunteer Monitoring Advisory Committee (Aspen Madrone)
 - Mitigation Subcommittee (Cece Sellgren)
 - Education & Outreach Subcommittee (John Kopchik)
 - Web Subcommittee (Kae Ono / BC Capps)
 - Brochure Subcommittee (Carla Koop / Leslie Engler/ Nancy Stein)
- 10:45 What's Going on in the Bay Area and Beyond?** Includes past and upcoming large scale watershed management related meetings and events. Also includes key committees that deal with watershed protection Bay Area-wide.
- Conferences and Events:
 - State of the Estuary Conference (October 4th - 6th in Oakland)
 - State Water Board Funding Fair (November 4th in Sacramento)
 - CA 2005 Third Biennial NPS Conference (November 7th -9th in Sacramento)
 - Committees, Programs and Projects:
 - California Watershed Forum (September 28th in Sacramento)
 - Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP under Prop. 50, Chap. 8) meeting, which was held in the spring of 2005.
 - San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Creek Committee (BC Capps). Discussion on the difference between Venture's Project Tracking Database and the Coastal Conservancy's "Bay Area Watershed Plan".
- 10:55 Presentation by Patrick Roche (Contra Costa County Community Development Department Advanced Planning) on the Urban Limit Line issue.** What is this issue all about and why is it always in the news? What does the Measure J (Transportation Sales Tax) have to do with it? What is LAFCO and what is its role related to growth boundaries?
- 11:20 Watershed Spotlight: Friends of Baxter Creek.** The story behind the Baxter Creek Gateway Restoration project by Apple Szostak.
- 11:40 Presentation by John Kopchik (County Community Development Department) on the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan (www.cocohcp.org) (continued from last meeting).**
- 11:55 Discuss Topics for Next CCWF Meeting in November 2005.**
Possible suggested agenda items that were discussed previously are listed in the attached document.
- 12:00 Adjourn to next CCWF meeting on Wednesday November 9, 2005.**

OPTIONAL TOUR OF THE WEST STEGE MARSH AFTER THE MEETING:

The Watershed Project staff will lead a tour of the restoration of West Stege Marsh and several acres of adjacent rare grassland. The tour will start at the Watershed Project's on-site native plant nursery. Please bring your own drink and lunch.

Times are approximate. If you have questions about this agenda or desire additional meeting materials, you may contact Kae Ono of the Contra Costa County Community Development Department at 925-335-1230 or visit the Watershed Forum Website at www.cocowaterweb.org. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities planning to participate in this meeting who contact staff at least 48 hours before the meeting.

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From 80 Westbound and Eastbound

If you are coming from East County take Highway 4 Westbound (via 680 if needed) to get to 80 Westbound. Follow the directions below*. Alternatively, you can take Hwy 24 to 80 Eastbound.

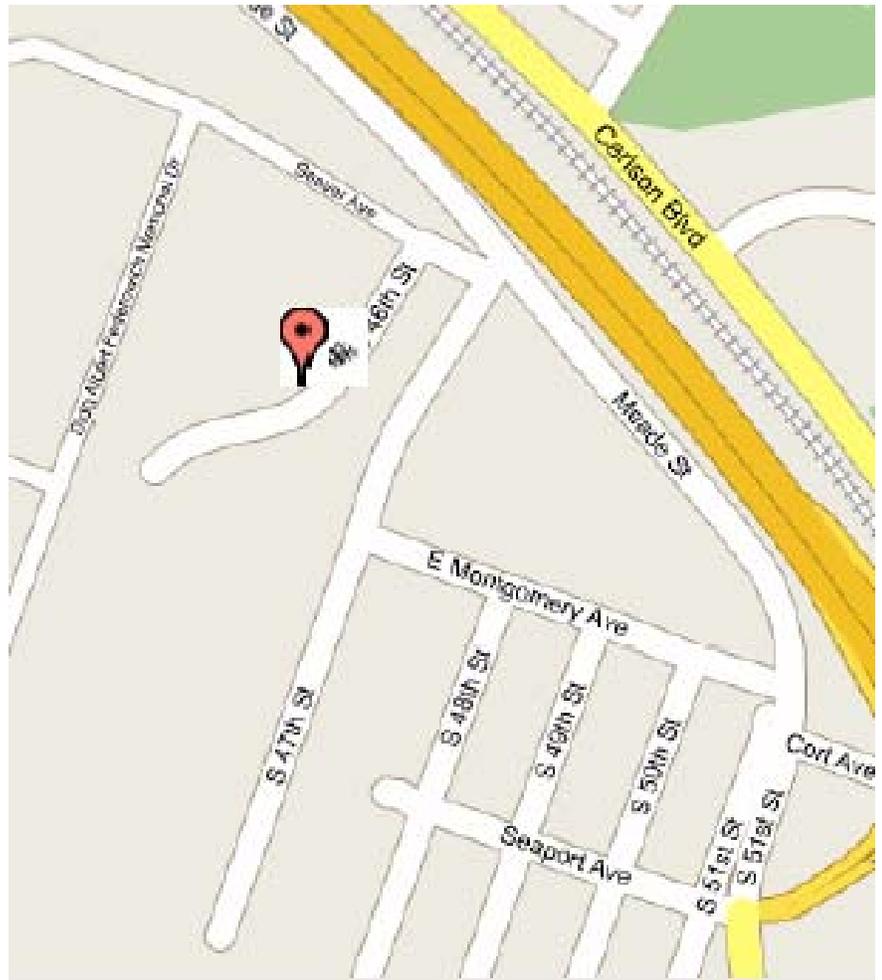
From 80 Westbound

Take the Carlson Exit, and turn right onto Carlson. Turn left onto Bayview at the stoplight, and cross over Hwy 580. Then follow the directions below*.

From 80 Eastbound

Take the 580 Westbound exit towards the Richmond San Rafael Bridge. Take the Bayview exit off Hwy 580. Turn left at the stop sign and cross over Hwy 580. Then follow the directions below*.

*Continue on Bayview, which will turn to the right. You will be on the frontage road parallel to Hwy 580. Pass the greenhouses and office buildings of Campus Bay and turn left onto 47th Street. That will force you to make an immediate right which will lead you right to the gate of the UC Berkeley Richmond Field Station. Enter the field station and make the next major left onto Egret. The conference center, Building 445, will be on your right. There is plenty of parking nearby.



More Information on the Upcoming Bay Areawide / Statewide Watershed Collaboration Meetings:

California Watershed Forum: September 28, 2005

<http://www.watershednetwork.org/index.php?show=calendar&eventid=63>

The California Watershed Network, in collaboration with the Salmonid Restoration Federation, are hosting the 6th California Watershed Forum! Please plan on joining us for this special event. This year's forum will bring together agency and legislative representatives together with watershed advocates throughout the State to help develop an effective and successful watershed program for California. Please contact Mary Lee Knecht (mlknecht@comcast.net) for more information. The Forum meeting is from 7:45 am to 5:00 pm, at the CalEPA Building on 1001 I Street in Sacramento.

The State of the Estuary Conference; October 4th through 6th, 2005

<http://www.abag.ca.gov/abag/events/estuary/index.html>

This important environmental conference provides a forum for scientists, resource managers, environmentalists, elected officials, representatives from business and industry, and members of the public to meet together for the purpose of reassessing the present ecological health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. The conference is sponsored by the San Francisco Estuary Project, California Bay-Delta Authority, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, San Francisco Estuary Institute, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, and many federal, state and local agencies, organizations and businesses.

The theme of the 2005 conference is Celebrating Science and Stewardship. The conference will include plenary sessions with invited speakers and poster sessions. The plenary sessions will focus on the connections between the watershed, delta and bay, including general sessions on Habitat Restoration, the Delta, the San Joaquin River, Important Changes in the State of the Estuary, State of the Bay Stewards, and Making the Case for the Estuary. Along with focusing on science, management, and emerging issues, the importance of citizen stewardship programs will be highlighted throughout the conference.

State Water Board Funding Fair: November 4, 2005

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/funding/index.html#fundingfair>

The Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance will host a one-day Funding Fair on November 4, 2005 in Sacramento. The purpose of the State Water Board Funding Fair is to provide an overview of current and upcoming funding opportunities and tips for completing your application, negotiating a grant agreement, and managing your grant. Updates will be provided on recent improvements to our grant process. The Water Board has invited partner agencies to share information about a broad range of funding opportunities available to interested stakeholders. Check our website regularly for more details. Interested parties can sign-up for the "State Water Board Funding Fair" electronic mailing list at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lyrisforms/swrcb_subscribe.html

Possible Topics for Next CCWF Meeting in November 2005 (11:55 agenda item):

- Lower Refugio Creek watershed restoration.
- Discussion on a possibility of creating a creek land trust (BC Capps).
- Pavon Creeks – EBMUD / community restoration projects (restoration success and lessons learned).
- Starting a new watershed group for Rodeo Creek by Muir Heritage Land Trust and the Carquinez Regional Environmental Education Center (CREEC) (possibly in November 2005).
- Results from the Mount Diablo Creek Watershed Inventory by NHI/ RCD / NRCS (2Q 2006)
- Presentation by Richard Harris on the East Bay Municipal Utility District Water Education Center.
- Consider inviting elected officials to attend and share their views.
- Presentation by Ann Riley (SF Regional Water Quality Control Board) on future funding opportunities for watershed restoration projects.
- Presentation by Josh Bradt (Urban Creeks Council) on restoration projects in the Wildcat Creek watershed.
- Consider asking Contra Costa Television to film the mini-Symposium in 2006.
- Consider creating watershed education material with Contra Costa Television.
- Field Trip to the Fernandez Ranch (Beth Pardieck from Muir Heritage Land Trust can arrange a guided tour in the fall for the Forum).
- Presentation by Gordon Becker (Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration) on Steelhead and the Bay Area.
- Update from the Dept. of Fish and Game on fishery protection program and regulations.
- Media publicity.