

Redwood Project History Proposals, Decisions, and Actions

October 6, 2001: The board agreed that the Conservancy should draft and adopt a statement of purpose and then incorporate as a non-profit, tax exempt organization. Tim Wallace described his concept of a Technical Advisory Committee and the board approved his proposal with the proviso that it should stress the importance of developing a resource inventory early on so that future actions could be properly evaluated.

December 8, 2001: The board approved a proposal by U.C. to remove eucs especially those within 50 to 250 feet of roads.

The board also approved the trails committee recommendation that the Conservancy give top priority to re-creating a direct trail connection from Four corners down to meet the U.C. fire road in the upper canyon.

February 19, 2002: Tim reported on the Four Corners project (brush and debris clearing), which started the week before with CDC crews working under CDF direction.

Joe reported on the trip that he, Tim, and Tamia took to Angel Island and China Camp state parks to meet with State Parks Resource Manager Dave Boyd. They toured both sites with Boyd and discussed his experience in removing eucalyptus from about 80 acres at Angel Island, plus more acreage at China Camp plus the State Park System's ongoing broom removal program.

September/October 2002: Eucalyptus trees on three acres of land adjacent to the Marg property were cut down and hauled away by U.C. Berkeley under the supervision of Tom Klatt.

October 2002: Tamia Marg proposed to the Hills Emergency Forum that the Conservancy develop an agreement with U.C. Berkeley whereby the Conservancy would plant redwood seedlings on the three acre parcel in order to suppress the growth of broom, Italian thistles, poison hemlock and other non-native, invasive plants that would constitute a fire hazard in need of yearly or more frequent management involving herbicide or hand cutting or grazing by goats, etc.

October 12, 2002: The board approved the expenditure of up to \$1,000 for GIS/mapping of Claremont Canyon and noted that in 1975 U.C. had approved the planting of several hundred redwoods and pines in the upper canyon. It was proposed by Tamia Marg and Joe Engbeck that we map the location of the surviving redwoods and that the Conservancy propose to the University a redwood planting project designed to continue and augment that earlier redwood planting. Joe Engbeck and Tamia Marg subsequently met with Eureka Cartography and asked Eureka to gather the best and most appropriate GIS databases so that maps could be produced as needed.

October 2002: Tim Wallace wrote to Tom Klatt of U.C. Berkeley regarding eucalyptus removal and redwood planting especially with regard to the 60 or so acres of U.C. land in the upper canyon. "We believe an enormous improvement in fire safety could be achieved by sustained stewardship of the whole area with the goal of removing the eucalyptus and other non-native vegetation and completion of University's almost forgotten plan to create a cool, moist, relatively fire-safe redwood grove in the upper canyon. The native redwoods that were planted under University supervision in the upper canyon in 1975 are now beginning to assert themselves and become apparent despite being completely neglected for a quarter of a century and despite heavy competition from the eucalyptus trees that were cut down in the early 1970s but then allowed to re-sprout. Our Executive Committee is vitally interested in all of these issues. . . . Together we look forward to working with you in every way we can to help the University achieve its long-term vegetation management goals for upper Claremont Canyon."

November 17, 2002: Joe Engbeck made a presentation to the annual membership meeting of the Conservancy about the history of eucalyptus forest and the 1975 redwood planting project plus the idea of continuing and augmenting that planting project in the upper canyon. The presentation was entitled: "Converting the Eucalyptus Forest in Upper Claremont Canyon into a Cool, Moist, Relatively Fire-safe Redwood Grove." The presentation was well received and resulted in positive feedback from many people including Tom Klatt.

November/December 2002: Joe Engbeck met with Bill Libby, a professor emeritus of forest genetics from U.C. Berkeley, to discuss the idea of planting redwoods in upper Claremont Canyon. Bill Libby was strongly in favor of the project, which is actually a smaller version of a proposal he made to the University some years ago. Bill Libby arranged for Joe Engbeck to meet a professional nursery operator from New Zealand and his hired seed collector who were collecting redwood seeds in the Oakland/Berkeley Hills.

December 20, 2002: The Executive Committee approved and recommended that the board approve the purchase of one pound of redwood seed for \$115.

January 25, 2003: The board approved the purchase of one pound of coast redwood seed from a professional seed collector for seed from naturally occurring redwoods in the Oakland/Berkeley Hills.

March 2003: The Conservancy purchased one pound of redwood seeds from naturally occurring redwoods in the Oakland/Berkeley Hills.

March/April 2003: Tim Wallace met with Tom Klatt to discuss eucalyptus removal and redwood planting matters in more detail and then reported that he "had a good hour and a half meeting with Tom yesterday. He's going to receive bids for this year's euc cutting next week - and has something between \$50,000 and \$90,000 for that purpose in this year's budget. I told him about our grants, and that we preferred the route of stewardship

maintenance after UC did the big jobs. He liked that idea of follow-up. He also said that the campus committees with which he deals would think that, combined with the redwood planting project he knows about and that I elaborated on a tiny bit (we've got seed, it's at Davis and some might be planted this winter for tree planting in two or three years) he said that the project would act as an incentive not to rock the euc cutting boat - looking to the Phase I and II areas and down below as a redwood "restoration" area. He seems very upbeat about the whole thing - and is all for helping us do what it is we want to do. Now all we have to do is plan in more detail what it is that we want,"

December 12, 2003: The Executive Committee asked Joe Engbeck to search out an appropriate commercial nursery to germinate seeds and grow seedlings for the Conservancy since CDF's Moran Reforestation Center is no longer permitted to provide that service though they can continue to store our seed supply in their temperature and humidity controlled seed storage facility for a very modest fee.

March/April 2004: The next Conservancy newsletter (Spring 2004) carried a written version of Joe Engbeck's redwood presentation and again resulted in positive feedback.

March 25, 2004: The board approved the expenditure of up to \$1,000 for the planting of 50 redwood seedlings on the three-acre site on "Middle Ridge" next to the Marg property. Planting will take place in late February or early March using volunteers recruited by Marilyn Goldhaber.

Tamia Marg and Joe Engbeck reported to the board that the GIS/mapping program was continuing, though contradictory information from different databases was causing problems. It was also becoming apparent that detailed, accurate topographic information was not available from any existing database so that the mapping project was not proving to be as useful for the redwood project (or the trail project) as had been hoped.

The Conservancy authorized IFA Nurseries of McKinleyville, California to proceed to germinate and raise redwood seedlings for the Conservancy using a small portion of the Conservancy's seed supply.

The board adjourned in order to walk the fire road on U.C. property in the area where the redwood-planting project is proposed.

February 23, 2004: The Conservancy received a written memorandum of understanding from Tom Klatt of U. C. Berkeley outlining more ways that the Conservancy and the University could work cooperatively on eucalyptus removal and related projects.

March 13, 2004: The board approved excom's recommendation that the Conservancy contribute \$10,000 to U.C.'s eucalyptus removal program in upper Claremont Canyon. That amount was augmented in September 2004 by an additional \$4,000.

June 25, 2004: The Conservancy formally made its gift of \$10,000 to the University to supplement the University' ongoing phase-by-phase eucalyptus removal project.

February 4, 2004: The Executive Committee authorized Joe Engbeck to look for an alternative placement of our redwood seedlings in light of the fact that fewer eucalyptus trees were removed from upper Claremont Canyon than we had been expecting earlier. Laura Baker agreed to look into the possibility of working with Charli Danielson on ways to hold the seedlings for a later planting. Tamia Marg agreed to query EBMUD about their nursery facility.

March 16, 2005: Joe Engbeck reported to the executive committee that all of the first year's redwood seedlings had been planted after all. The committee authorized him to proceed with plans for the next planting season by having the same nursery grow another 1,000 seedlings from our remaining seed supply.

May 2005: Conservancy newsletter carried an update of the redwood-planting project in which Joe Engbeck reported on the first year's planting effort, which utilized about twenty volunteers including student members of the U. C. Forestry Club. The article was entitled "Redwoods Replace Eucs."

U. C. budget limitations had resulted in fewer eucalyptus trees being removed from the upper part of Claremont Canyon than the Conservancy had been hoping would be removed. It was therefore difficult to find enough suitable places to plant all of our redwood seedlings in the upper canyon. The Conservancy therefore agreed to Tom Klatt's request that we plant some of the seedlings on the north-facing slope of Chaparral Hill across Grizzly Peak Boulevard from where the little steam train is located in Tilden Regional Park. During the 1970s or 1980s, the steam train operator had planted hundreds of little redwoods in the little train area and Tom believed that the trees we planted across the road would be a natural extension of that already existing redwood grove. At the same time he believed that they would suppress some of the very dense brush that would otherwise re-establish itself in the area he had just bulldozed in order to create a fuel reduction zone/fire break.

September 2005: Another newsletter article on the redwood-planting project was included in the Conservancy newsletter. It explained that the project was continuing on a step-by-step, phase-by-phase basis because that was how the eucalyptus removal program was proceeding.

February 2, 2006: Joe Engbeck reported to the board of directors that volunteers were needed for this season's redwood planting project. He also reported that Tom Klatt has indicated that he would like to preserve the newly exposed view of the canyon that can now be enjoyed from part of Claremont Avenue (overlooking "phase five" of his logging project). So, the Conservancy's planting plan has been modified slightly to stay away from that part of the road and concentrate on a narrower area closer to the stream bottom. This means that a large part of the area once covered by eucalyptus will be left to convert more or less naturally to an oak/laurel forest. Some trees of those species and other native

plants are already present in the eucalyptus area though they have long been suppressed by the eucalyptus forest. One benefit of this revised planting plan is that it will result in a redwood distribution that closely resembles the natural distribution of redwoods in most natural settings.

As of February 2006, Tom Klatt estimates that approximately 12,000 eucalyptus trees have been removed from U. C. land in upper Claremont Canyon, on Chaparral Hill, and farther north along Grizzly Peak Boulevard above Strawberry Canyon and Hamilton Gulch. About 2,500 redwood seedlings have been planted in Claremont Canyon and on Chaparral Hill. It is expected that fifty to seventy-five percent of those seedlings will not survive the first couple of years of summer drought and various kinds of animal depredation.

Eucalyptus removal in Claremont Canyon has been carried out on a phase-by-phase basis. Eucalyptus removal for each of those phases is as follows:

- Phase 1: 230 stems (2002)
- Phase 2: 900 stems (2003)
- Phase 3: 1,800 stems (2004)
- Phase 4: 900 stems (2005)
- Phase 5: 1,000 stems (2006)
- Phase 6: 3,200 stems (2007)