



## Meeting Minutes

### Lower American River Conservancy Program Advisory Committee

February 7, 2019  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sacramento County Board Chambers  
700 H Street, Suite 1450  
Sacramento, California 95814

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance  
*Committee Chair Jeff Harris called the meeting to order and asked Advisory Committee member Donald Terry to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then asked for roll call.*
2. Roll Call  
*WCB staff member Mary Ahern performed the roll call and observed a quorum was established.*

*Present were:*

*Kelly Fong-Rivas for Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg  
Jeff Harris, Chair, Councilmember, City of Sacramento  
Donald Terry, Councilmember, City of Rancho Cordova  
Karen Finn for Director Keely Bosler, California Department of Finance  
Stephen Green, Senate Appointee to the Committee and President of the Save the American River Association  
Jennifer Lucchesi, Executive Officer, State Lands Commission  
Don Nottoli, Supervisor, Sacramento County  
Dick Barbar for Susan Peters, Supervisor, Sacramento County  
Corey Brown, Assembly Appointee to the Committee  
Cassie Gilson, Governor Appointee to the Committee  
Phil Serna, Supervisor, Sacramento County*

*Executive Director  
John P. Donnelly*

*Also Present:*

*Liz Bellas, Sacramento County Regional Parks  
Tom Biglione, Neighborhood Friends of the River  
Betsy Weiland, CNPS*

Dan Meier, CNPS  
Anne Baker, USACE  
John Febbo, City of Sacramento  
Kelly Hopkins, Sacramento Valley Conservancy  
Marshall Gorham, Sacramento Valley Conservancy  
Shawn Sanders, US Fish and Wildlife  
Lilly Allen, Water Forum  
Mary E. Tappel, citizen  
Lori Ward, FOSL citizen  
Shawn Harrison, Soil Born Farms  
Craig Segall, citizen  
Nick Avois, Thomas Law Group (Blue Diamond)  
Rebecca Fris, WCB  
John Walsh, WCB  
Elizabeth Hubert, WCB  
Colin Mills, WCB  
Jessica Schroeder, WCB  
Cara Allen, WCB  
Celestial Reysner, WCB  
Mary Ahern, WCB

*Chair Harris welcomed the public and noted that Advisory Committee member Don Nottoli was running late, so he was altering the order of some of the agenda items; administrative items would be first, and the more substantive discussion would be held until later.*

3. Public Forum for Items not on the Agenda

*Chair Harris asked if anyone present wished to speak or comment, there was no one. He then welcomed a new member to the Advisory Committee, Ms. Cassie Gilson, and noted she would find this a very productive committee. He then asked her to tell people about who she was and her position.*

*Ms. Cassie Gilson then stated she is a lawyer and government affairs professional here in town and has been involved with the American River Parkway on the Board of the Sacramento Valley Conservancy in the past. She stated she was honored to be here and looking forward to working with everyone. She was appointed by Governor Brown and has done a couple of stints in government, working in the Clinton Administration in the office of Science and Technology and then was a policy director for Governor Davis for part of his administration.*

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2019 - Action

*Chair Harris noted the Advisory Committee had only recently gotten off the ground, having only met four times since inception. He stated he was very interested in continuing in his current position and then opened nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.*

*Committee member Stephen Green nominated Mr. Harris and the motion was carried. Chair Harris then nominated Mr. Nottoli as Vice Chair and the motion carried.*

5. Approval of Minutes – Action

[November 8, 2018 Draft Minutes \(PDF\)](#)

*Chair Harris asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2018 meeting of the Lower American River Conservancy Program Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee).*

*Motion to approve – Donald Terry  
 Second – Kelly Rivas-Fong  
 Opposed – none  
 Abstention - none*

6. Funding Status – Informational

February 7, 2019	
FUND STATUS Informational	
The following funding status depicts Capital Outlay and Local Assistance appropriations by year of appropriation and by fund source and fund number.	
<b>(a) 2018-19 CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL FUND OF 2018, (6088)</b>	
Item 3640-101-6088	\$2,000,000.00
Budget Act of 2018 (80100(a)(3)), Lower American River Conservancy Program	0.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	0.00
Unallocated Balance	<b>\$2,000,000.00</b>
	November 2018 Board Meeting Allocation: 0.00
	Total Project Development: 0.00
	Projected Unallocated Balance: <b>\$2,000,000.00</b>
<b>(b) 2017-18 GENERAL FUND (0001)</b>	
Item 3640-101-0001	
Budget Act of 2017 (Lower American River)	\$1,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(25,000.00)
Unallocated Balance	<b>\$975,000.00</b>
	November 2018 Board Meeting Allocation: (500,000.00)
	Total Project Development: 0.00
	Projected Unallocated Balance: <b>\$475,000.00</b>

*Executive Director John Donnelly presented the current funding status for the Lower American River Conservancy Program within the Wildlife Conservation Board. He then asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.*

7. Review and Prioritize LARCP Proposals, FY 2018-19 Solicitation – Discussion  
[WCB Recommendation Table \(Excel\)](#)

*Ms. Cara Allen presented these proposals. She noted that several letters of support were received from community members, neighborhood associations, and local organizations as well as Assembly member Kevin McCarty.*

a. [Sutter’s Landing Regional Park Acquisition, Habitat Protection, and Public Access Narrative and Summary](#) - \$2,000,000 requested

*Committee member Phil Serna asked about the ongoing operation and maintenance on the property. What is the long-term plan by the City?*

*Mr. John Febbo, City of Sacramento, responded first regarding Dellar, the 29 acres which would have the bike trail and has the elderberries. He noted it was closed under an agreement between the City and Dellar in the 2012-13 period, and the City has 100 percent of the post-closure maintenance as part of the settlement. That includes fences, any mowing, and detention basin maintenance. The \$50,000 identified in the proposal is a one-time effort to clean up homeless camps.*

*Mr. Serna asked if the intent was to acquire the property, maintain it and improve it, and if so, what are the plans for improving it?*

*Mr. Febbo stated that the Dellar property is set with detention basins and drainage, and the engineering for the bike trail is ready to go. It is a bit elevated, so it gives stunning views of the city from the bike trail. Aside from the bike trail, the City may decide to bring in dirt to level it and afterwards would hydroseed.*

*Mr. Serna asked about tree planting.*

*Mr. Febbo expressed that there are some limitations with the cap in terms of watering and planting trees due to root depth levels. Parts of the property that aren't landfilled already have trees, but they will study it.*

*Committee member Corey Brown commended the City on this application noting it would bring nature back to this habitat, as well as provide public access.*

*Mr. Green noted this would take most of the money that was available, and more money has been allocated beyond the \$2.5 million that is here. Can't the committee get access to those funds to fund all four of these projects?*

*Executive Director Donnelly responded that this is not possible. He noted that currently, the only amount budgeted in the Governor's budget for the Lower American River Conservancy is the \$2.475 million. The committee doesn't have access to those funds, they are not real funds until they are approved in the budget both from the Governor and through the legislative process.*

*Committee member Karen Finn asked if there was uncertainty that Blue Diamond would sell. Why is that?*

*Mr. Febbo responded that they were working very closely with Blue Diamond through this process, and their 17-acre parcel is in a state of pending closure. One issue is they need about a foot of dirt, and the City is coming into potentially 15,000 yards from McKinley's excavation and another project going on with SMUD. Parks has the long-term maintenance commitment, but there are some subtleties that haven't been worked out yet and would dictate the price. They may ultimately need to increase the City's contribution beyond the \$50,000 because there's going to be additional work. On the upside, the parcel does not have municipal solid waste and will not require surface-mounted gas systems throughout it. Therefore, it could be more valuable.*

*Ms. Finn then asked if that's the reason it won't happen for four years, then why is the committee allocating money now?*

*Ms. Allen stated that if this project were recommended today, they could start discussions with the City right away. For WCB's process, staff doesn't bring land acquisition projects to the Board until they are in escrow. If recommended, this project might not be brought before the Board for four years.*

*Ms. Finn then asked what would the \$2 million do for four years?*

*Mr. Febbo responded the City would first negotiate with the Dellar owners and try to acquire the 30 acres. This would start the process for the bike trail within that 4-year period. And then when the City acquires it, the City has already got the maintenance taken care of, and maybe even give them a lease-back for the radio tower. Ideally, some money will be left over for the dirt and potential acquisition of Blue Diamond as well. There are one or two other parcels after that with willing donors or sellers with rights-of-way lined up.*

*Ms. Finn asked for clarification whether Mr. Febbo was stating the two parcels would be bifurcated.*

*Mr. Febbo stated they would be negotiating with two different landowners, so there would be separate appraisals going on. One will have some caveats because of the work involved with Blue Diamond. The Dellar will be easier to appraise. The hope is that the City will have enough money to acquire Dellar and still have some money left to acquire Blue Diamond.*

*Mr. Brown clarified timing on this. The City will conduct an appraisal and could acquire the Dellar property in the current calendar year. The four-year time frame is more in terms of acquiring the money and constructing and completing the bike trail. The City is committed to raising \$2 million dollars for that purpose. In respect to Blue Diamond, the City is evaluating whether to acquire the property before it is remediated. The projects can start to move forward this year dependent on the funding.*

*Committee member Dick Barbar noted that the City has been clear that these are two distinct acquisitions, and the City has indicated that they would be willing to carry over as necessary on this project. Considering the position of the committee where they are trying to look at a suite of projects with a fixed amount of money, the City could go after one parcel at a time.*

*Mr. Febbo stated the City has yet to sit down with both landowners formally. He noted that there is a plan to have a ranger and offices onsite at Sutter's Landing. This 47-acre parcel just adds on to 240 acres the City already has.*

*Chair Harris touched on the City plan to eventually to move City park rangers to the Corps yard on Sutter's Landing Park. He noted the wish for them to do regular inspections and maintenance. This place is a beautiful riparian area and so close to City center. The long-term vision is to acquire all the properties here.*

*Mr. Terry voiced his concern that since appraisals aren't in, there isn't a need yet to vote on a recommendation for this proposal. Why is this a priority from a timing standpoint when the program will get additional funding at the end of this year from the Governor's budget?*

*Executive Director Donnelly stated there is \$2.475 million right now in our budget that the committee can spend today. The Governor's budget tentatively has \$7.25 million starting July 1.*

*Mr. Terry asked if this wouldn't be a logical conversation to have after the committee has appraisals and have that this summer or fall to talk about this proposal.*

*Executive Director Donnelly noted these discussions will be going on if and when these projects come before the Wildlife Conservation Board. There are numerous steps that are going to happen pending the decision today. The committee's role is to evaluate the projects being proposed and recommend those to go forward, with an understanding that these are grant requests, and the committee is unsure of what these projects will all cost. The City came to your program to ask for a grant for up to \$2 million to implement these projects. If the committee decides to go forward today with this project, this will provide the City, Blue Diamond, and Dellar the ability to start negotiations. Particularly from Blue Diamond's perspective, they must decide whether they will spend funds on capping, and*

*the City must determine if they will participate in that. The appraiser will be provided all that information and will decide the final value determination. The purpose of the committee today is not to approve these projects but recommend them to move forward to the next step.*

*Mr. Terry reiterated that without knowing the true value of the properties, he feels he lacks sufficient information and would like to know if it is beneficial to wait on voting on this project.*

*Chair Harris addressed multiple points regarding Mr. Terry's concerns. The City feels that the number provided is reasonable given talks with both owners. To address the timing issue, having the funds available provides the City with a better negotiating position. The owners are receiving interest from other buyers.*

*Mr. Nottoli remarked that timing is imperative to all these projects, and it seems that some projects are closer to being shovel ready. He recognized the project is a large undertaking and certainly a meritorious project; he would like to know if earnest money is dedicated, then can the project staff move forward?*

*Mr. Febbo stated that these sites and the adjacent sites are all in various states of regulatory closure. They have asked Blue Diamond as well as the City for a one-year extension, pushing the anticipated closure to next spring. The intent is not to stall on the acquisition of either property. If this project gets pushed out another 6 months or so, they will need further extension from regulatory bodies and it may encroach on the Spring 2020 construction period.*

*Mr. Nottoli acknowledged an understanding that the waste management agency has commitment to rate payers, but in the event the City needs to move more quickly, is that an option? And then, is the committee able to reimburse?*

*Mr. Febbo explained the City's 100 percent post-closure responsibility to the site and the cost savings of purchasing both properties at the same time. Additionally, Executive Director Donnelly stated that WCB cannot use bond funds for reimbursement.*

*Mr. Nottoli wanted to know if there was a way to structure an agreement with a municipality to recognize all the moving parts. Is there a way to release the monies when needed, and what the acquisition cost? How long is that appraisal process?*

*Executive Director Donnelly stated these projects typically have an intense appraisal process, with a minimum of 3 bids. However, WCB only needs one appraisal for a project, which can be completed by either the City or WCB. Regardless, the appraisal would have to be reviewed by WCB staff and DGS staff.*

*Chair Harris commented as the committee looks at all these proposals, there is a time lag by the time it reaches WCB, as the Board will consider these during the summer. He suggested that any projects that are not recommended to move forward today be rolled over into the next consideration for projects. For this project, the City needs to receive the recommendation to set up the cascade effect that Mr. Febbo referred to. It's a complicated set of circumstances and this sets the project up for success.*

*Ms. Finn asked what were the potential uses of these properties?*

*Mr. Febbo stated that under the proposal, Dellar would have a bike trail for public access.*

*If the City does not acquire the properties, Dellar is a good candidate for a solar farm, which would eliminate all habitat and fly over, and Blue Diamond could be cleared for an apartment complex.*

*Chair Harris indicated that developers have expressed interest in Blue Diamond, and the City is trying to avoid that.*

*Mr. Brown noted that Blue Diamond is currently on the market for \$1.3 million. The timing issues depend on funding availability which keeps property owners interested. The City can realize on a savings if these properties are closed together. If there is interest in funding other projects as well, the WCB meets quarterly. One of the possibilities is to make a recommendation for funding beyond the \$2.5 million. WCB could consider at some of the subsequent meetings. The decision of how much to spend at each meeting is up to WCB. LARPC is an advisory committee and can recommend more projects to be considered later.*

*There were seven commenters that spoke in support of this project including: Ms. Lily Allen of the Water Forum, Mr. Dan Meier of the local chapter of the Native Plant Society, Ms. Mary Tappel, Ms. Lori Ward, Mr. Nick Avois of Thomas Law Group representing Blue Diamond, Mr. Tom Biglione of the Neighborhood Friends of the River, and Mr. Craig Segall of the Environmental Council of Sacramento. Mr. Avois conveyed that Blue Diamond has been approached by multiple entities, and time is of the essence, as Blue Diamond must know the parcel's future purpose to know how to cap.*

b. [Camp Pollock Site Improvement Narrative and Summary](#) - \$176,000 requested

*Ms. Kelly Hopkins, Director of the Sacramento Valley Conservancy, highlighted the community support from Audubon Society, Boy Scouts of America, ICF (the firm that put together the plans), Regional Conservation Corps, Woodlake Neighborhood Association, Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of Wildlife Society, and Sierra Nevada Journeys. She also added that this project is shovel ready, has gone through the CEQA process, and has obtained a letter from the local flood agency.*

c. [American River Ranch Parking Lot Narrative and Summary](#) - \$866,231 requested

*Ms. Liz Bellas, Director of Sacramento County Regional Parks, and Shawn Harrison, Executive Director of Soil Born Farms, were present in support of the project.*

*Mr. Nottoli requested information regarding partial funding, as there is a strong desire to support all the projects despite knowing the current budget does not accommodate that. Is this something the committee can do?*

*Ms. Allen explained that as this is a competitive grant process, and the committee needs to be consistent with the intent outlined in the solicitation notice and application.*

*Mr. Nottoli questioned the previous discussion related to the first proposal, can the committee allocate less than the \$2 million?*

*Ms. Allen explained yes, if the applicant accepts.*

*Mr. Nottoli questioned why this doesn't apply for this applicant?*

*Ms. Allen explained that the applicant did not mark that they would accept partial funding*

*on their application. However, if another applicant did mark that they would accept partial funding, then the committee could negotiate with them if you wanted to fund an amount lower than they requested.*

*Mr. Colin Mills, attorney for WCB, interjected that with the competitive solicitation process, there is a certain pot of money that's allocated for which the program request proposals. The program ranks and scores them, and the committee is here to recommend within that \$2.475 million to advance to WCB. He noted that Ms. Allen has recommended the first two proposals, and not recommended the second two proposals due in part to that the applicant indicated they would not accept partial funding. Given the ranking (and the acquisitions rank the highest), the acquisition would leave only enough to fund Camp Pollock without the partial funding opportunity. Mr. Mills stated that the committee could recommend less funds for a project that advances to the Board.*

*Ms. Betsy Weiland, co-Director of Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery (EFNPN), representing Chris Lewis, the founder and Nursery Director, spoke in favor of this project and highlighted the important work already done in this area. Chair Harris added that no one would dispute the enhancement done and value added to the parkway by the EFNPN.*

*Mr. Harrison conveyed his support for American River Ranch, citing the rising demand by the public and the necessity of making it safe for the increased demand. He noted that this project is shovel ready. The City of Rancho Cordova has committed \$253,000 funds, which was not shown as match for this project. Additionally, the County has committed \$30,000 to repave the existing driveway.*

*Mr. Dan Meier spoke in favor of this project.*

d. [Discovery Park Picnic Shelters Narrative and Summary](#) - \$1,096,601 requested

*Mr. Serna asked Ms. Bellas to confirm if the County's projects were "all or nothing" type requests.*

*Ms. Bellas stated that the County would entertain partial funding, and she provided information which suggested constructing only the smaller shelter, the Alder, in Discovery Park would cost roughly \$505,000 rather than the full \$1.1 million. She went on to state that they have not had the opportunity to look at how they might partition the American River Ranch project, but if they were to receive partial funding, then they would proceed with the permitting process first.*

*Mr. Harris acknowledged how prepared Ms. Allen was in her presentations and congratulated her on a great job.*

8. Recommend Prioritized Projects from Item 7 for Consideration by the Voting Board of the Wildlife Conservation Board up to \$2.5 Million – Action  
*Mr. Harris made a motion to move forward the two recommended projects and commit the remainder of the funds to the American River Ranch project.*

*Mr. Nottoli offered a substitute motion to commit \$1.5 million to Sutter's Landing (noting that if possible, additional funds may be recommended in the future), \$800,000 for American River Ranch, and \$176,000 for Camp Pollock.*

*Mr. Brown offered a second substitute motion for \$1.8 million for Sutter's Landing, \$176,000 for Camp Pollock, and the balance (\$499,000) to American River Ranch (with*



*the remainder funded if WCB can legally allocate some of the additional funding available after July 1<sup>st</sup>).*

*Mr. Mills stated that it depends on the nature of the funding, and whether it has a competitive grant requirement. Mr. Mills apologized as he did not have the language for Prop 68 in front of him at this time. Mr. Donnelly interjected that he did not believe that this section required the competitive grant process.*

*Mr. Brown described a way to make this operative; at the August meeting, if WCB has the additional \$7.2 million or any increment of it, WCB could decide to allocate all the funding for American River Ranch. The recommendation would consist of \$1.8 million for Sutter's Landing, \$176,000 for Camp Pollock, and the balance (\$499,000) to American River Ranch, with the recommendation that if it is after July 1<sup>st</sup>, to fully fund American River Ranch. He noted that there is nothing in AB1716 and nothing in any other procedural requirements that prevents this as far as he is aware.*

*Mr. Serna asked if this constitutes prioritizing for a future round today? He questioned if the committee should be setting that precedent.*

*Mr. Brown stated that is a good question and that the committee needs to look to the LARCP guidelines, which specify how the Conservancy allocates money pursuant to a competitive grant process. He was referencing that the Wildlife Conservation Board has the authority to allocate funds separate and apart from the committee.*

*Chair Harris expressed that if the funding for Sutter's Landing was reduced to \$1.5 million, then the City might not have the negotiating power necessary for the acquisition. He noted that most of this discussion is mute because by the time WCB meets, the committee could have these projects stacked up. At the next meeting, it would be possible for the committee to recommend all these projects for funding. He spoke in favor of Mr. Brown's proposal.*

*Mr. Serna stated that the committee should not lose sight of the Discovery Park picnic shelters, and that they will be a top priority for him in the future.*

*Mr. Brown repeated his motion: \$1.8 million for Sutter's Landing, \$176,000 for Camp Pollock, and the balance (\$499,000) to American River Ranch, with the caveat as the committee moves forward to entertain proposals immediately for the next round and that the Discovery Park project would receive priority.*

*Mr. Mills asserted that with a competitive process, there should be no look back because that would negate the competitive nature, as they would not be ranked on equal footing. The applicant should resubmit for future consideration.*

*Mr. Brown wanted to note that is why he stated his motion in the manner he did, with the understanding that human nature as well as memory are a part of this process.*

*The motion was deemed valid and carried.*

9. Form 700

*Executive Director Donnelly reviewed the letter he sent to the LARP Advisory Committee members outlining the steps they needed to take to maintain current filing status with the Fair Political Practices Commission and completion of the on-line Ethics training. Once the on-line Ethics training is completed, he reminded each member to send a copy of the*

*certificate to the Wildlife Conservation Board.*

10. Sacramento Regional Parks Update

*Ms. Liz Bellas, Director, Sacramento County Regional Parks, gave an update on activities. Park staff cleared out 5,639 illegal camps from the American River Parkway and removed 1,612 tons of garbage and debris for the calendar year 2018. In 2018, the department provided over 241 picnic reservations to the public, 231 of which were in the American River Parkway. 95 percent of picnic reservations for the County are in the Parkway with a majority in Discovery Park. That does not include special events that use picnic shelters as part of event operations. Staff permitted 31 special events and 26 trail events. 5 were closed trail events, where the trail is closed completely in the morning for the event. The County's Natural Resources Management Plan is on schedule. They still anticipate an administrative draft in late February. After review of the administrative draft, they plan to pull together a schedule for public outreach. They are currently working with staff to create a landing page on their website, which will have all the information on the Natural Resources Management Plan, making it easy for the public to access and view.*

*She continued by noting that their Fire Fuel Reduction Planning is underway, and they will mirror their planning efforts completed in 2018, including maintenance of their fire breaks through either mechanical means, handwork crews, or some herbicide treatments. They also will conduct some range management burns in partnership with the Sacramento Metro Fire and Sacramento City Fire and continue the grazing program to the extent possible.*

*Ms. Bellas stated that she has been asked if the Natural Resources Management Plan would have prevented the tree removal that was recently completed by PG&E and/or other utility companies. She stated the answer was no, as that work was done under their permitted rights-of-ways. However, the completion of the Natural Resources Management Plan will address ways that they can revegetate under those utility lines, give recommendations on native plantings that would be compatible with the utility lines, and provide some great habitat for the parkway. She stated she has reached out to all three utility companies, specifically to PG&E, to ensure revegetative work is completed in a timely manner. They share the concerns of the public regarding the star thistle taking over where trees were removed. They are treating that area right now and will work towards putting together the revegetative plan, once the Natural Resources Management Plan is complete and has those recommendations.*

*She indicated that for the trash and debris removal, they have an ongoing agreement with PRIDE Industries. PRIDE is contractually taking care of trash and debris in the upper river so that her staff can focus on trash and debris in the lower reaches. Recently, their Board of Supervisors approved a new agreement with PRIDE, where they will employ approximately 40 homeless individuals in four, ten-week cohorts. In the 10-week cohort, they will be employed remove trash and debris along the American River Parkway coupled with job training and job certification. They will also be connected with social services, such as shelter and mental health services, with the idea of hopefully breaking the cycle of chronic homelessness. They hope to get it on the ground at the beginning of March.*

*Ms. Bellas has been serving on the Technical and Resource Advisory Committee to the Bank Protection Working Group, and from Mile 14 downstream to the confluence of the Sacramento and American rivers, they are looking at the levee reaches for various levee repairs. She stated she provides information on the different approaches for levee repairs and strengthening, keeping in mind natural resources and protecting those to the extent possible.*

*Mr. Serna asked if the committee submits a pallet of what is believed to be appropriate native, low height plantings under the Natural Resources Plan, will the utility owners still legally have the ability to say yes or no to plants; or could they say, no, they're going to keep star thistle down and call it a day?*

*Ms. Bellas responded that within the right-of-way, they have the legal right to do the ongoing maintenance. However, she believes a great partnership can be reached to have a planting plan that will benefit both sides.*

*Mr. Serna stated he asked because there are members of various parkway advocacy organization and chambers that share the same concern as the County for the utility's cutting protocol, as it was fairly drastic. He would encourage them to think carefully about how to effectively buttress support at the right time and what the recommendations might be under the Natural Resources Management Plan about partnership with the County on the use of those suggested native plan pallets for underlying growth. He felt that it would be an effective way to advocate and demonstrate it was about doing what is right for the parkway. He also inquired about the use of the PRIDE Industry folks. Is this considered a pilot, and if so, would this be back before our Board of Supervisors to possibly expand depending on their success?*

*Ms. Bellas responded that the second contract with PRIDE is being considered a pilot program, and it will carry forward through the end of this fiscal year and into next fiscal year. Funding has been identified for the first forty weeks, after which they would need to figure out what funding might be available.*

*Mr. Serna asked that the Advisory Committee be kept informed of the success achieved between meetings. Lastly, he wanted to make note of a meeting he had with representatives of the Miwok Tribe and the education he received, including that the confluence of Discovery Park is a sacred place for the Miwok. He suggested to the County's CEO office that there be a memorialization to acknowledge the legacy and history of the Miwok and to educate the public as to the significance of the land to Miwok. He is looking forward to working with the County's CEO office and the Sacramento County Regional Parks on this project.*

*Mr. Brown noted the damage PG&E did in the parkway was extremely extensive. He encouraged Ms. Bellas to get ahead of the curve with all the other utilities to ensure this doesn't happen again. He also encouraged looking at longer-term strategies to try to move the power lines underground or less sensitive areas. PG&E will go through a lot of changes as a result of the bankruptcy, there may be some public policy opportunities to make some changes there. Regarding the cultural resources that Mr. Serna mentioned, he noted the LARCP can fund environmental and cultural education, as it does fit within the AB1716. It might be nice to have tie-ins on the Sacramento side of the river, especially with the Native American Museum going across the river.*

*Chair Harris stated he was grateful to Mr. Serna and Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District for bringing resources to be able to do and effect cleanups on the American Parkway. He noted that homelessness is a persistent problem on the parkway. The City and County have both declared shelter crises, and as such they cannot enforce their anti-camping ordinance unless they have shelter beds to offer the individuals they intend to move. They are in an awkward place, but they did this to gather state resources. They are moving ahead aggressively to create other housing opportunities for those who are chronically homeless and will also continue their clean-up effort. He also noted the Army Corp of Engineers has led a contract and will start a cut-off slurry wall on Reach I of*

*the levee which is the Garden Highway levee. The project is slated to start just to the west of Northgate and proceed westward towards Truxel Boulevard as the first reach. He stated this is different than what was first proposed, its moving backwards, instead of moving west to east, its moving east westward. Garden Highway will be closed from Northgate to Truxel starting mid-April. As part of that project, the extensive camping along the highway will have to be moved.*

11. Future Advisory Committee Business

a. Discuss future proposal solicitations and process

*Continuing the discussion from Item 8, Executive Director Donnelly stated that applicants who don't move forward today would remain in the queue, but they would need to submit another application once another PSN is released. WCB staff is willing to work with those applicants who don't receive funding this round to help them understand the process and improve their projects. He also acknowledged that the committee has requested that a proposal solicitation notice be released as soon as possible. This could possibly be mid-April, but it is largely dependent on staff's ability to sit down and review the process with Committee members. He noted there was some feedback from applicants that they would like a longer submittal timeframe. Mr. Donnelly stated that staff will provide the committee with observations and put some recommendations forward. This process will be done individually, with a presentation of the findings at next committee meeting.*

12. Request for Future Agenda Items

a. Agenda items being considered for the June 20, 2019 meeting include scheduling a tour of the lower American River and review and approval of Draft Proposal Solicitation Notice for FY 2019-20.

*Executive Director Donnelly requested that if committee members think of agenda items, please submit them via email.*

*Chair Harris thanked the staff for the collaborative process and effort. Mr. Brown commended WCB staff on getting the program going. Chair Harris noted that the committee is in deep agreement on comment.*

*Executive Director Donnelly wanted to thank everyone for being here, noting that this had been the largest crowd so far. He encouraged attendees to continue to spread the word about this committee meeting and expressed his hopes about its continued growth.*

14. Adjourn

*Chair Harris adjourned the meeting at 12:17pm.*

Respectfully Submitted,

John P. Donnelly  
Executive Director  
Wildlife Conservation Board