

Feather River Consolidated Master Plan

- 1) Update on Plan Development,
- 2) Summary of Schedule, and
- 3) Summary of December 8 Stakeholder Meetings

January 18, 2017 SBF Meeting
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1) UPDATE

Development of the draft plan for Reach 3 plan continues. Because of scheduling difficulties in October, the Planning Team met in November, later than previously anticipated. Key outcomes from this meeting were agreement on certain details in configuring sections of the plan, and arrangements for completing public outreach and stakeholder engagement. During the first days of November, the City made live for public outreach the FRCMP website: <http://www.cityoforoville.org/government/supplemental-benefits-fund-sbf-administration/frcmp-sbf>. On December 8 a series of three stakeholder meetings were held to gain focused input from three groups of community members (see more details in Section 3 of this attachment, below). The National Park Service and ESA compiled notes from the comments received at the meeting. A summary is included in Section 3 of this attachment and is being integrated into development of the final sections of the draft for Reach 3.

2) SCHEDULE

The latest version of the schedule for FRCMP development includes these planned milestones:

JANUARY

- Planning team to incorporate input from stakeholders; craft final portions of plan for Reach #3 (example section).

FEBRUARY

- Planning team review during a working meeting, date TBD.
- Planning team to finalize draft plan for example Reach #3; send to ad Hoc Committee.

MARCH

- Meeting with ad Hoc Committee to receive comments on draft plan (as developed for example Reach #3)
- Planning team to revise draft plan in response to ad Hoc Committee input.

APRIL

- Planning team to develop final draft plan (all reaches); deliver to SBF Steering Committee to receive comments.
- Finalize plan based on feedback

3) SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 8 STAKEHODLER MEETINGS

On December 8, 2016 the FRCMP Planning Team hosted three (3) stakeholder meetings with invitations sent via email to identified interested parties as well as posting the invitation on the City of Oroville website. Invitees were provided the opportunity to attend a meeting with the following focus, or all meetings:

- Meeting #1 - Downtown business, cultural education & community resource issues (31 attendees)
- Meeting #2 - Recreational and natural resource issues (27 attendees)
- Meeting #3 - Real estate development and economic issues (12 attendees)

The following are summaries of comments received at the three meetings.

MEETING #1 – Focus: downtown business, cultural, education & community resource issues

What is your vision of the river in the next 20 years?

- Combine the city's attributes of: 1. Historic gold rush downtown 2. Pristine natural river. 3. Great migration of natural species, to improve recreation and enhance access.
- The blocking levee between downtown and the river needs to be addressed.
- Residential and commercial development is desired along area of levee.
- Leverage economic opportunity and create river-based tourism.
- Boating, with put-ins at the hatchery and bathrooms along the river.
- A safe cleaned up river that is free of trash.
- River areas that are accessible and integrated for everyone not just the homeless.
- Bicycle trails.
- Entertainment areas where people can sit outside and eat near river while watching river activities; river-centric businesses (i.e., "the deck overlooking the kayak play spot where you can order a burger and a beer").
- Activities where people would use entire commercial corridor (i.e., kayaking) and that would bring in tourism. Something that would bring local, state and national recognition as well as green dollars.
- Reconfigured banks (too steep), extend Bedrock Park along length of river, improve access and natural identity for the river. Make it more river like, natural and not a ditch.

- Include educational component about river stewardship, ie. pick up trash. Tubers are a big problem in keeping river clean. Enhance education that includes information kiosks.
- Recreation connected up and down the river.
- Connectivity between the north and south banks.
- The Preservoir development in conjunction with hatchery is an education opportunity. We don't market community well enough.
- Salmon Preservoir provides infill need. Great natural space that provides an opportunity for park land and second hatchery. Community needs to think of highest and best use of the space.
- Potential Preservoir attributes include becoming Oroville as Salmon City USA; an incredible education and attraction opportunity. Visitors could snorkel with the salmon.
- River trail for non-motorized boats.
- Challenge: Growing homeless population. This makes it difficult for any development, particularly parkland development.
- Challenge: Vegetation management - Homeless camps are found behind brush growth. People tend to stay away when they see homeless.
- There is the expectation that the city becomes a part of the Settlement Agreement's Ecological Committee (EC). Acknowledge the EC in plan.
- Enhance education and interpretation. Include First Nations component and recognition in plan.
- There is no integration between ecological committee and the SBF. (Reno and Truckee River Plan was suggested as an example in addressing social services, community issues).
- Leverage funding. Combine funding pots from DWR and SBF during coordinated implementation.

In terms of implementation, what will coordination and alignment look like and what will it take to partner?

- Projects can be refined and discussed more. Money can be mingled to make some projects happen. Coordinate with DWR on mixing various types of funding.
- Ecological committee, recreation group, SBF community, can all be involved and integrated.
- DWR commented that the management process will be integrated. It's up to community where funding is directed. There will be multiple ways to engage, through representation on committees and public involvement.
- If access or amenities are increased, who will maintain? Challenges influence access and facilities infrastructure improvements.

How are the town and river connected?

- River needs to be active with people and social interaction – there needs to be a reason to walk along the river area—town is away from the river.
- Projects create synergy and have multiplying effect on community. Need to find out where money is, who controls it and how to get it released. People take ownership with investment in area. Concern about homeless. Funding will have a dramatic effect on the community.

- Helpful if SBF can match grants.
- Zoning can stimulate investment and development. SBF shouldn't be reactive. A way is needed in which entities can look at *large* projects. Think big with large projects that create synergy.
- Reach 3 as a jumping off place for activities or the centerpiece to initiate activities. You should look upstream also in identifying opportunities.
- Education Opportunities:
 - Funding can be used to get students out to river and provide water tours, salmon tours, bird tours. Feather River should be participating in the Snow Goose Festival. Expand opportunities to kids from lower income areas.
 - Need high quality programs for schools that tie into common core curriculum.
 - Tie history of gold town mining with access to river.

Note: After Meeting #1, members of the ESA consultant team had conversations with representatives from the State Water Contractors (SWC) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Both SWC and DWR offered to collaborate and support development of the FRCMP. The SWC also offered that their potential augmentation of the financial support of the plan would benefit the outcome of License implementation and also the outcomes of the FRCMP. The SBF Steering Committee may wish to follow up on these offers in developing the FRCMP.

Meeting #2 – Focus: recreational and natural resource issues

What impedes more (recreation/education/commerce) from occurring on the river?

- Vagrants, public safety
- Lack of access points and ramps
- River visibility
- The Levee! Can it be moved, reconfigured or removed?
- Lack of riverfront stores and restaurants where people boat by.
- Cold temperature and natural features of the river
- Lack of access (blue trail) for floating and kayaking.
- Transportation. Develop public shuttle service for reach #3 and downstream.
- Other locations like Petaluma have proposed ideas such as a boat house, short term rentals, wayfinding signs along river.

Will the FERC license measures (gravel/large wood/habitat/etc.) positively impact your organization?

If so, how will the FERC license measures further your organization's mission?

If not, what measures need to change so that there is alignment with your mission?

- Tie recreation into habitat restoration. Ecological and recreation measures may impact boating opportunities.

- Swimming education and safety will need to be promoted, some of which is being done by the YMCA.
- Once license is issued, there will be conversion to multipurpose trails, which is good.
- Homelessness. Getting people out there, providing better visibility and river restoration initiatives will help address this problem.
- Tie recreation, education and restoration together. Integrate natural resource and education around that topic.
- Access from Pacific Heights to Riverbend (identified one private parcel crossing).
- Brad Freeman bike trail can be dangerous in regards to hunting activities. Connect route so that users don't go through gun fire.
- American River Parkway is a great example where they've dealt with a lot of these issues (20 mile bike ride along river).
- Blue trail concept is wonderful; could include upper watershed where whitewater degree varies.
- East Gridley Bridge is a good spot for a blue trail.
- Community could benefit from a gateway.
- Trail connectivity. Trail development could be tied to Brad Freeman trail.
- Trails and development status – for regular requirements most everything has been done

What access improvements would you like to see along the river?

- Shuttle service
- East Gridley Bridge is a beautiful route for a longer float.
- A river guide book and river trail map.
- Improve safety so people feel comfortable leaving their car.
- Place information throughout area so people are aware of amenities – places to eat, orientation and guidance. Possible locations: Kiosks, Riverbend Park, Bedrock Park.
- Make information user friendly, include lots of organizations, regional marketing of recreational opportunities, one stop shopping on one website.
- Park watch program that connects people.
- Collaboration in funding and maintenance efforts. With different partners, figure out how they can collaborate on marketing and programs.

What are the most complementary activities that have a nexus with the river?

- Fishing and hunting
 - There are boat ramp plans at Afterbay outlet to improve river access.
 - Signage and more information identifying where the public can fish is also needed.
 - Develop an app identifying where the public can go to fish and hunt.
- Birding
- Camping (would require change in wildlife requirement; i.e., Afterbay outlet); there are plans to expand Outlet and with State Park improvements at Bidwell and Forebay

- Legally designated camping area with RV park (private) at Riffles that can accommodate tents, ramp and access to river (Reach 4).
- More accommodations are needed.
- Bike parks and pump tracks.
- Interconnected trails.
- There are a lot of users on the river, especially with tubers who access the river. Safety is a problem.
- Access at hatchery is tough. Walk-in ramp for tubers.

What is your vision of the river in the next 20 years?

- Something for everyone. A river for all.
- Oroville as a recreation destination.
- A lot more naturally produced salmon, steelhead – - river improvements - healthy fisheries.
- Bringing the river back to the center of Oroville.
- Envision a river that people enjoy, where they can swim. The observation platform is not being used--many areas are not accessible and it is difficult to walk given high grade. Bring back historic uses, improved access, and maintenance of the area.
- Warm water swimming/recreation.
- Refurbish low flow channel and eliminate invasive species.
- Large aquatic center that will help bring in economic development. Include swimming pools, areas for education and recreation to mitigate loss of swimming in river where at times it is too cold.
- Riverbend Park wrapping around the entire river with trails, crossing, diversion pool and destination park.
- Integration of wildlife refuge.
- Bicycle and multi-purpose access.

Final comments from participants:

- Some family business has been very successful at creating facilities near river – weddings, RV park, Paint Ball – business is good.
- Pay attention to cultural resource protection, such as historic preservation and Native American recognition. →Get representatives from tribes involved.
- Want to see levee restored back to natural habitat. Issue: Where is the line? DWR doesn't own levee, and it is much higher than it needs to be.
- Is the levee state lands? State lands to the High Water Mark?
- Need to know who owns or controls land along river so if question arises you know where to go. How much levee can we remove? Need a land ownership map and understanding of the areas controlled by regulatory agencies. Need to understand process for modifying the levee.
- How close to the river can development occur? Levee is an import issue.

- Mountain biking: What is the status with cows? Issues with trail maintenance and balancing grazing and trail interests in Diversion Pool area. DWR Response: They will revisit lease issue with private property owner when they get a license.

MEETING #3 – Focus: real estate development and economics issues

What would it take for you to make a significant investment in downtown development?

- Solid infrastructure, such as sufficient sewer capacity.
- A well thought out land use plan. Bring “backbone infrastructure to the front door.” If this could be established beforehand, then private sector/businesses can be brought to the table.
- Reconnect downtown to the river. What would happen if there was developable space here, what is the value, how big an incentive is there to have that developed?
- Challenge: Levee is a barrier, but if it could lowered then the beauty of the river could be seen.
- Dining options in Oroville. There are not many places to eat in the downtown area. People drive to Chico and Marysville for dinner.
- Napa cited as an example of active engagement of a waterfront.

What will bring more jobs/residents/visitors to downtown?

- If restaurants are built, housing and people will follow.
- No bank will fund a development project based on speculation, making it difficult to get a project off the ground. The biggest drivers downtown are multilevel office buildings, which could possibly be leased by tech companies. Downtown buildings could be redeveloped for that purpose. SBF funding could be used as financial catalyst to kick-start redevelopment.
- Places for social gatherings would generate economic development for the downtown area.
- Jobs, a workforce and something for them to do.
- Internet commerce. Get local entrepreneurs (from Oroville) to start tech companies. There is a need for broadband—currently town doesn’t have good internet!
- Massive change in real estate will be attributed to lifestyle attraction of the baby boomers. Active adult model suggested (where access to medical, outdoor recreation and education is provided; think Redding). This group doesn’t necessarily want to live in an age restricted community. They are looking for: mixed ages, lock and leave, smaller homes, less emphasis on yardwork. Two main demographics to attract: baby boomers and Millennials. To attract these groups there needs to be *downtown activities*. Need to have demand exceed supply, then rents will increase.
- Good bike lanes.
- Riverfront homes with views, a community center or club house (good setting for baby boomers).

- Remove the levee and things will change in terms of development desirability.
- Views from north side into downtown will help sell what we are trying to do.
- *Are the historic elements of Oroville an economically attractive aspect?*
 - Not really. Quaint, but this is not an economic driver. The river/lake is the driver.
- Develop a community at the lower end of reach 3.
- Have open space near river and levee, need to build site for boat rentals and river launch. Aquatic center is not convenient to downtown but there could be a satellite center downtown. Invest in levee and area as a gateway.
- Recreation opportunity: Lower end of reach has a nice canyon which Park and Rec owns.
- Great interest in the area from “equity migrants” (baby boomers from Bay Area). Wave of homebuyers and migrants from the Bay Area is anticipated, starting in 2018 and lasting over the next 20 years. Developers are focusing efforts just outside Bay Area prime but are beginning to look outside these areas as well.
- A downtown college annex for Butte Community College or Cal State University - Chico.
- Hospital expansion, renovation of the Oroville Inn which houses students. Cars and people are downtown.
- A vision for downtown. Outdoor dining is in demand.
- Lower the levee and put in trail ways.
- Levee is the barrier, taking it down will be a game changer.
- A downtown plan; nothing can be done without one. There is an Arts and Cultural Entertainment (ACE) Plan that was completed 2 years ago and emphasizes mixed use development.

What is needed to make this happen?

- Funding.
- Lower the levee.
- Foster development by eliminating obstacles.
- Flush out a downtown vision, infrastructure and wifi.
- Incentives would help to get people in early. Most subsidies trigger prevailing wage, but because this is a settlement (not a bond or other type of government funding), unlikely that such strings are attached to the SBF funding.

What is your vision of the river in the next 20 years as it relates to community development?

- Bring good paying jobs to the community.
- A deck where people can eat and view river and recreational activities.
- Hotel with views, nightlife and shops.
- *What can private sector do to foster private sector investment?*
 - Invest heavily in the community, in jobs and retail. Focus on new job growth and population growth. In terms of tech development, Chico will be out of land in 20

years. This presents an opportunity for Oroville. Government's role is to support new development. Make recreation more attractive so people come to the area.

- Job growth. Figure out what your assets are then market what your strengths are. This dictates what type of industry will come. It could be tourism industry as it relates to river.
- Downtown development has challenges. There is no consistent wifi and broadband. People will be attracted downtown when we have a beautiful landscape and wifi.
- Are there opportunities for access at other reaches?
 - Focus has been on reach #3 because of nexus to downtown.