

5.0 ERP PRINCIPLES

The opportunities for ecosystem preservation and restoration in the Pleasant Grove/Curry Creek watershed are numerous and diverse. The success of such efforts depends both on the skillful assessment, design and implementation of individual projects and on the degree to which the overall objective of ecosystem restoration is embraced and supported by stakeholders. To this end, the following five core planning principles have been incorporated into this ERP.

5.1 STAKEHOLDER CONSENSUS

Significant planning decisions that impact multiple stakeholders should be arrived at through consensus. This means that all participating stakeholders have to agree to support the final decision, recognizing that it may not be any individual's ideal solution or approach.

Consensus based decision making is especially important in the Pleasant Grove/Curry Creek watershed because there are a wide variety of stakeholder interests that may seem to be contradictory, such as urban development, agriculture, flood control, and open space preservation. The consensus process requires participants to identify their common objectives and work together to find solutions that will best meet the collective needs.

5.2 PLANNING AT MULTIPLE SCALES

Ecosystem restoration efforts should address specific sites, connecting corridors, and the larger regional matrix of habitat and non-habitat land uses both in and out of the watershed boundaries. Projects undertaken at any one scale should be considered for their benefits within the context of the other scales. In order to effectively implement projects across these multiple scales, there will need to be coordination between the various planning efforts (General Plans, Specific Plans, site plans, etc.) and the ERP.

5.3 SUSTAINABILITY

Ecosystem restoration efforts may include a broad range of projects from constructed habitat improvements to public education to changes in public policy. The success of any project depends greatly on its sustainability, i.e., the potential for the project to continue to provide the desired benefits

over time. It is important that projects are carefully evaluated for their sustainability before resources are expended on implementation.

The consideration of sustainability will vary by project type. For example, some projects will require ongoing financial resources for maintenance and operations. Other projects such as water quality monitoring may require a steady supply of committed volunteers. Projects that involve changes in policy will require the support of decision makers and effective enforcement mechanisms. Improvements to creek channels will need to be compatible with anticipated future flows.

When considering sustainability, it is common to factor in the cost of project implementation and operation but it is also critical to consider the economic value of ecosystem preservation. For example, positive economic impacts accrue through the avoidance of costs related to water quality treatment and removal of silt to preserve flood conveyance capacity. Access to natural areas also makes a community a more desirable place to live for prospective employees and frequently results in increased property values.

5.4 PUBLIC & PRIVATE STEWARDSHIP

While there are some important habitat areas in public open space within the cities of Rocklin and Roseville, the vast majority of land within the Pleasant Grove/Curry Creek watershed is under private ownership. Both public and private stakeholders should be encouraged to embrace ecosystem stewardship. Ecosystem restoration and stewardship on public lands provide an opportunity to create publicly accessible areas with educational and recreational value. Public stakeholders, such as Placer County, Sutter County, Roseville, Rocklin, and special districts may also have more access to financial and staff resources to support stewardship. Stewardship opportunities on private lands can range from changes in land management practices to implementation of specific habitat enhancement improvements.

5.5 VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

In Placer County, voluntary participation is a key concept for building stakeholder support for ecosystem restoration particularly among private landowners. Ecosystem restoration measures on private land such as acquisition of conservation easements, implementation of habitat enhancements, and changes in non-regulated land management practices cannot be mandated without usurping individual property rights.