



Watershed Planning, Collaboration & Resource Protection

Watershed planning touches upon a broad range of issues including local land use and related policies, stream protection concerns, restoration goals, flood control, and water quality. The planning framework can be transboundary and address implications for climate change, or regionally focused in its need to balance water supply, flood protection and habitat considerations. It can also be locally-based with concerns for recreational uses and creek alignment. The challenge is to bring the relevant parties to the table, identify both the common interests and the divergent views, and then map out a solution for forging a mutually-acceptable plan.

Staff Expertise

CONCUR staff bring a wealth of experience to working in coordinating effective dialogue and outcomes in watershed planning related to water quality issues (including TMDLs), wetland and creek restoration, and concerns related to anadromous fisheries, flood management, and sea-level rise.

Scott McCreary, CONCUR Principal, has been involved in watershed-based planning over the past 25 years. His work has included forecasting effects of land use change on the San Francisco Estuary, developing governance proposed arrangements, convening scientific review panels, and forging agreements among a broad range of watershed stakeholders. His work has spanned local, regional, and international transboundary scales.

John Gamman, CONCUR Principal, has 25 years experience with water resources planning and protection. He has worked with the Santa Clara Valley Water Resources Protection Collaborative to facilitate negotiations and draft agreements for a establishing a comprehensive set of land use guidelines and standards to address issues of stream protection and management. He also played a key role in assisting stakeholders to reach consensus on flood control improvements for the Lower American River. John has expertise in policy analysis, mediation, and training, and has worked with national, state and local government agencies, U.S. companies and NGOs, and international clients.

Bennett Brooks, Senior Associate, has been with CONCUR for 12 years. Bennett's project work has included facilitating collaborative dialogues on complex water resource conflicts. He worked closely on the CALFED Bay-Delta program from 1998-2007 on water supply, water use efficiency and ecosystem restoration issues. Other water resource-related projects include facilitating strategic planning sessions for the California Urban Water Conservation Council and facilitating stakeholder work groups addressing water supply and agricultural water issues in the Imperial Valley.

Rebecca Tuden, CONCUR Associate, brings over a decade of experience in watershed planning. She has worked closely with federal, state, and local governments in collaboration with landowners and local watershed organizations to address water quality concerns and develop implementation strategies for a TMDL in the coastal estuary of Tomales Bay, California. In addition, Rebecca has extensive experience evaluating and negotiating creek and wetland restoration projects with landowners as well as regulatory and planning agencies. She has coordinated with local and regional governments on strategies for minimizing sea level rise impacts.

Selected Watershed Planning and Resource Protection Projects

CALFED: California Bay-Delta Program & Ecosystem Restoration: The CALFED project, one of the largest environmental planning initiatives ever undertaken in North America, aims to resolve California's long-standing water wars by building a series of inter-related agreements around water supply reliability, water quality and ecosystem restoration, water use efficiency, and long-term finance strategies. CONCUR worked closely with the program for more than a decade to provide strategic planning, process design, joint fact-finding services and agreement-focused facilitation.



Successes included agreement among agricultural and urban interests using locally-inspired water use efficiency actions to meet specific regional and/or statewide objectives related to timing and flows, quality and quantity. CONCUR also helped design and execute a grant program that resulted in the Program awarding millions of dollars to support water use efficiency efforts and habitat restoration projects across the state.

Clean Estuary Partnership to Develop Total Maximum Daily Loads and Other Water Quality Goals:

CONCUR assisted the San Francisco Water Board, industry dischargers, and environmental groups in creating measures to improve water quality in San Francisco Bay. CONCUR used its collaboration expertise to put in place a dialogue that ensured there were effective strategies for folding stakeholder views into both framing and addressing issues associated with TMDLs and pollutant loads for Mercury, PCBs, Chlorinated Pesticides, Copper, Nickel, PDBEs, PAHs, and Selenium.

Santa Clara County Water Resources Protection Collaborative & Guidelines for Stream Protection:

CONCUR worked with a broad cross-section of interests in California's Santa Clara County ("Silicon Valley") over a four-year period (2002-2006) to develop and ratify a series of momentous agreements to improve stream protection for over 4500 miles of streams throughout California's Silicon Valley. Collaborative participants included representatives from the County of Santa Clara, all 15 cities in the County, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Guadalupe-Coyote Conservation District, the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau, and representatives of property owners, environmental, community, business and agricultural interests. The agreement included a detailed set of Guidelines and Standards for Land Use Near Streams for each city, the County, and the Water District to adopt.

Guadalupe River Flood Control Project & Habitat for Anadromous Fish: For years, parties struggled to balance the competing demands of flood control and salmon habitat in San Jose, California. The dispute, starting with a five citizen/agency notice of intent to file a lawsuit, centered around flood control plans for downtown sections of the lower Guadalupe River. CONCUR worked with the affected parties to hammer out a landmark agreement that resolved outstanding agreements and included a proposed project of a bypass tunnel design and a package of early implementation measures. The CONCUR team convened a Technical Fact-Finding Subcommittee to assist with a redesign of the initial project - resulting in a decrease of \$100 million from original project costs. The project also included a groundbreaking 100-year adaptive management plan. The project has been implemented, the mitigation is functioning well, and the Adaptive Management Team is meeting annually.

Headwaters Forest Water Quality Issues: CONCUR successfully worked with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to help resolve logging-related water quality issues in five Humboldt County watersheds. In addition to conducting conflict assessment, organizing stakeholders, initiating a convening committee, CONCUR recruited, convened and facilitated an Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). The Panel included experts in hydrology, slope stability, silviculture, aquatic ecology, and environmental planning. The ISRP examined the relationship between timber harvesting and sedimentation, identified potential corrective measures, and evaluated the sufficiency of the Habitat Conservation Plan, producing two unanimous reports. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Board relied on the ISRP's findings to establish Watershed Wide Waste Discharge Requirements for the 5 watersheds.

Comprehensive Management Plan for the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve and Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge Water: Tijuana Estuary, on the US-Mexico border, consists of an ecologically rich mosaic of wetland habitats and uplands. CONCUR was retained by the California Department of State Parks and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare a joint management plan. CONCUR convened a working task force of federal, state and local governments and environmental organizations to create a Plan with new strategies for environmental restoration in the canyons and riparian corridors of the border highlands.



Okavango Watershed and Basin Water Sharing: The Okavango River watershed originates in Angola, flows through Namibia and terminates in the Okavango Delta in Botswana. CONCUR served as facilitator and trainer for this US-AID funded initiative, lead by the Berkeley-based Natural Heritage Institute, aimed at strengthening the information base to support transboundary natural resource planning for the Okavango-Kubango River system. Other project partners include IUCN, the Namibian Nature Foundation, and Angola-based NGOs.

Selected Watershed and Estuary-Related Publications

- 2009** "Science-based and stakeholder-driven marine protected area network planning: a successful case study from north central California." (Manuscript submitted for publication). 2009.
- 2006** "Facilitators' Report for the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Central Coast Project." July 2006.
- 2005** "Tahoe Science Consortium (TSC) Statement of Concurrence." March 2003.
"CALFED Bay-Delta Program Finance Plan." California Bay-Delta Authority. January 2005.
- 2003** "Final Report for Independent Panel on Appropriate Measurement of Agricultural Water Use." California Bay-Delta Authority, Convened and Facilitate by CONCUR, Inc. September 2003.
- 2002** "Final Report on Sediment Impairment and Effects on Beneficial Uses of the Elk River and Stitz, Bear, Jordan and Freshwater Creeks". Authored by the Humboldt Watersheds Independent Scientific Review Panel, Convened and Facilitated by CONCUR, Inc. December 27, 2002.
"Final Record of Decision and Withdrawal of Citizen's Suit Marks Resolution of a 15 Year Flood Control Dispute in San Jose", California Water Law Reporter, January 2002.
- 2001** "Applying a Mediation Framework to Integrated Coastal Zone Management". *Coastal Management. Volume 29(3):183-216, 2001.*
- 1999** "Resolving Science-Intensive Public Policy Disputes: Reflections on the New York Bight Initiative." In Susskind and McKearnan (eds.) *Consensus Building Handbook*. Sage Publications.
"Lessons from the San Francisco Estuary: Four Rounds of Action. Proceedings of the Conference on the Future of the Sanbanze Wetlands. Tokyo Bay. Chiba University, Tokyo, Japan. June 27, 1999.
- 1998** "Dispute Resolution Memorandum." Guadalupe River Flood Control Project Collaborative. Ratified July 1, 1998. Amended August 7, 1998.
- 1994** "Proceedings of Phase One of the Lower American River Task Force." Ratified July 1994.
- 1992** "Land-Use Change and Impacts on the San Francisco Estuary: A Regional Assessment with National Policy Implications." *Coastal Management. Volume 20: 219-253, 1992.*

For a complete list of projects please visit our website at www.concurinc.com

About CONCUR, Inc.

CONCUR, Inc. provides services in agreement-focused mediation and facilitation, joint fact-finding, conflict assessment, environmental policy analysis, strategic planning, and environmental mediation training. Our staff has a unique dual expertise in both the process and substance of environmental decision-making. This dual expertise is the foundation of CONCUR's philosophy: to integrate different disciplines in our problem-solving capabilities and deliver the highest quality professional services.

For further information about our services please visit our web site at www.concurinc.com or contact us at:

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