

Dear Sacramento River Stakeholders,

Making the best decisions about the future of the Sacramento River and its neighboring lands requires access to the best available information. Unfortunately, finding this information has not been easy. Even when the reports, maps, proposals, photos and other material is on the web, it can be difficult to locate and access. Now though, with donation of funds and time from different organizations and businesses, the Sacramento River has a web "portal" that offers a breakthrough in how stakeholders can share and access information important to their interests.

The Sacramento River Portal (www.sacramentoriverportal.org) is organizing a Steering Committee to guide and help its growth. Individuals representing organizations and businesses that may be interested in becoming involved in this project are invited to attend a Steering Committee meeting on January 23 from 9 am to noon at the _____ in Chico. The main objectives of the meeting are:

- Prioritize goals and strategies for the year. (See "Strategic Options - Draft".)
- Review and finalize sponsorship proposal for 2003. (See "Sponsorship - Draft".)
- Review and gain initial comments on decision making proposal. Until a decision making document is finalized the meetings will be guided by the draft document. (See "Decision Making - Draft")
- Set future meeting dates and meeting objectives.

Since 1995 when I started the Water-On-Line effort to use the Internet to improve the public's access to government water-related information, I have been working to improve how the web and email can assist in environmental decision-making. With help from The Nature Conservancy, CalTEG, UC Davis interns and a lot of pro-bono staff time, I believe we have created the beginnings of a model for how the many important websites and organizations in a watershed can collaborate and share information. The creation of a stakeholder Steering Committee to guide the Sacramento River Portal is a critically important step toward developing a model of sustainability for other watersheds around the country to emulate.

Please call me if you any questions about the meeting or any of the supporting document. (All Portal-related documents will be located in the About SRP section of the website.) You are also welcome to share this information with others who might be interested.

Sincerely,

Kevin Wolf
Principal, Kevin Wolf and Associates