

These comments were collected at the fall 2005 Central Valley public outreach meetings and will be taken into consideration by the Department as part of the efforts of its Central Valley Vision strategy. For more information, please call 916 653-9901.

Delta – September 13, 2005:

Acquisition Considerations

- The Delta is an important land mass in the Valley. It has unique features, including having the most perfect triangle land mass in the world.
- Preserve Isleton. Create water trails in Isleton and Walnut Grove.
- Protect Consumnes River Area and tie it with other properties.
- Acquire Prospect Island. Features include:
 - Road and boat access.
 - Close to urban area.

Educational Opportunities

- Promote and educate the people about the Delta.
- Stories in the Delta:
 - Gold Rush Era.
 - Steamboat story.
 - Agricultural Story.
 - Locke/Walnut Grove (Chinatown) Story.
 - History of fisheries and why the Delta is important to fishing history.
 - Flood Stories (failure of the levees).
 - Importance of levees to water quality, history.
 - Effects of Levees.
 - Italian history.
 - River transportation.
- Create a museum in a welcome/visitor center.
- Develop Delta as a living museum.
- Use volunteer site managers to help educate visitors about conservation. Example: camp hosts.

Recreational Opportunities

- Important recreational facilities:
 - Boating, including ramps.
 - Tent camping.
 - Large family recreational areas.
 - Group (large camping areas).
 - Camping and fishing facilities.
 - Boat to trail sites/opportunities.
 - Boat trails, water trails.

Natural Opportunities

- Protect wildlife habitat, including Twitchell Island.
- Preserve and protect the Everglades.
- Preserve and protect the Tule Wilderness.
- Preserve and protect Tulare. Tulare is prime habitat, including everglades.

Public Access

- Water Access is limited.
 - More access to boating, rivers, waterways.
- Where are people going to recreate? Set aside more public areas.
- Provide better public access to public pump-outs and piers.
- Build boardwalks or docks.

Other

- Delta Agencies need to send information out to the community. Create a visitor center to distribute community resources. The Delta Welcome Center needs funding.
- Trash and vandalism is a problem in the Delta.
- There needs to be a streamlined method of getting information out to interested parties, stakeholders, and the public.
- How can we get people from different Delta communities to get together to work on issues?
- State Parks should be a driver and a leader.
- There needs to be a collaborative role with State Parks and the people in the Delta.

Bakersfield - September 14, 2005:

Acquisition Considerations

- State Parks is slow in acquiring land.
 - Use land trusts for partnership with acquisitions.
- Tejon Ranch/Canyon was an important part of California history and has numerous recreational facilities.
- Acquire Petroleum Reserves.
- Acquire Elk Hills 1&2.
 - Will current owners be able to preserve this area?
 - Occidental petroleum reserves.
 - Linkages to oil industry.
- Acquire the Tule Elk preserve area. The property is cut off by aqueduct.
- Acquire the piece of land near old adobe and elk crossing for a viewing station.
- Acquire Good Spirit Lake.
- Look at Hart Park for Acquisition and interpretation. It used to be a state park. Features include an old water wheel.
- Off Highway Vehicle Park off highway 5.

Educational Opportunities

- Tell the story of the state's water project.
 - Water museum.
 - Information can be supplied at rest stops.
- Tell the story of Taft and Santa Paula Oil towns.
 - Pull together one regional oil story for an interpretation project.
- Agricultural Story.
 - Record what grows in the region and create an interpretive project.
- Tell the story of the oil industry.
- Native history.
 - First Indian reservation is Tejon Ranch. Tejon Ranch has a large agricultural link.
- Create programs like the student living program in Tejon.
- The entire story of Tejon Ranch needs to be told. Tejon ranch had an important impact on all of California's reputation.
- Tell the story of the migration of different groups, including Armenian, Basque, Chinese, etc.
- Tell the Dust Bowl migration story.

- Fund existing historical places. Smithsonian identifies different collections put on by other organizations and funds projects all over the United States. Perhaps State Parks can create a similar program?
- State Parks should set standards and promotes exhibits throughout the Central Valley.
- Interpret and educate the public about Matherfield Air Base and the WWII history.
- Tell the story about the Migrant Farm Workers.
- Tell the story of the railroads.
- There used to be a school program called Camp Sierra in the foothills that told Native American stories. It is located near Bakersfield. This would be a good model for education.
- Tule Elk Visitor Center is often closed. There needs to be more interpretation panels.
- Is there a way to bring the public closer to the Tule elk to enjoy, instead of looking from across from highway?
- Point Reyes is a good example of a Tule Elk educational program.
- Look at the Paleontological museum as a possible collaborative project with State Parks.
- Link the agricultural theme with other states.
- Direct people to oil and agricultural themed museums.
- Luke Gold has three structures/oil sites tied together with existing structures.

Recreational Opportunities

- Support the bill for the development of the Cesar Chavez heritage trail.
- Create more camping opportunities.
 - There is no camping at Tule, Tejon and only limited spots at Allensworth.
- With a 50% Latino increase, we must create options for these communities by providing large group camping. There are only twenty individual and ten group camping spots at Allensworth.
- Create a kids training area for Off Highway Vehicle use. Structure the programs to teach land ethics.
- Camping is far away in the Central Valley. Central Valley should have closer facilities.
- South Valley Sector looking at increased recreation in planning effort.
- Have more alternative camping options.
- Plan for large group camping.
- Look into Geo-caching – GIS/position trends. It can be a fun experience to provide visitors.
- Create a bike trail along the Kern River.
- Seasonal wildlife viewing.

Natural Opportunities

- Preserve open space and rolling hills.

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- The 800-3000 ft level needs to be protected.
- Blue Oaks and Grasslands need protection.
- Preserve Kern River.
 - Can we preserve areas that are not under public ownership?
- Natural Resources.
 - San Andreas Fault.
 - 33 Freeway.
- Preserve Wellington Lake and reconstruct the wetlands.
- Preserve Tule Lake.
- Allensworth.
 - Preserve Riparian wetlands.
 - Multi-agency project.
- Protect endangered species.
- Carizzo plains.
 - It connects to Windwolves preserve, western Carizzo plains and eastern part of Battle Creek.
- Tule Elk State Park can be better utilized.
 - Promote and advertise at rest stops.
 - Create signage for Tule Elk SRA on highways.
 - Signs are difficult, focus instead on visitor centers and rest stops.

Public Access

- There needs to be public access in Kern Canyon.
 - Homes are excluding public access.
- State Parks should expand parking at Tule Elk State Reserve.
- There is now a housing development where people used to ride off highway vehicles.

Other

- Lands most difficult to acquire are most sought by private home-owners. The state needs funds to acquire land now.
- We have not planned well. We must be ahead of the game.
 - State Parks should work with developers to plan for local /regional park areas as well.
 - Integrate different uses for long-term planning.
 - Cultural.
 - Recreation.

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- Tourism.
- Etc.
- Central Valley efforts should be locally driven. Communities need to give input and have a large say in the future.
- Southern portion of Central Valley is underrepresented.
- Do more to attract children and families.
- Bakersfield needs to have a welcome center.
 - Partner with Great Valley Center, and Caltrans to create interpretive centers.
 - Wifi connections.
 - Small gardens to show agriculture.
- There needs to be signage at Tipton rest stop.
- Turlock meeting with partners on welcome center.
- Central Valley sits on a flood plane.
 - The area is not always good for development, but it can be good for recreation.
 - Look at areas that have multiple uses to draw different groups to the parks.

Madera - September 15, 2005:

Acquisition Considerations

- Lower part of Central Valley Vision map does not show all of the important river areas.
- Kings River should be part of the Central Valley plan.
- San Joaquin River has acquired land through conservancy and trust.
 - Desirable area, water opportunities.
 - 4000 acres preserved, but other areas need to be protected.
- Extend Millerton State Park along San Joaquin River.
- Madera County only has one courtyard park.
- The county has not set aside land for public recreation.
- Madera County is land poor.
- Sierra Nevada cascade and Ahwahnee Hills are new parks which can connect with Wassama Round House State Park.
- Need more partners: Cal Trans, highway 99 groups.
- Growth is rapid and the land needs to be saved from housing development.

Educational Opportunities

- Create external exhibits.

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- Madera Landfill is the largest fossil location dig.
 - San Joaquin parkway foundation partnered with Madera city.
 - San Joaquin parkway and paleontological dig, building advocacy and support.
- Look at highway 99 as an interpretive audio tour/corridor.
 - Point out all features, business, natural, and cultural.
 - Great Valley Center and CalTrans are working on Highway 99 project/rest stop.
- Include Germantown and part of Chinatown in your interpretation plans.
- Fresno Chinatown
 - It is a multi-ethnic area.
 - The Cultural Museum is one of the oldest buildings held by Chinese community.
 - Cultural museum, mid 1800's is subject to being bull-dozed; can you save and preserve it?
 - Ten communities are involved, but there has been very little interest from state organizations.
 - There are many migrant stories to be told, but no money to support the effort.
- Madera City Courthouse/Madera City Park off 99 is a cultural/historical resource.
 - Madera City Courthouse Museum historical society has a larger membership than any other in the state.
- River parkway center records oral histories about the river, including steamboat and salmon run history. It is a good collection of stories already collected. Ex: Mono Indian stories.
- Build interpretive trails instead of buildings in your parks.

Recreational Opportunities

- San Joaquin Murrieta has a yearly horseback ride.
 - Large Hispanic event in the Central Valley.
- Provide more recreational activities along the San Joaquin River, for example: canoeing.
- Wildwood Native Park has good natural recreation opportunities
- Develop "natural" parks with fewer structures and minimal impact on area.

Natural Opportunities

- River systems in the Valley need to be preserved.
- Grassland ecosystem of Central Valley.
- San Joaquin habitat has to be protected

Public Access

- Protect River corridors.

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- River access, boating, water, etc.
- Agricultural community has had land rights up to river for generations.
- Parks need to work with land owners for access or conservation easements.
- San Joaquin River - Mendota through Firebaugh.
- Standards and guidelines regarding liability are a concern. Ex: fencing off land. People have a fear of liability. Can State Parks provide resources and answer questions regarding liability issues?
- People need parks closer to home.
- Rural areas may not have as many recreational opportunities.
- Build trails through public lands.
- Counties do not have the funds to build trails.
- State Parks Trails and ADA could partner with counties.
- Trails are important, but maintenance is an issue.

Other

- Deferred maintenance funds needed, support legislation for capitol outlay money more than focus on acquisition.
- It is difficult for Madera County to commit to a 20 year plan, because operations and maintenance become a problem. Can State Parks provide staffing if county gives them land?
- Park agencies need to spend effort to raise awareness in legislation over costs. We need a park bond act.
 - What about a one time grant/endowment to invest in maintenance and operation funds?
- Look at the city (Boswell) they are planning near Exeter. There may be problems with water in the future.
- Resources agency and NPS grants paid for property on river parkway. Nearly contiguous to state Parks (May 2007 open).
- All agencies need to find a way to work together.
- State Parks can provide facilitation assistance to other groups.
 - Consensus building.
- There is no set aside money for the Central Valley region.
 - LWCF should give more money to the central valley.
 - Suggest more set asides in Central Valley vision strategy.

Red Bluff – September 19, 2005:

Acquisition Considerations

- It is better to expand existing parks. There is little money for new park properties.
- Private/public partnerships.

- Huge levels of development are happening in Red Bluff, you must preserve river frontage now.
- Development of housing communities is a threat.
- Buy, buy, and buy: people 20 years from now will be thankful for open space and recreation.
- You can't buy enough land.
- State Parks only has 1-2% of Land in California.
- Long term planning is important. Look at how Newport beach versus Huntington Beach as a model for good and bad examples of planning.
- We see open space gobbled up.
- Partnership is needed to affect change.
- Why are people not concerned about population growth?
- Diamond Mine – privately owned – part of private mining interest for Silica sand. Can State Parks acquire? Site may be lost.
 - One of State's largest hydraulic projects created.
 - Mined down to middle of mountain. Gorge in between –tunnel—gold.

Educational Opportunities

- State Parks does a good job at historic preservation, but you don't need more land.
- Immigrant Trails -- people follow historical trails.
- Map out stories /trails (Lassen, etc. Gold rush, Old wagon wheel tracks in lava. Lassen Trails; Mill Creek/old creek fire exposed artifacts.)
- Rich Native American culture/prehistoric.
- Get word out to public - no access between Clear and Mill Creeks.
- Not enough interpretation on steamboat travel on river – flatboats, paddlewheels during Gold rush – all river travel.
- State Parks can't be all to everyone.

Recreational Opportunities

- River trails (canoe, etc.) links areas through water trails.
- State Parks has the ability to provide experiences on other public lands (i.e. camping, etc.)
- BLM has camping, salmon runs, etc. already in area.
- Create a trail along the Sacramento River.
- Create a public right-of-way trail.
- City of Redding has a hand in projects and requires trail/access areas up front.
- Coordinate larger management area with other agencies (i.e. DFG, BLM, USFS, etc.) to provide recreation.
- Family camping – people want outdoor experience but has to be convenient – tent cabins, etc.

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- Urban kids aren't camping that much. Impact on future support for preservation. People need to get away from urban stress.
- Reality is that people don't want to camp at Red Bluff in summer.
- Shasta and other places create destination for people; they will come.
- Keep parks as diverse as possible – including amenities, i.e. permanent tents or yurts.

Natural Opportunities

- Sacramento River: river corridor links all the counties.
- Riparian Areas: acquire now while areas are still there.
- Fill in around parks: areas around lake; works for wildlife and people recreation.
- Blue oaks are already protected and feel it is a waste to protect.
- Feather River: State Parks take a look at Cherokee Mine site (from Oroville take Cherokee Road to Highway 70). Top of Table Mountain.
- Feather River (fish hatchery to mouth of Sacramento River) identified in State Parks plan to preserve river (historic, natural, and cultural). It is still in natural state. Historical preservation status.

Public Access

- Trail plan connecting entire area. Orville to Marysville.
- Map that shows all public owned lands along Sacramento River: on Web site www.sacramentoriver.org/.
- Tehama County: Lower Bear Creek – Lassen trail – only two water ways legally
- How do we use current State Parks and make them more accessible with picnic tables, etc.?

Other

- The city of Redding conducted a survey with the public on their main concerns. The results were as followed:
 1. public safety
 2. streets
 3. library funding
 4. open space

Open space was a high level priority for the Redding community members.

Modesto – September 20, 2005:

Acquisition Considerations

- Highway 108 volcanic tablelands.
 - Stanislaus River, mainly under private ownership.
 - Has a unique feature – volcanic vernal pools.
- Tuolumne River area.
- Path to the Padres.
 - Cultural and natural features.
 - Sycamore trees.
 - Save “Path to the Padre” land.
- Stanislaus River has land owned by federal groups (Army Corp of Engineers).
 - Can State Parks partner with them?
 - Join lands for trail use.
- Red Hill by Chinese Camp.
- Highway 132 towards LaGrange needs to be preserved.
- Clark Mine: Hydraulic.
- Park at Rough and Ready Island? It is now under control of the Port of Stockton.

Educational Opportunities

- Tell the story of people in the Valley.
 - Cesar Chavez.
 - Dustbowl.
 - Journey through Central Valley Interpretive tour.
 - Knights Ferry.
 - Last Yokuts Indians.
 - Native American history.
 - Old historic buildings.
 - La Grange history.
 - Snelling has historic features.
- Grinding Rock stories.
 - Arrow heads.
- Tour of bottlery.

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- Corn Hallow.
- Use land already owned by and purchased by State Park. Tracy/Tessler.
- Tell the story of the wildlife that used to exist in the Valley.
- Need more programs for school children.
 - Use signs, brochures, etc. They need education at current locations.
- Interpretive panels and centers at existing parks look tired. They need to be re-done.
- Diablo closed the visitor center due to lack of funds. There is a struggle to meet goals of interpretation.
- Look at the stories about how local communities were impacted by mining.
- Colonel Allensworth State Park is a good example of interpretive tours. The wildflowers are an unknown jewel.

Recreational Opportunities

- How many recreational vehicle parks are there? Is the demand there?
- Put all RV parks in one area.
- Put campgrounds and trails out of flood plain.
- Is there day use at Turlock Lake State Recreation Area?
 - Yes, water sports and activities related, like picnicking.
- Have more areas for canoe use.
- Most people won't complain to pay fees for recreational opportunities at parks.
- More hiking/biking trails.
- More primitive camping opportunities along the Tuolumne River.
- More backpacking.

Natural Opportunities

- Central Valley native grasslands were turned into farmland and it is now changing into housing.
- Preserve and protect natural grasslands.
 - Great Valley Grassland State Park borders 165/140 and Gustine.
- Vernal pools.
 - Not much left to preserve.
 - Look for privately owned places in foothills.
- Hickman vernal pool near Waterford (close to Turlock Lake).
- Tuolumne River Restoration project.
 - Desire for river corridor restoration.
 - Keep what little we have left and expand.

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- Spawning salmon in the river.
- Good venue for interpretation.
- Bird migration.
- Highway 132.
 - Birds (Department of Fish and Game).
 - Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge. Canadian Geese winter here in Modesto.
- Wildflowers/Rocks.
- 150 mile plot of land from trails along Hetch Hetchy area. State Parks is willing to work with locals.
- What natural features were here before the Gold Rush?
 - Vast herds of tule elk and prong horns.
 - Bald eagles.
 - Grasslands.
 - Yellow bill magpie.
 - Blue heron.
 - Black birds.
- Need most funding for restoration and management of natural features.

Public Access

- There needs to be more access to Henry Coe State Park.
- Private property not available for public access is a problem and challenge in the valley.
- Lack of public access to Sutter Buttes is sad. The tours are too expensive for most people.
- More public access for land around river.

Other

- Commending State Parks for Vision planning.
- Build on existing parks.
 - A cohesive vision to connect lands and rivers.
- Keep Stanislaus River from being mined.
- Upkeep of land is a problem.

Merced – September 21, 2005:

Acquisition Considerations

- Merced is limited in land. Want State Parks to purchase and protect it.
- Expand partnerships and land acquisitions.
- There is a shift in ideals with threat of development.

Educational Opportunities

- Contact Historical Society for specific features.
- There are good Merced ghost stories to tell.
- Tell the stories about the Chinese camps.
- Tell Gold mining stories.
- Dredge tailings – rocks from gold dredgers. Interpret these features. Maybe use a kiosk?
- Migrant workers story (Cesar Chavez) – historical/educational.
- Japanese Camps in Merced.
- Tell the agricultural growth story in Valley.
- Railroad history -- tracks underground (McClure) Snelling Lumber.
- Tell the story about wild game – geese / antelope.
- Educate the public about the Farm/Agriculture community.
- Use sensory programs, have a different approach to interpretation.
- History of central valley and central water project.
- Interpretation of alternate energy is needed, such as Pacheco/Altamont Pass.
 - Turbine contracts pay for staff.

Recreational Opportunities

- More camping in Merced region.
- More Off Highway Vehicle units in Merced region.
- River Park Race course in Merced. Possible partnerships?
- Agriculture land is critical (we are losing it to development).
- A golf course is needed in region (areas: Planada, Mariposa, Oakhurst, McClure).
- Create more bike trails.
- Link with tourism (big because of Yosemite).
- We need more camping near water. Water park/camping?

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- There is a lack of rangers in county parks.
- Demand more camping outstrips facilities.

Natural Opportunities

- Merced River – jewel to valley.
- East Bay Municipal Water District is doing riparian work in Merced River. Regional Council of Rural Counties.
- State Parks does a wildflower tour at Los Baños Creek.
- Feather River (fish hatchery to mouth of Sacramento River) identified in State Parks plan to preserve river (historic, natural, and cultural). It is still in natural state. Historical preservation status.
- Trail plan connecting entire area. Oroville to Marysville.

Public Access

- The public can't contact State Parks staff at McConnell State Recreational Area, it is best to contact San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area.
- No staff at George J. Hatfield SRA. Hatfield camping available; self pay; less than 25% pay.
- Merced County charges at all 3 large regional parks. Haganan Park is about 10 miles or less from McConnell SRA (takes about 15 minutes).
- State Parks can't keep up with river use at McConnell SRA, especially with high water; dangerous situation.
- Hageman and McConnell State Recreation Area connection possible?

Other

- County parks are strapped for money resources. Reliant on partnerships and grant money from state and federal money. 40-50 year old septic tanks. We need money for restrooms and irrigation systems.
- Prop 12 funds for playground equipment is running out.
- Prop 40 – for irrigation systems is running out.
- Farmers are using Williamson Act to preserve farmland.
- Lake Yosemite irrigation.
- Kids are becoming urban; they don't know what wildlife is.
- There is a lack of “outdoor experiences” for children.
- Old farmers need to have different language. Do not approach them with “conservation”, but how they will benefit.

Stockton – September 27, 2005:

Acquisition Considerations

- Consider low impact sites surrounding Carnegie SRA.
 - Coral Hollow Canyon. The area was used as seasonal hunting grounds for Native Americans and had one of the first commercial coal mines. There are natural and biological resources in area. There are rich opportunities for educational elements. The land was initially purchased for the expansion of Carnegie SRA (titled Alameda/Tesla). Please reconsider expansion into the area. There are worthwhile scenic elements. The area provides a wide range of historical, cultural, and biological experiences. It meets the goal of the Central Valley Vision. The land is already owned by California State Parks.
 - Values: scenic, cultural, recreational.
 - Other groups support the preservation of the Alameda/Tesla property.
- The Central Valley Vision is a good process for public outreach and planning.
 - Use Tesla area in a low impact manner. There has been no environmental mitigation at Carnegie in last 20 years. There is no indication that Tesla property could be used to mitigate issues at Carnegie.
 - Trails at Tesla are in the most sensitive areas.
- Look for linear park areas along river corridor (Mokelumne).
- Oak Grove Park (I-5 8 mile road) by Mickey Park.
- Include Mokelumne River from Camanche to Woodbridge in plan.
- Linear parkways are a new form of design and a good use of space.

Educational Opportunities

- Tell the story of what the valley looked like before the levees.
 - Cultural and natural story.
 - Native Americans.
 - Tell the story about what Elk Grove looked like before all the development, when there were actual elk groves.
 - San Hill Crane, the migratory patterns.
 - Dredging the rivers – good or bad – the effect of levees.
 - Worried about contamination.
- Agricultural history.
 - Agriculture was the real gold in the valley.
 - Story about Grantline Canal – protected farmers on Union Island.
- Lodi Lake, Mokelumne River needs an interpretive facility.

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- Many of the State Park nature centers are closed. Create more outside dioramas, so the public can have access to interpretation at all times.
- Develop interpretive centers.

Recreational Opportunities

- Patterson Pass has birding opportunities.
- Amador County will be hosting an off-highway vehicle park in southern area. Possible collaboration with State Parks?
- What do trails cost per individual?

Natural Opportunities

- Protect Riparian Area.
 - Value of the land for anyone.
 - Development is encroaching upon Riparian habitat.
 - Riparian oaks house migratory birds.
- Valley Oaks need to be preserved.
- We are losing habitat areas to urban development.
- Preserve green belts connecting parks.
- Vernal Pools.
 - Only a small amount left in the Central Valley.
- Water fowl habitat.

Public Access

- There needs to be better access to the public.
- State Parks should connect river trails in the region.
 - Create more public access points along the rivers.
- Henry Coe State Park has limited public access.
 - Plans for a new access point on the north end.
- Mokelumne River lacks public access.
 - Example of planning public access for the future, think Central Park in New York.
- Need to protect river corridors by settling above high water.

Other

- Commending State Parks for Vision planning.

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- To be successful, you must collaborate. State parks should be involved with discussions concerning greenbelts.
- Bring all interests together at the same table to work out a solution to greenbelt/park issues. Share information, collaboration and partnerships.
- Use the land you already own.
 - People using the river trespass on private property.
 - Public doesn't clean up after themselves.
 - Private property owners shouldn't be punished.
 - State Parks cannot maintain and operate what they have.
 - Levees are maintained by reclamation districts.
 - Boaters and skiers destroy levees at Grantline canal.
 - Costs and insurance go up when levees are open to public recreation use.
 - Levees do not make good parks. The equipment is dangerous and parks do not understand what the levees do and their importance. There is a difference between private vs. project levees.
- California Native Plant Society supports Central Valley Vision.
- The San Joaquin County does not have enough money available to maintain its parks. They can not afford to do long-term planning.
- There are a large amount of facilities already in the Delta region. State Parks should focus on these facilities.
- Parks stimulate local economy.
- It is urgent that State Parks acquire land now. The cost of land will end up being too expensive. Upgrading facilities should be a second priority to acquiring land that may be lost to development.
- See us more than every 20 years.
- Sierra Club – no significant mitigation at Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area.
- The Department of Fish and Game can't maintain Durham Ferry.