



CALDECOTT CORRIDOR COMMITTEE: HISTORY AND MISSION

The Caldecott Corridor Committee was formed in April 1995 by the Alameda-Contra Costa Biodiversity Working Group as a forum for discussing issues related to the Caldecott Corridor. The idea for such a Committee grew, in part, out of the 1994 Environmental Partnerships Symposium, and the 1995 Earth Day Conference entitled, “The Environmental Spirit: Past, Present, and Prospects”, both hosted by the University of California at Berkeley. The interested individuals, agencies, and policy makers assembled for these events identified the resource management issues associated with the Corridor and discussed ways for involving the community to develop an effective resource management plan for the area.

Another important catalyst for forming the Caldecott Corridor Committee was the publication in May 1995 of the Fire Hazard Mitigation Program & Fuel Management Plan for the East Bay Hills by the East Bay Hills Vegetation Management Consortium (VMC). The purpose of that report was to provide a more uniform strategy for controlling wildfire risks in the Oakland/Berkeley Hills and to outline some management tools that could be used to achieve that goal. The VMC Report did not attempt to comprehensively integrate biological and other management objectives and did not specifically address the Caldecott Corridor, anticipating that these steps could and would be addressed later.

Following these events, staff members from Contra Costa County, the East Bay Municipal Utility District (“EBMUD”), and the East Bay Regional Park District (“EBRPD”), with direction from the full Biodiversity Working Group, implemented findings made at the UC Berkeley conferences and recruited a broad base of interested individuals from differing

disciplines and perspectives to participate in the first meeting of the Caldecott Corridor Committee in September of 1995.

The Committee met approximately every other month from September 1995 to the last meeting in the summer of 1998. Regular attendees included homeowners in the Caldecott area, staff from Contra Costa County, EBMUD, EBRPD, the California Department of Fish and Game, the cities of Oakland and Berkeley, UC Berkeley, and other relevant government agencies, private landowners and farmers in the Caldecott area, representatives of conservation organizations, individuals and organizations concerned with management of fire risks, university professors, scientists, and other individuals and groups generally concerned with the management of resources in the Caldecott area. Committee members devoted substantial amounts of their own time sharing and collecting background information, learning from experts on a wide array of subjects, developing recommendations for actions in the Corridor, and negotiating balances between multiple resource management goals.

The Committee approved the following Mission Statement in late 1995 to guide its work:

The Caldecott Corridor Committee of the Alameda-Contra Costa Biodiversity Working Group is a non-partisan, interagency/citizen group dedicated to developing a planning strategy for the Caldecott Tunnel area which maximizes the value of the area as a wildlife corridor, minimizes the threat of wildfire, and preserves the individual interests of local landowners. Recognizing that these goals may at times be contradictory, the Caldecott Corridor Committee promotes consensus by inviting all interested parties to participate in the process, by gathering the best available information for understanding the potential land management conflicts, and by seeking a creative solution which is both balanced and acceptable to all interested parties.

The Caldecott Corridor Committee has operated by consensus and presents this final version of the Resource Management Plan as the culmination of its three year investigation.



(Patricia Matthews)