MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 6:00 P.M.
Placer County Planning Commission Hearing Room
3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA
County Contact: Ed King

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mark Fowler at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Roll Call** – Present: Mark Fowler, Don Gould, Jim Victorine, Kari Freidig, Mickey Daniels, Gary Flanagan
   Absent: Frances Ragle

3. **Approval of January 23, 2019 Agenda** was moved by Freidig and seconded by Victorine, MPUV. **Approval of the October 24, 2018 Minutes** was moved by Gould and seconded by Flanagan, MPUV.

4. **Public Comment**: Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Fish and Game Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. **No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment**. There was no Public Comment.

5. **Financial Report**
   Operational expenditures to date total $4,550.
   Court fines and penalty assessments collected to date total $628

6. **Agency Reports**
   A. **Commissioner Reports** – Jim Victorine reported concerns from his neighbors that they recently saw a coyotes and a bobcat – or was it a cougar? It was hard to tell.

   B. **State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee**: Mark Fowler –
      1) January 31st is the Deer Tag reporting deadline. All tag holders must report; if they don’t, there will be a $21.60 fine when purchasing one this coming year.
      2) The CDFW will award $4.2 million for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant Projects. One of the projects is the Van Norden Meadow Restoration project for $1,948,803.
      3) There is a water-bird die off at the Salton Sea. Thousands of birds have died from avian cholera; Ruddy Ducks, Northern Shovelers, Black-necked Stilts and Gulls. This seems to happen when birds cluster. They incinerate the carcasses.
      4) CDFW is investigating a die-off of Desert Bighorn Sheep. They believe it is from a respiratory disease among the San Gorgonian population in Riverside County, probably from domesticated sheep or goats. There will probably not be any tags issued this year.
C. **Land Use Subcommittee**: Don Gould – no report

D. **Department of Fish & Wildlife**: Lt. Brian Moore - Dove season has been slow. Many officers have taken time off for the holidays. Placer Sportsmen annual dinner was well attended. Mickey’s donated fishing trip was popular; raised funds support kid's fishing derby in Auburn. New Sierra County and Truckee area officers have been hired. They are waiting for the snow to melt so they can explore. They have had their routine qualification training now. Not very busy at this time, because of weather and time of year.

E. **Nevada Irrigation District and Placer County Water Agency**

NID: As of January 21\(^{st}\): Storage = 192,300 AF; 71% of capacity; 112% of average for this date; Precipitation = 30.47”; 90% of average.

Already received above average precipitation for January and fortunately quite a bit of snow. Will be conducting first snow survey of the year next week and if results track with the telemetered snow-sensor sites we should be above Feb. 1 average water content. So far water supply is looking promising for the upcoming season.

PCWA: As of January 13\(^{th}\): Middle Fork combined storage is at 76% of average and 37% of capacity; Lake Spaulding/Fordyce combined storage is at 57% of average and 20% of capacity; Folsom storage is at 84% of average and 34% of capacity. Precipitation = 22” which is 70% of average.

7. **Action Item**

**Sunset Area Plan/Placer Ranch Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report** – Review potential impacts to fish and wildlife identified in the proposed project DEIR and consider submitting comments to the Placer County Community Development Resource Agency.

Ed gave an overview of the report given last June for the Sunset Area Plan/Placer Ranch Specific Plan. At that time, the Commission’s recommendation to the Board of Supervisors was to extend the draft environmental impact report comment period to 120 days. The comment period opened December 18 and is set to close February 22. The Placer County Planning Commission will be conducting a public hearing on February 14, 2019, to accept comments on the DEIR. Written comments may also be submitted prior to the comment period closing date.

In 2014, the Board of Supervisors directed the County’s Planning Services Division to update the 1997 Sunset Area Industrial Plan with the aim of creating a new economic development, employment, education and entertainment center in western Placer County. The DEIR evaluates environmental impacts of the
proposed project and identifies ways to avoid or mitigate those effects. It also describes a range of potentially feasible project alternatives that would accomplish most of the project’s basic objectives while avoiding or minimizing impacts. Project alternatives identified in the DEIR include:

Alternative #1 - No project alternative – development would revert back to the 1997 plan.

Alternative #2 – more of an aesthetic action for the development that reduces maximum building heights and requires additional buffer areas adjacent to preserves.

Alternative #3 – reduces the project footprint and increases total preserve acreage.

Alternative #4 – same development footprint as #3, but increasing the density of the development.

Alternative #5 – reduces non-residential development resulting in fewer vehicle miles traveled.

CEQA requires identification of an environmentally superior alternative, which is in this case the no project alternative. Alternative #3 is the substitute environmentally superior alternative because it reduces impacts while also maintaining most of the project objectives.

The Commission may take action, or not, to submit DEIR comments. Potential options for Commission discussion and action may include: confirm that the DEIR adequately identified fish and wildlife impacts; acknowledge mitigation measures are sufficient, or make specific suggestions for mitigation enhancements; make a general recommendation to prioritize conservation; or identify a preferred alternative.

Mark recused himself from voting on a recommendation to avoid a conflict of interest in consideration of his current position as a board member of the Wildlife Heritage Foundation.

Jean Wilson, President of California Native Plant Society–Redbud Chapter, provided public comment stating this area is the last remaining continuing area of vernal pools in the County and contains important streams and wildlife. She is concerned that the development will break up wildlife corridors and will have an impact on fish and wildlife.

Kari commented that she is disappointed that the BOS did not act on the Commission’s suggestion to extend DEIR public comment period. It was
released right before Christmas and this was very unfortunate timing. One of the most significant impacts is the degradation of the protected waters. Levels of impact were listed to the wildlife – which are quite significant. Loss of special status of plants was also significant, as was the loss of the Valley Elderberry long-horned beetle which was unavoidable. Bats, steelhead, salmon are all impacted around the project area. Over $5 million has been spent on studying this plan.

Kari moved that the Commission submit comments recommending adoption of Alternative #3. Mickey seconded the motion, MPUV (except for Mark, who recused himself). Kari will put together wording for the recommendation. Mickey will send in letter as Vice Chair, since Mark recused himself. Ed will send the letter to the Commission before submittal.

Each Commissioner, as county citizens, can also comment individually on the matter if they choose.

The next meeting will be February 27th—Frances is scheduled to secure a speaker.

8. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.