

**Stewardship Council
Kennedy Meadows Pilot Project Orientation
Sonora Opera House, Thursday, December 6, 2007**

Summary of Meeting:

I. Welcome and Review Agenda

Jayne Battey welcomed everybody and explained the purpose for the orientation. She introduced the Stewardship Council staff, including newly hired Land Conservation Director Ric Notini who would be facilitating the meeting. She introduced PG&E staff, Tuolumne County Board of Supervisor Members, elected officials, and state and federal agency representatives. She then asked everybody else in the room to go around and introduce themselves. She then turned the meeting over to Mr. Notini.

II. Introduction

Mr. Notini introduced himself and reviewed the agenda and ground rules. He then turned orientation back to Ms. Battey to go over where the Stewardship Council was in the process.

II. Update and Overview of Pilot Disposition Process

Ms. Battey reviewed the PowerPoint presentation. When she was finished Mr. Notini took over again to begin a discussion on collaboration and its importance in our process.

On Flip Chart: Collaboration: What is it?

Ric Notini read the definition from the list of terms provided in orientation packet. Questions and concerns regarding definition:

- Some take collaboration to mean an outcome of consensus. How does the Stewardship Council view consensus as part of a collaborative process?
- Is this process going to be under NEPA? Because, if it is, the collaborative process under NEPA would take us 10 years. What about CEQA?
- If it is under CEQA, which body would be the lead agency on the process?

Jayne Battey responded to NEPA/CEQA questions by stating that the Stewardship Council is not subject to CEQA but that PG&E is. PG&E would have to get authority from the CPUC. There is also a small chance that NEPA could come into play if federal agencies like USFS take over land and make certain changes to the planning unit.

- Who is on the board?

Ms. Battey went back to the PowerPoint presentation to show the diagram illustrating the diversity of the Stewardship Council Board. She went on to reiterate the importance of collaboration because the Board makes decisions based on consensus.

- What is the “thumbnail” process for disposition?

Ms. Battey explained that the Stewardship Council recommends disposition package to PG&E, PG&E accepts, then the CPUC accepts

- How long is this process going to take, I heard there was a time limit?

Ms. Battey: “The goal is to get it done by 2013.”

- Can Matt Bloom start rebuilding the Kennedy Meadows Resort?

Ms. Battey stated that Matt’s leaseholder is PG&E and deferred to Steve Koop of PG&E to further respond. Mr. Koop explained that the lease does permit for rebuilding and there should be no holdups with regards to rebuilding.

- Could he rebuild bigger?

Ms Koop explained that he would not necessarily be able to build the operation back bigger. It would depend on the plan’s consistency with the Stewardship Councils Land Conservation Plan.

- We are afraid that if we collaborate and come up with a plan, that it will be submitted and denied because we suggested some things that were non-negotiable. Has PG&E and the CPUC stated what their filter criteria are? We need to know what is negotiable and what isn’t. Have you developed groundrules?
- Can you show us exactly where in the LCP it says that Matt can rebuild?

Ms. Battey read the first paragraph from Section 2.4.2 of Volume I of the LCP on Agreements for Existing Economic Uses.

On Flip Chart: Who needs to be involved?

Mr. Notini asked the participants if they thought there were groups not represented at the meeting who might have an interest in Kennedy Meadows or the process.

- Response:
 - Camps, Schools – YMCA, Yosemite College
 - Ranchers – Take their cattle up to the high country
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Auto Tourists
 - Audubon Society

- Native Plant Society

- A Tuolumne County Board of Supervisor was concerned that in using terms like recreationalists as a category for stakeholders, the Stewardship Council might overlook some of the interests that are represented within that broad stakeholder group. Same thing with Environmentalist Stakeholders and Historical Resources Stakeholders (i.e. historical resources include both historical buildings and tribal resources).
- Are all the interested donees here?
- Stakeholders are tied to what is or isn't negotiable in the process. We need to know what is negotiable before we can pinpoint exactly who the stakeholders are.
- A Tuolumne County Board of Supervisor suggested that the Stewardship Council create a vision statement regarding the goals of the disposition process for Kennedy Meadows. Pertaining to whether stakeholders should be focused on maintaining what is there or enhancing or increasing facilities.
- Whoever gets the land will have a different ability to influence the process. We really want to know what the ground rules are.
- Could the Stewardship Council actually take ownership of the land?
- Have the decision makers (CPUC) actually been to the land?
- Could we reach a consensus at the beginning of the process? We would like to focus on ownership at the very beginning of the process.
- Interpretation is a lot. What if the parties that take over don't adhere to the things that were agreed upon during the disposition process?

Jayne Battey responded by stating that the Stipulation Agreement mandates monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement.

On Flip Chart: What can the Stewardship Council do to help with the process?

- Response:
 - A neutral facilitator.
 - Prospective donee must prove that they have the ability to manage the land.
- Has the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District applied to the IDR?
Yes
- If the title of the land goes to a new agency, how will access of right of way be handled?

- Everybody have unique ties to Kennedy Meadows and appreciates different aspects of the area. Everybody sees these wonderful aspects differently. For example, hikers and backers may see the natural beauty differently. How do you see this process as a balanced process hearing what's in the room? How can you ensure that stakeholders with different viewpoints will be heard?

Stewardship Council Board Member Rob Floerke responded to the comment by saying that we have the LCP in front of us and the stipulation agreement behind us. Let's listen and give it our best shot.

Mr. Notini added that the Stewardship Council would like to avoid either/or scenarios.

Ms. Battey wrapped up the meeting by telling the group that we would be back in March to continue working and in the mean time we would concentrate on getting good maps, finalizing the process, definitions of the terms of the agreements, and getting people signed up on the IDR.