

# **Bidwell Reach 2 Project Neighborhood Meeting Minutes**

## **March 17, 2008**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

### **2. Project History**

- A. Project Need:** The bank is eroding rapidly in several areas of Big Chico Creek between the big meander at Bidwell River Park and the Rose Ave. Bridge. The stream channel is deeply incised (cut down), with steep banks and fine soils and the stream is trying to meander, but is constricted by human structure (homes and Bidwell Avenue). Similar problems were addressed in the Bidwell Reach 1 project, which begins at the Nord Avenue Bridge and ends at the big meander just upstream of the almond orchard.
- B. Partners:** Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance, Streaminders, and CSU, Chico Research Foundation
- C. Grant Funding:** State Water Resources Control Board grant of \$237,000

### **3. Project Description:** Roger Cole made a PowerPoint presentation about the 3 project construction sites on Big Chico Creek (see [www.bigchicocreek.org](http://www.bigchicocreek.org) for presentation).

The project involves two components: streambank stabilization and floodplain excavation. There are two stabilization sites. The most downstream begins at the Rose Avenue bridge and continues along the south (left) bank upstream for three parcels. The stabilization methods include rock vanes, toe protection and willow mattresses. Rock vanes are triangular shaped placements that begin at 4 feet from the streambed and taper into the streambed approximately 10 feet from the bank (see presentation for figures). Toe protection will be provided by rock or cobble placed where the bank meets the streambed. Willows will be planted above the toe protection by weaving cuttings into a “mattress” such that they will root and sprout.

The second stabilization site is the “swimming hole” site along Bidwell Avenue. Here the bank is extremely tall and vertical. A crib wall planted with willow is planned, constructed of rot resistant timbers or concrete. Rock protection will be installed at the toe of the structure.

The floodplain excavation site is along the south (left) bank at the almond orchard. The steep banks will be excavated to provide a floodplain that is inundated approximately every two years. This floodplain provides additional capacity for flood events, as well as an appropriate elevation for native riparian plants.

**4. Project Schedule:** The project will go out to bid this summer, with fall construction ending by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Planting will start then and continue through spring.

### **5. Questions and Answers:**

- *Will the rock vanes build up the bank?* No, they are intended to redirect flow into the middle of the channel, where the flow won't erode the bank. Rock protection is planned at the toe of the bank (where the bank meets the streambed). A willow

mattress (woven willow cuttings that root and grow) is planned above that rock protection....

- *How are the rock vanes stabilized?* They're keyed into the bank, with rock protection provided upstream and downstream. They're also buried slightly into the streambed.
- *What is the street address for the swimming hole project area?* It's at the rope swing location, across from 1360 Bidwell Ave.
- *Will property owners be notified when herbicide will be applied?* Yes, signs will be posted, an announcement sent via the email notification list and flyers distributed to nearby neighbors
- *What herbicide will be used?* Rodeo (a aquatic-approved glyphosate compound) will be used to control Himalayan blackberry, vinca, privet, ivy, ailanthus
- *What about other south side property owners upstream of the project area who also have bank erosion problems?* They are not part of the current project. At this time, no additional funding is available.