



EDMUND G. BROWN Jr., Governor  
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**  
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## Meeting Minutes

### Lower American River Conservancy Program Advisory Committee

November 8, 2018  
9:00 - 11:00 a.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 Don Nottoli to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then asked for roll call.*

2. Roll Call  
*Executive Director John Donnelly 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  
Elizabeth Sparkman for 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, Speaker Appointee to the Committee*

*Executive Director  
John P. Donnelly*

*Also Present:*

*Liz Bellas, Sacramento County Regional Parks  
Yvette Rincon, City of Sacramento  
Raymond Costantino, City of Sacramento  
Shanna Brawn, City of Sacramento  
Jerome Council, City of Sacramento  
Heather Smith, Marshall New Era Neighborhood Association*

5. Funding Status – Informational

November 15, 2018

**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.

(a) 2018-19 CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS	
FOR ALL FUND OF 2018, (6088)	
Item 3640-101-6088	
Budget Act of 2018 (80100(a)(3)), Lower American River Conservancy Program	\$2,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	0.00
Unallocated Balance	<u>\$2,000,000.00</u>
November 2018 Board Meeting Allocation:	0.00
Total Project Development:	0.00
Projected Unallocated Balance:	<b>\$2,000,000.00</b>
(b) 2017-18 GENERAL FUND (0001)	
Item 3640-101-0001	
Budget Act of 2017 (Lower American River)	\$1,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(25,000.00)
Unallocated Balance	<u>\$975,000.00</u>
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.*

*Chair Harris asked about the \$10 million from Proposition 68; what do we anticipate in terms of future monies coming from the State? Mr. Donnelly replied WCB is working through the budget change proposal process right now and we will know that later this winter and will know it for sure once the Governor's budget is released in January 2019.*

*Chair Harris wondered if it would be productive to try and work with Assembly member McCarty to move those appropriations forward. Mr. Donnelly recommended waiting for the Governor's budget, because WCB is working with the Resources Agency right now to develop WCB's budget for next year; WCB will be requesting those funds. Once we know what comes out in the Governor's budget in January and if the Committee deems appropriate and necessary we can work through the budget committee process next spring with the Assembly and Senate. Chair Harris said so the good news is we have \$8 million more coming, the bad news is we don't know when. Mr. Donnelly confirmed and stated we anticipate it next year.*

6. Proposal for the Advisory Committee to Recommend WCB Staff Present a Proposed Grant for \$500,000.00 to Sacramento County for its Natural Resources Management Plan to the Wildlife Conservation Board at its November 15, 2018 meeting.

*Chair Harris introduced WCB staff member Cara Allen to present this item.*

Second – Member Barbar  
Opposed – None  
Abstention – None

7. SB 3 Update

*Executive Director Donnelly noted Proposition 3 would have provided significant funding resources to the Lower American River Conservancy Program. Unfortunately, that did not get enough votes to pass. Chair Harris stated that Proposition 3 would have brought \$30 million to the conservancy program which would have been quite something to work with, but the voters have spoken so we will carry on with our plan to program the \$10 million coming from Proposition 68.*

8. 2018 Solicitation Update

*Chair Harris asked WCB staff member Cara Allen to present.*

*In September, WCB received six pre-applications, and five passed the administrative review. One proposal did not pass due to it being an ineligible project type. At the end of October, WCB received five full applications, totaling almost \$4.5 million in requested funds.*

*Currently, WCB is in the technical review phase of the solicitation process. Per the Program Guidelines, at least two members from the Advisory Committee will be part of the team. In September WCB sent an email to all committee members soliciting interest to be on the team. Four members responded, and three were selected including Committee members Stephen Green, Corey Brown and Tina Bartlett.*

*For this year, WCB is having all three committee members review each proposal. WCB is asking reviewers to self-identify any financial or non-financial interests they may have in a proposal, and to recuse themselves early in the process so we can have an alternate review that proposal.*

*Proposition 68 requires that 20 percent of each chapter's allocation go to projects serving severely disadvantaged communities. WCB plans to include the 20 percent requirement in future solicitation notices as was implemented this year. Twenty percent of a solicitation's available funds will go to projects serving severely disadvantaged communities.*

*WCB will also be tracking its Proposition 68 disadvantaged community contributions and will report annually to the Advisory Committee and the Natural Resources Agency.*

*Lastly, the Natural Resources Agency has a Bond Accountability web page for Proposition 68, where they list all programs and will be tracking expenditures.*

9. Committee and County Review of Solicitation Proposals

*WCB staff member Cara Allen discussed the review process for WCB's solicitation proposals so that everyone understood the various phases and groups that need to review the proposals before they go to WCB for final approval.*

*Ms. Allen first presented a flow chart that included dates for each phase of the 2018-19 schedule, stating if we stick to the schedule it will keep us on track for the May WCB board*

*visiting projects before they are recommended to the Board, so this is new to her. Chair Harris noted the Brown Act would require more if a quorum was going to attend, but the Bagley Keene requires two of the body. Ms. Finn thought the Advisory Committee being three, and Bagley Keene it could only be two. Staff council Colin Mills stated it is a quorum of the meeting itself, so this indicates 50 percent of 11 active members.*

*Mr. Mills stated that from a competitive solicitation standpoint the important part is that they are objectively scored which is what's occurring prior to that. The Advisory Committee's role is to make recommendations ultimately to the voting members of WCB to make that ultimate decision based on both the Advisory Committee's recommendation and the scores. From the perspective of seeing the site, Mr. Mills doesn't think that will impact the competitive nature given that there is scoring that has already been done. Ms. Finn asked if the scoring would be complete by the time of the tour and Mr. Donnelly stated it would.*

*Chair Harris noted that this committee, being an Advisory Committee, is slightly different than being a Board of Directors or JPA, in making the actual decisions. In this case, WCB is the deciding Board. Ms. Finn stated she just wanted to make sure they complied with Bagley Keene.*

*Committee member Don Nottoli asked what discretion is vested with this Advisory Committee. Recognizing the WCB has the ultimate deciding authority, there is the objective scoring which needs 75 points or greater, and then the Advisory Committee will review and make a recommendation. Will WCB give the Advisory Committee some sort of framework by which they will then exercise their discretion in making the ultimate recommendation to the WCB who will make their decision? Mr. Donnelly stated the Advisory Committee could actually say that of those five projects received, 'we do not want to move any of those projects forward'; that is at their discretion.*

*Mr. Nottoli asked if the Advisory Committee is structured to put proposals on stand-by until more funds become available. Mr. Donnelly stated that it was at the Advisory Committee's discretion. If they have a list of projects this year that they want to fund entirely and WCB doesn't have the resources to do so, WCB can postpone those until the future. WCB can put out a solicitation each month, if the Advisory Committee so chooses, but Mr. Donnelly noted it does take a lot of time putting these projects together not only on his staff's part, but on those that are actually applying and then also the Advisory Committee's time reviewing them again and again. He didn't feel that was a good use of either the Advisory Committee or WCB's time. He also noted that at the next meeting, WCB will know what will be in the Governor's budget for the Advisory Committee's work and will know what the projects are and the ranking of those projects and what the resources are to move those projects forward.*

*Chair Harris stated he saw the highest and best use of this body is in prioritization. As the Advisory Committee receives proposals and we are not funding them, we can put them in the hopper. He then asked, when we put out a solicitation for proposals, are we saying with that we are accepting proposals now, but we may not have funding immediately and that we tend to order our priority of recommendations from the Advisory Committee so that as appropriations come we can fully fund the projects?' Ms. Allen stated that was not included in this first solicitation but moving forward that could be incorporated. Chair Harris felt that would be fairer to the proposers because funding is coming, we have certainty of \$10 million, but because there is uncertainty about timing it might be worthy of noting to the proposers that the timeframe of the appropriations is uncertain but it's still a good idea to get your projects in. Mr. Donnelly noted WCB did identify the amount of funding that was available in this years' budget for projects, but we did not state there was an additional \$8*

winters with all the rain. Regard their Natural Resource Management Plan, she is happy to report they have been working hard on it with their consultant and are expecting their first administrative draft in February and shortly after that, will have their first public outreach meeting in March, so she will provide more information on that as it becomes available. On the continued project of removing trash and debris out of the parkway, they have removed over 1,371 tons of trash since January.

Current projects: the Army Corp of Engineers will begin construction on the Garden Highway Levee Project. The County has a meeting with their contractor on November 9 to finalize more of the project timelines and will be sharing that information that will affect Discovery Park, they will need to shut down the Garden Highway entrance to Discovery Park for a period of time. Ms. Bellas stated she would be coordinating the social media messaging with her esteemed colleague from the City of Sacramento. She noted they have a great communication so that they can share those social media updates for all of our citizens in Sacramento County, including the City.

Ms. Bellas indicated she has been working with the Bank Protection Working Group. The Army Corps of Engineers has been authorized for repairs just shy of \$2 billion for up to 11 miles of levee repair. The first segments the County is looking at are approximately from H Street downriver to about Paradise Bend on the left bank and Campus Commons Golf Course on the right bank. The County has been working on the different types of bank protection projects that they would recommend as far as trying to eliminate the need for just straight up riprap which are those large rocks placed on the bank, but see if they can really put together more of a resources standpoint from that where they have projects that incorporate trees and other restoration components so that it is more esthetically pleasing, although in the short term, they will see a lot of work done on those lower reaches of the parkway.

In January the County will begin their fire fuel reduction plans for 2019. That will mean meeting with members of Sacramento City Fire, Sacramento Metro Fire, and any other utility companies so they can consider some of the work that they may be doing along their utility lines for fire fuel reduction. Ms. Bellas offered up that once they have those plans finalized, she will be happy to make a presentation to any of the elected bodies if they so wish.

Chair Harris asked if there were any questions. He noted that the Corp projects will be extensive, and it is remarkable that they have \$1.8 billion to affect levee improvements. He was glad the County was working with both with the City team and the Corp to work those issues out. He also noted that the City would be putting out notices of road closures soon, so it looks like we will all be collaborating on that project. As far as the riverbank improvements, SAFCA and the Corps have both completed good projects in the past, most notably the washout from 1986 around River Park in which it wasn't just exposed riprap but was put subsurface and then a lot of planning behind it. The technology is certainly there to keep the parkway looking good and relatively intact environmentally and at the same time provide protection to the citizens which is sorely needed.

11. City of Sacramento staff will present priority list of proposed projects for the Lower American River Parkway

Chair Harris introduced City staff member Raymond Costantino to present this item.

Raymond Costantino with the City of Sacramento introduced himself and thanked the Advisory Committee for the opportunity to present the City's priorities for funding. The City's

*dates and were recommending February 21. WCB will send out a doodle poll to ascertain Advisory Committee member's availability on the two dates.*

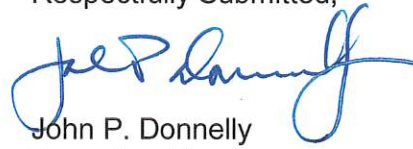
13. Request for Future Agenda Items.

*Member Don Nottoli asked about field trips; when would they be scheduled? Executive Director Donnelly suggested having the formal Advisory Committee meeting with agenda items in the morning and a field trip in the afternoon. WCB will review any potential issues related to Bagley-Keene.*

14. Adjourn

*Chair Harris adjourned the meeting at 10:44am.*

Respectfully Submitted,



John P. Donnelly  
Executive Director  
Wildlife Conservation Board