

**SACRAMENTO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**  
**1112 I Street, Suite #100**  
**Sacramento, California 95814**  
**(916) 874-6458**

February 7, 2007

TO: Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission

FROM: Peter Brundage, Executive Officer  
Donald J. Lockhart AICP, Assistant Executive Officer

RE: **Public Presentations Regarding Environmental, Development  
and Preservation Interests in Sacramento County**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Information only, no action is recommended. Staff recommends that your Commission receive the various stakeholder presentations regarding environmental, development and preservation interests in Sacramento County

**BACKGROUND**

On December 6, 2006, your Commission directed staff to schedule these public presentations for this evening. Further your Commission explicitly directed that no policy discussion be scheduled for this evening.

The Agriculture and Open Space Work Shop Presentations are intended to inform the public and your Commission about various development interests, as well as agricultural and open space programs currently in operation within Sacramento County. The presentations were previously scheduled for the meeting of November 1, 2006.

At a future meeting, staff may schedule an agenda item related to Agriculture - Open Space Policies, in seeking direction from your Commission on how to proceed on this matter.

**PRESENTATIONS**

The Workshop will consist of brief presentations by development, environmental, and flood control interests. Your Commission may wish to further engage the speakers, as well as the audience as a whole.

## **Law Offices of Gregory D. Thatch**

Greg Thatch

Practices in the following areas of law:

Real Estate, Land Use, Environmental, Public Agency.

Year Established: 1977

Firm Size: 5

Representative Clients:

Lewis Planned Communities; KB Home; D.R. Horton; K. Hovnanian Forecast Homes; Centex, Reynen & Bardis; Tim Lewis Communities; Shea Homes; Sixells; Sacramento Employment and Training Agency; McClatchy Co.; Alleghany Properties; Granite Construction Co; Arizona Partners, LLC; Regent Development; Newland Communities; JPI; Griffin Industries; Panattoni Development; Richland Planned Communities, Inc.; BCN Development, LLC; M & H Realty Partners; SunCal Companies, Kern Schumacher Properties; Thomas Martin & Associates, Inc.; Pardee Homes, Inc.; San Joaquin Delta Community College District; and Regis Homes.

## **Save Our Sandhill Cranes (SOS)**

Mike Savino, President

Tara Hansen, Board Member

Sean Wirth, Treasurer

Tina Suarez-Murias, Board Member

Save Our Sandhill Cranes (SOS Cranes) is a non-profit organization which is dedicated to the conservation of the California Central Valley's Sandhill Crane populations through education, outreach, and community activism. Of particular concern to SOS Cranes are the threats to the remaining suitable winter habitats in the Central Valley of California. Pending urban development and the shift from corn and rice production to vineyards is likely to dramatically diminish what little remains of the winter migratory habitat of the Lesser and Greater Sandhill Cranes in this region. The Greater Sandhill Crane, which is a state listed endangered species, exhibit a high degree of loyalty to its specific wintering grounds, and any disturbance there will result in them being uprooted. If we lose the present population, it is highly unlikely that Sandhill Cranes from another location and population will come and take their place. The Lesser Sandhill Crane - a similar but smaller version of the Greater Sandhill Crane - is subject to the same threats of habitat loss as the Greater Sandhill.

## **Friends of the Swainson's Hawk**

Jude Lamare

Jim Pachl

Friends of the Swainson's Hawk is dedicated to the survival and recovery of the California Sacramento/Central Valley population of Swainson's Hawk. FOSH is a non-profit, 501-c-3 organization incorporated in September 1994 and has a board of five. Our region's Swainson's Hawk population numbers less than 1,000 and is vulnerable to extinction, due primarily to habitat loss. FOSH wants to see this population flourishing in our region in perpetuity.

Protecting the Sacramento County population is essential to this goal. We are not biologists; we are environmental advocates. We consult with and listen to biological experts.

James P. Pachl, Attorney at Law represents various environmental organization clients, and has been legal counsel to FOSH since its inception.

## **Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee**

Mike Bradbury

Mike is a biologist and Environmental Resource Coordinator for the California Department of Water Resources, and is also a Board member of the Natomas Basin Conservancy.

The Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (SWTAC), is an independent group of public agency and private biologists, which collectively have conducted numerous scientific studies of the Central Valley Swainson's Hawks over the last two decades.

## **Habitat 2020 Committee**

Glen Holstein,

AltaTura

Chris Lewis

Habitat 2020 is a joint committee formed in 1997 by Sacramento environmental organizations. Christina Lewis is the current chair. The committee's goal is to protect lands and waters where our wildlife and native plants live, including riparian woodlands, grasslands, vernal pools, wetlands, oak woodlands, waterways, lakes, reservoirs and the delta.

Member Organizations: Sacramento Audubon Society, Save the American River Association, Urban Creeks Council of Sacramento, California Native Plant Society-

Sacramento Valley Chapter, ECOS, Sierra Club-Mother Lode Chapter, SOS Cranes, and Friends of Swainson's Hawk.

**Sacramento County Farm Bureau**

Jerry Spencer, Board Member/Cattleman

The Sacramento County Farm Bureau (Farm Bureau) is a voluntary, nongovernmental, nonpartisan organization of farm and ranch families seeking solutions to problems that affect their lives, both socially and economically.

Farm Bureau’s voluntary, elected leaders and professional staff work hard for all Californians to ensure the rural economy’s growth...to protect the family farm...and to maintain the treasured natural resources that are so important to Sacramento County’s vitality and lifestyle.

Sacramento County farmers and ranchers produce approximately 75 different agriculture commodities with a total crop value of nearly \$350 million (23<sup>rd</sup> in the state.) Indirectly, Sacramento County agriculture contributes nearly \$1.2 billion to the economy with transportation, processing and related services to getting our food to the consumer table.

Top Five Crops by Value

Grapes, Wine	\$108,137,000
Milk, Market	\$51,210,000
Nursery Products	\$36,544,000
Pears, Bartlett	\$19,449,000
Cattle and Calves	\$18,727,000

**Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency**

Stein M. Buer, Executive Director

The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) was formed in 1989 to address the Sacramento area’s vulnerability to catastrophic flooding. This vulnerability was exposed during the record flood of 1986 when Folsom Dam exceeded its normal flood control storage capacity and several area levees nearly collapsed under the strain of the storm. In response, the City of Sacramento, the County of Sacramento, the County of Sutter, the American River Flood Control District and Reclamation District 1000 created SAFCA through a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to provide the Sacramento region with increased flood protection along the American and Sacramento Rivers.

SAFCA’s mission is to provide the region with at least a 100-year level of flood protection as quickly as possible while seeking a 200-year or greater level of protection

over time. Under the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency Act of 1990, the California Legislature has given SAFCA broad authority to finance flood control projects and has directed the Agency to carry out its flood control responsibilities in ways that provide optimum protection to the natural environment.

SAFCA's activities are funded from development fees and annual assessments imposed on benefiting properties in three separate districts in Sacramento and Sutter Counties. District 1 provides funding for annual operation and maintenance expenses and covers all of the properties in the Natomas Basin, including those lying within Sutter County, and all the properties in Sacramento County lying with the drainage basin of the American River. District 2 provides funding for capital improvements to the levees protecting Natomas and North Sacramento and covers all of the properties directly benefiting from these improvements. District 3 provides funding for capital improvements to Folsom Dam, the levees along the American River, and the levees and related flood control facilities along Morrison Creek and its tributaries in South Sacramento County and covers all the properties benefiting from these improvements.

Respectfully Submitted

***SACRAMENTO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION***

**Peter Brundage**  
**Executive Officer**

PB:DL:Maf

Attachments:

Definitions of Open Space and Agricultural Lands  
Various Presentation Materials

## **OPEN SPACE DEFINITION:**

Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg refers the definition of Open Space to California Planning, Zoning & Development Law Section 65560b: "Open-space land" any parcel or area of land or water which is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open-space use as defined in this section, and which is designated on a local, regional or state open-space plan as any of the following:

(1) Open space for the preservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecologic and other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, bays and estuaries; and coastal beaches, lakeshores, banks of rivers and streams, and watershed lands.

(2) Open space used for the managed production of resources, including but not limited to, forest lands, rangeland, agricultural lands and areas of economic importance for the production of food or fiber; areas required for recharge of ground water basins; bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries; and areas containing major mineral deposits, including those in short supply.

(3) Open space for outdoor recreation, including but not limited to, areas of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, including access to lakeshores, beaches, and rivers and streams; and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open-space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors.

(4) Open space for public health and safety, including, but not limited to, areas which require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality.

### *Definition of Agricultural Land Designations*

Government Code Section 56016 defines Agricultural Land:

Agricultural lands means land currently used for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity for commercial purposes, land left fallow under a crop rotational program, or land enrolled in an agricultural subsidy or set-aside program.

Government Code Section 56064 defines Prime Agricultural Land:

"Prime agricultural land" means an area of land, whether a single parcel or contiguous parcels, that has not been developed for a use other than an agricultural use and that meets any of the following qualifications:

(a) Land that qualifies, if irrigated, for rating as class I or class II in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service land use capability classification, whether or not land is actually irrigated, provided that irrigation is feasible.

(b) Land that qualifies for rating 80 through 100 Storie Index Rating.

(c) Land that supports livestock used for the production of food and fiber and that has an annual carrying capacity equivalent to at least one animal unit per acre as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture in the National Handbook on Range and Related Grazing Lands, July, 1967, developed pursuant to Public Law 46, December 1935.

(d) Land planted with fruit or not-bearing trees, vines, bushes, or crops that have a nonbearing period of less than five years and that will return during the commercial bearing period on an annual basis from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant production not less than four hundred dollars (\$400) per acre.

(e) Land that has returned from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant products an annual gross value of not less than four hundred dollars (\$400) per acre for three of the previous five calendar years.