# AGENDA

## Three Rivers Community Plan Update

## Community Meeting

**Monday June 8, 2015 7:00 P.M.**

Arts Building

Three Rivers, CA

... service with pride.

Resource Management Agency

1. Welcome and Introduction.

2. Project Status/Brief Review of Community Meeting #16 May 11, 2015 Oak Woodland Management Summary Notes.

   (a) Oak Woodland Management Summary Notes (May 11, 2015 Three Rivers Community Plan Update Meeting).

3. Discussion of Oak Woodland Management Plan Draft Outline.

   (a) Draft Oak Woodland Management Plan Outline.

4. Other Topics as Related.

5. Topics for the Next Meeting.

6. Next Steps.

7. Adjournment: Next Meeting July 13, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

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Three Rivers Community Plan Website address:
http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/planning/three-rivers-community-plan-update/

# RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE
Oak Woodland Management Discussion Summary Notes
(May 11, 2015)

I. Map Inventory for the June 8, 2015 Meeting
- Aerial Map of the Three Rivers Planning area with USGS Contours, Parcels, and Section/Township and Range.

II. Consideration of Additional Studies
- Climate Change Effects on Blue Oak Woodlands (Stevenson, Kueppers).

III. Oak Woodland Study Approach (Narrow Scope)
- Specific focus on Oak Woodlands to include all species of Oaks including Valley Oaks and not strictly limited to Blue Oak Woodlands.
- Inventory should not be limited to areas planned for urban development, areas outside of urban land use and urban zoning districts should be included as scenic resources.

IV. Oak Woodland Definition and CEQA Thresholds of Significance
- Definition of Oak Woodlands. (Oak Woodlands Conservation Act of 2001) and (SB 1334 (Public Resources Code (PRC) section 21083.4) and PRC §4793(e).

-Oak Woodlands Conservation Act of 2001: Lands that contain 10 percent oak canopy cover are considered oak woodlands, per PRC §4793(e) the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has communicated to county planning departments that the term significant stand of oak trees means those acres of land with 10 percent oak canopy cover (January 2006).

-For a project site to be designated oak woodlands under SB 1334, all of the following must occur: (1) no commercial conifers are growing; (2) the majority of living trees are oaks; (3) the project site must average 10 percent oak canopy cover per acre.

-The 10 percent oak canopy cover standard determines whether oak woodland habitat exists and if SB 1334 mitigation standards apply. If significant oak woodland impacts occur, SB 1334 lists the CEQA mitigation alternatives available to counties to reduce impacts to less than significant (See number VI below). The 10 percent standard is unrelated to determining thresholds of significance or any other CEQA application beyond establishing the existence of oak woodlands.

- Include California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) thresholds of significance regarding oak woodlands. (SB 1334 (Public Resources Code (PRC) section 21083) (Oak Woodland Impact Decision Matrix—2008 UC Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program).

  -The Guide to CEQA, 11th edition states: "In the absence of an impact necessarily deemed significant, the lead agency has discretion to adopt standards for determining whether an impact is significant. In recent years interest has focused on encouraging agencies to develop standardized "thresholds of significance", rather than to continue making ad hoc determinations in the context of particular projects..." See CEQA Guidelines § 15064.7 for more on establishing thresholds.

  -As with the determination of existing conditions, the evaluation of potential impacts of a project should be considered at three scales: (1) landscape, (2) site and (3) individual trees or groves.

  - **Establishing Site Condition** (CEQA guidelines on establishing site condition §15125 and §15126): Site condition should evaluate either the oaks as individual trees, or the condition of the oaks as a component of a larger forest. Ascertain if the site represents an oak woodland whose ecological functions are still relatively "intact," "moderately degraded," or "severely degraded."

  Intact refers mainly to being free from destructive land use practices that inhibit or limit the oak woodland to naturally sustain itself and its associated flora and fauna.

  Moderately Degraded woodlands, the canopy or understory may have been reduced or eliminated over all or part of the site; past grazing or soil disturbance may have impaired regeneration in some areas or it may be a situation due to urban type development.

  Severely Degraded, it should be highly altered, fragmented or in such a state as to make it virtually unrecognizable as ever having been an oak woodland.

  **-Determination of Impacts:**

  Low Impact, Minimal disturbance to stand structure and composition and habitat features resulting in no increased edge habitat or fragmentation.

  Moderate Impact, Detectable change or reduction in canopy, structure or composition; loss of some habitat features, subtle impacts increasing fragmentation, edge creation or loss of connectivity (roads, fences, other introduced artificial barriers or buffers).

  High Impact, Obvious change or reduction or loss in canopy, structure or composition loss of most of the existing habitat features and services; fragmentation and or parcelization of contiguous ownerships; introduction of roads or stream crossings; creation of edge habitats previously absent; construction of barriers (fences).

V. Mapping and Inventory Protocol/Strategy (Accurate, Reasonable, and Efficient)

- Options Include Aerial Photos/Landsat Satellite Imagery, Fire Resource and Assessment Program (FRAP) Maps, California Natural Diversity Data Base Maps, California Native Plant Society Maps, GAP Analysis Maps, and other relevant GIS Data as applicable (fine grain vegetative mapping if available).
- Tree Canopy Study, use Large Scale Mapping and consider 10 acre plot sizes.
- Determine Baseline/Existing Conditions and Historical Trends and Patterns if possible.
- Classification and Sub-Sampling, (Consider Ground Truthing Approach).
- Inventory should consider average rainfall.

VI. Implementation and Mitigation Program Considerations

- Program should be Incentive Based (Compensation/Incentives).
- Consider Grants, Mitigation Banks, Conservation Easements, Per Acre Impact Fees, and Transfer of Development Rights.
- Design Guidelines and Educational Programs.
- Mitigation should consider the Mitigation Options identified in SB 1334 (Public Resources Code (PRC) section 21083.4 (b) which provides that CEQA requires "feasible" and "proportional" mitigation for significant oak woodland habitat impacts.

(1) Conserve oak woodlands, through the use of conservation easements.

(2) (A) Plant an appropriate number of trees, including maintaining plantings and replacing dead or diseased trees.

(B) The requirement to maintain trees pursuant to this paragraph terminates seven years after the trees are planted.

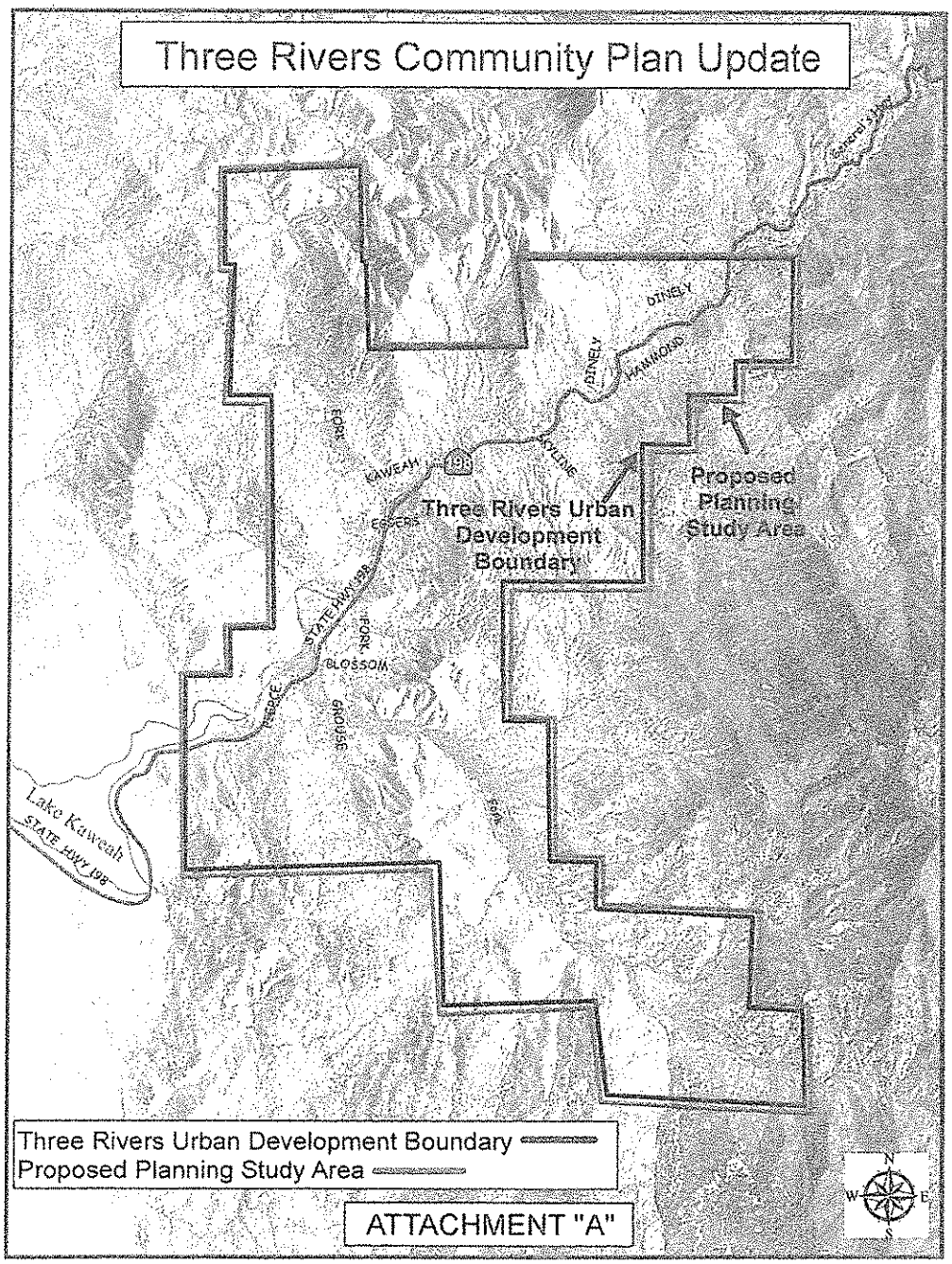
(C) Mitigation pursuant to this paragraph shall not fulfill more than one-half of the mitigation requirement for the project.

(D) The requirements imposed pursuant to this paragraph also may be used to restore former oak woodlands.

(3) Contribute funds to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund, as established under subdivision (a) of Section 1363 of the Fish and Game Code, for the purpose of purchasing oak woodlands conservation easements, as specified under paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of that section and the guidelines and criteria of the Wildlife Conservation Board. A project applicant that contributes funds under this paragraph shall not receive a grant from the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund as part of the mitigation for the project.

(4) Other mitigation measures developed by the county.

Reference: See April 13, 2015 Summary Meeting Notes as Attached from from the May 11, 2015 Agenda.


Three Rivers Community Plan Update
Three Rivers Urban Development Boundary
Proposed Planning Study Area
Lake Kaweah
STATE HWY 198
KAWEAH
DINELY
HAMMOND
SKYLINE
FORK
BLOSSOM
GROUSE
Three Rivers Urban Development Boundary
Proposed Planning Study Area
ATTACHMENT "A"
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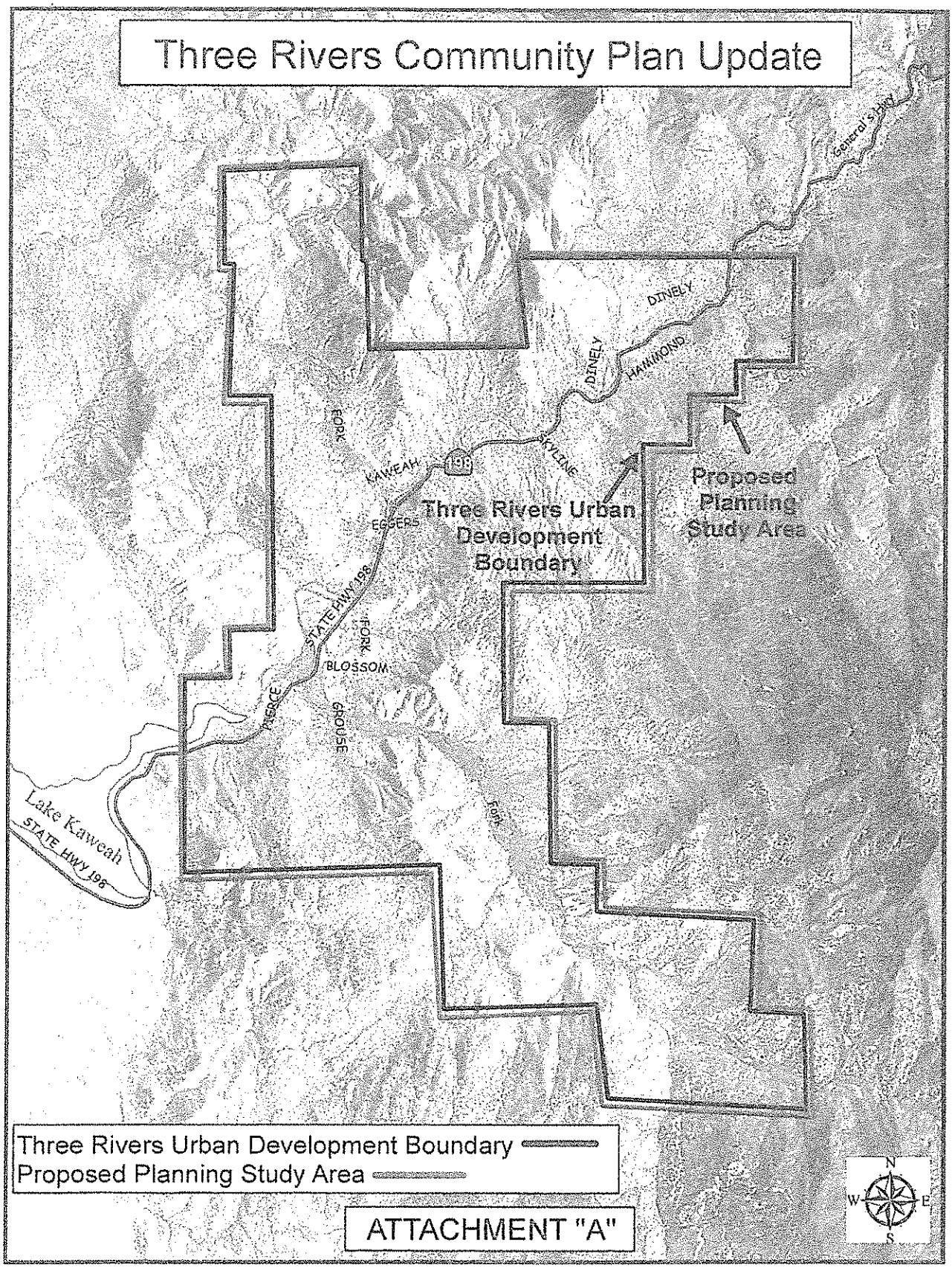
THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE
Oak Woodland Management Discussion Summary Notes
(April 13, 2015)

I. Oak Woodland Management Plan Approach
- Focus on Plan and then Implementation.
- Collect Background Materials Including Threats to Oak Woodland Communities.
- Mapping and Inventory Protocol/Strategy should be developed to Determine Baseline/Existing Conditions.
- Plan Strategy.
- Degree of Regulation consistent with Threat of Harm.
- Study Area should focus on development footprint areas within the UDB (Attachment A).

II. Focus on Plan and then Implementation
- Determine Plan Elements, Components, Design Guidelines, and Incentives.
- Consider description native oak species, estimates of the current and historical distribution of oak woodlands, existing threats, status of natural regeneration and growth trends. To the extent possible, prepare maps displaying the current distribution of oak woodlands.
- Review Importance of Oak Woodlands for economic value, natural resource values of oak woodlands, review importance of oak woodlands as benefits to wildlife habitat, retention of soil and water, aesthetics, and that planning decisions for oak woodlands should take into account potential effects of fragmentation of oak woodlands, support for landowners that participate in the Oak Woodlands Conservation Program, future funding, education and public outreach programs, implementation and update of the plan.

III. Collect Background Materials Including Threats to Oak Woodland Communities
- Review existing studies and materials, National Park Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Academic Studies, California Native Plant Society, Caltrans.
- Oak Woodland Conditions.
- Threats to Oak Woodland Communities, Fire, Disease, Climate Change, Urban Development including infrastructure, tree harvesting.
- Collect Samples of Existing Plans, Community to Review Materials and Provide recommendations.

IV. Mapping and Inventory Protocol/Strategy should be developed to Determine Baseline/Existing Conditions
- Determine Approach, consider tree canopy study.
- Accurate, Reasonable, and Efficient.
- Inventory should consider average rainfall.
- Use Aerial Photos, Determine Historical Trends if possible.


Three Rivers Community Plan Update
General's HWY
DINELY
DINELY
HAMMOND
EFORK
KAWEAH
SKYLINE
EGGERS
Three Rivers Urban Development Boundary
Proposed Planning Study Area
STATE HWY 198
FORK
BLOSSOM
PIERCE
GHOUSE
Fork
Lake Kaweah
STATE HWY 198
Three Rivers Urban Development Boundary
Proposed Planning Study Area
ATTACHMENT "A"
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# DRAFT OAK WOODLAND MANAGEMENT OUTLINE

I. Purpose and Objectives of the OWMP

- A. Purpose - Comply with 2012 County General Plan Requirements
- B. Objectives
  - 1. Fulfill Requirements of California Oak Woodlands Conservation Act
  - 2. Provide Guidance to Landowners, Developers, and County Planners
  - 3. Qualify for Funding from Wildlife Conservation Board or other grants

II. Conservation Goals of the OWMP

III. Natural Resource Values of Oak Woodland Habitats

- A. Grazing
- B. Wildlife
- C. Special-status Species
- D. Recreation
- E. Effects on Habitat from Loss of Oak Woodland Habitats

IV. Oak Woodland Habitats in the Three Rivers UDB

- A. Types of Oak Species in the Three Rivers UDB
- B. Oak Communities in the Three Rivers UDB

V. County Participation in Oak Woodland Habitats Conservation Program

- A. Support for Private Landowner Participation in the OWCP
- B. Support for Landowners
- C. Education and Outreach

VI. Best Management Practices for Oak Woodland Habitats

VII. Mitigation for Loss of Oak Woodland Habitats

VIII. Guidelines for Maintenance, Restoration, and Rehabilitation of Oak Woodlands

IX. Monitoring and Reporting