

This timeline is a chronicle of the people, events, and natural occurrences that have shaped the development of the Cache Creek Nature Preserve (CCNP). Compiled by the project director, university and community historians, scientists and a community advisory board, the timeline is a public history of the CCNP told through multiple voices and from diverse viewpoints.

CACHE CREEK NATURE PRESERVE TIMELINE

150-160 million years ago: The Great Valley-Coast Range ophiolite, a fragment of ocean crust and mantle rock, is thrust eastward over the western edge of the Sierra Nevada. About 14-16 million years ago, volcanic rocks flow southwest from Thompson Peak in the Diamond Mountains (northeast of the Sierra Nevada) past present-day Oroville to Orland Buttes and onward into the "black rocks" area along Putah Creek. This lava lies in the subsurface beneath Cache Creek. (Source: Moores).

3 million years ago to present: Streams drain eastward out of the rising coastal mountains into the Great Valley. An uplift of the Coast Ranges results from development of the San Andreas fault system. Folding and faulting in the Coast Ranges continue, and the Capay Valley is formed during this time. (Source: Moores).

About 10,000 years ago: Mercury deposits are formed in the Coast Ranges by hot water percolating through rocks. A massive landslide northwest of Clear Lake changes its drainage from the Russian River toward Cache Creek, making Clear Lake the headwaters of Cache Creek. Native American people begin to occupy the lake basin and the creek area. (Source: Moores).

Among the original inhabitants of the Cache Creek watershed are the Patwin people: tribal knowledge maintains that the Patwin were created here and have belonged to this land forever. For over 10,000 years Cache Creek has been central to their life. Their largest villages are concentrated along the creek, and trade routes follow the waterways. Cache Creek serves as a conduit for obsidian, abalone, and other trade items moving in and out of the Central Valley. The Patwin develop a sustainable land management system to sustain local populations. Plants from the riparian zone, such as tule, grape vines, and willow, comprise some of the main building materials. The Patwin also make baskets from willow, redbud, and sedge roots: today Patwin baskets are world-renowned (Source: Gettleman).

1769: Imperial Spain creates "Alta California" as part of its Mexican holdings. The Spanish crown grants land to Catholic missions. In 1808 Gabriel Moraga leads the first Spanish expedition into the Sacramento Valley. With the aid of an Indian interpreter, Moraga's task is to locate sites for missions and to report on *rancherías* (native villages). By 1821 the explorer Luis Argüello makes contact with the Patwin people. Argüello leads 68 men, including the expedition's chaplain, Father Blas Ordaz, through Patwin territory (Sources: Larkey, p. 13; Wikipedia article, "Alta California").

1821: Mexico gains independence from Spain, and Alta California becomes part of Mexico. To break the monopoly of the Catholic Church, the Mexican government begins to grant land to individuals. (Sources: Wright, p. 5; Wikipedia article, “Ranchos of California”).

1829: The first Hudson’s Bay Company brigade enters the Sacramento Valley when Alexander Roderick McLeod leads a party of French Canadians south from Fort Vancouver. By 1832 they are trapping for fur along what is now called Cache Creek. The trappers refer to the creek as “Riviere la Cache” because they have a cache (or “hiding spot” in French) there for their traps. Venereal disease is transmitted from the Europeans to the Patwin people. Social disruption is compounded with extensive flooding in 1832, which leads to an outbreak of malaria that kills an estimated 75 percent of the native people of the Sacramento Valley (Sources: Wright, p. 5; Larkey, pp. 14-15; Gettleman).

1836: The arrival and spread of Christianity in the region creates tensions between Native American groups. The leader of the Southern Patwin people in the Suisun Bay region, Chief Solano, grows up at a mission; Solano allies with General Mariano Vallejo to assist the Mexican army in maintaining control of the region by fighting tribes along Cache Creek. Many Patwin are forced to work as laborers in Solano’s territory (Sources: Wright, p. 5; Gettleman).

1839-1846: John Augustus Sutter receives a land grant from the Mexican government along the Sacramento River. In building Sutter’s Fort (and later Sutter’s Mill), he relies on native labor, including Patwin, and brutally raids Indian villages. Catholic missions also force Indians into servitude (Source: Larkey, p. 15; Gettleman).

1840s: An estimated more than 800,000 acres of riparian forest in the Sacramento Valley shelters prolific wildlife, including grizzly bears, antelope, and huge numbers of birds. Today less than 5 percent of such forests remain (Sources: Wright, p. 2; Stevens).

1842: William Gordon, a native of Ohio who migrated with his family from New Mexico to California as part of the Workman-Rowland party, receives the first Mexican land grant along Cache Creek. He names it Rancho Quesesosi, meaning “that which is solicited; it is usually referred to as the Gordon Grant. Gordon raises stock and hunts game on his territory, and is the first to experiment with planting grain in the area. On his ranch the first Anglo girl in the region is born. Historian H. H. Bancroft notes that between 1843 and 1846 Gordon’s place on Cache Creek was “a general rendezvous for settlers and hunters, and is oftener mentioned than any other place except Sutter’s Fort and Sonoma.” The Gordon Grant includes land that will become the Cache Creek Nature Preserve (Sources: Larkey, p. 19; Scheuring; Wright, p. 6).

1846: The Mexican-American War begins when the United States annexes Texas. On February 2, 1848, the war ends, and California becomes a territory of the U.S. Following the war, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo stipulates that the U.S. will recognize properties procured during the Mexican land grant era, such as the Gordon Grant. (Sources: Larkey, p. 23; Merhoff, p. 2; Wright, p. 7).

1848: The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill leads to the California Gold Rush. Immigration to the state increases dramatically. In 1849 brothers John D. and George D. Stephens cross the plains from Cooper County, Missouri, and arrive in Sacramento in search of gold. By July 1850 the Stephens brothers give up this quest and focus on raising livestock, purchasing part of the Rancho Canada de Capay along Cache Creek adjacent to the Gordon Grant. In 1852 the Stephens brothers establish Oakdale Ranch south of Cache Creek, where they raise cattle and dry farm. They build an adobe granary, which they convert later into a home still used by their descendants. Later, they purchase part of the Gordon Grant that will be the future site of the Cache Creek Nature Preserve (Sources: Larkey, p. 33; *The Mail of Woodland*, 8-28-98).

1850: California becomes the 31st state in the United States. Yolo County is one of the original 27 counties. (Sources: Larkey, p. 23; Merhoff, p. 2; Wright, p. 7).

1850-1950: The Coast Ranges are mined for mercury to augment concentration and refinement of gold extracted from Sierra Nevada mines. (Source: Moores)

1854: Basil Campbell, a black slave, comes to California with his master John D. Stephens, owner of the land that will become the Cache Creek Nature Preserve. Campbell is thought to be the first African American in Yolo County. Stephens pays Campbell for his labor, and in 1861—two years before the Emancipation Proclamation—Campbell buys his freedom. Campbell had invested part of his wages, so that when freed he is able to buy farmland and livestock. In 1865 he begins buying land in Yolo County and also serves as a delegate to the State Convention of Colored People in Sacramento. In 1873 he serves as a state delegate to the National Convention of Colored People in Washington D.C. By 1884 he is worth \$100,000, and word of his success brings more African Americans to the area (Sources: "Script for Basil Character: A Stroll Through History Cemetery Event"; Memorial and Biographical History of Northern California, pp. 323-324).

1856: James Moore purchases 850 acres of the Gordon Grant along with exclusive right to build a dam across Cache Creek. Moore's Ditch, as it comes to be known, is the first modern diversion of Cache Creek and the first attempt at irrigation in the region. Moore's Ditch opens up 1,000 acres of land to irrigation and in the process begins to shift local agriculture from dry-farmed grain crops to more water-intensive crops. By 1859 the increase in irrigated agriculture sets off intense competition for land and water along Cache Creek, with the first of 63 claims to creek water being filed this year, but many of the ditches and dams are poorly built. In 1864 the Clear Lake Water Company builds a dam at Lower Lake, which restricts the flow downstream and causes local flooding (Sources: Wright, p. 8; Leathers, p. 9; Larkey, p. 40 and timeline review).

1860s: In the 1860s wheat supplants barley to become the county's dominant crop. Farmers who arrive from the East and the Midwest learn to plant in the fall and harvest in the summer. Experiments with irrigation, however, lead to the growing of higher-value specialty crops like alfalfa, the major irrigated crop in Yolo County by the 1870s. By the 1880s sugar

beets, grapevines, and fruit trees are grown in the region. (Source: Larkey, pp. 31, 38, 40, 43).

1863 – 1865: A major drought hits the Central Valley, causing huge loss of crops and thousands of cattle to die (Source: Larkey, timeline review).

1870s: The redwood barn still standing at the Nature Preserve is thought to be built around this time. Antique farm machinery specialist Lorry Dunning, however, dates the barn to about 1910 because no square nails appear to have been used in its construction. (Sources: “We are Totally Ag-cited,” 2010 Fair Booth 2; *Daily Democrat*, 10-6-98; Pollock).

1877: The term ‘Patwin’ is used by Stephen Powers, a Smithsonian ethnographer, to identify Indians living in the southern portion of the Sacramento Valley. The word is derived from the Wintun word meaning “people.” Some say the Wintuns used this term for thousands of years prior to Powers’ use of it (Sources: Larkey, p. 10; Gettleman).

1878: The expansion of irrigated agriculture encourages the proliferation of farms and orchards throughout Yolo County, which now produces over 200,000 gallons of wine and 4,000 gallons of brandy. To export these and other products, bridges and railroads are built throughout the region. In 1879 ten to fifteen thousand train cars of gravel are extracted from Cache Creek near Madison to help build railroad beds, and the Vaca Valley and Clear Lake Railroad Company begins extracting gravel to rebuild the Central Pacific Line between Davis and Benicia. Cache Creek gravel is high-grade and prized for construction projects. In 1889 the first bridge over Cache Creek is built at the town of Yolo (Sources: “Timeline for Lower Cache Creek;” Wright, p. 8; Larkey, p. 51 and timeline review).

1903: Flooding and water control are continuing problems along Cache Creek. In response to the poor performance of the independently-run ditches, the Yolo Consolidated Water Company (YCWC) forms. It buys up many of the existing irrigation systems, including Moore’s ditch. In 1904 flooding washes away part of Stevens Bridge (which is not made of concrete), closing it for a week of repairs. To better understand water flows along the creek, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) completes the first accurate mapping of the creek channel in 1905 (Source: “Timeline for Lower Cache Creek”).

1906: A massive earthquake and fire destroy much of the city of San Francisco. Aggregate is needed to rebuild the city, and demand leads to increased gravel mining in Cache Creek (Sources: Wright, p. 23; *Davis Enterprise*, 10-15-95; Pollock).

1906-1907: The federal government purchases land for an Indian reservation west of Rumsey in the Capay Valley. Two years later the Patwin people living in their last “free” village along Cache Creek are reluctantly relocated to the Rumsey Indian Rancheria. The site has new wood frame dwellings but a poor water supply, and little land suitable for cultivation (Sources: Larkey, p. 54; Gettleman).

1907 and 1909: Massive flooding occurs along Cache Creek and in the Sacramento Valley. Public outcry combines with proposals by developers to reclaim the watershed basins,

impelling the Legislature to approve development of a Sacramento River Flood Control Plan (Source: Larkey, p. 62).

1912: The Yolo Consolidated Water Company (YCWC) is purchased by the Yolo Power and Water Company (YPWC) of New York. In 1914 YPWC completes a dam across Cache Creek near Lower Lake and begins impounding runoff. This inaugurates a six-year legal battle over water rights. By 1915 YPWC is irrigating up to 15,000 acres per year. (Source: http://www.archive.org/stream/historyofyolocou00greg/historyofyolocou00greg_djvu.txt)

1917: The Sacramento River Flood Control Plan is adopted. Under this plan the Fremont Weir is built in 1924, the Cache Creek Settling Basin in 1937, and work on the levees along lower Cache Creek begins in 1938 (Source: Pollock).

1919: After Prohibition begins with ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment in 1920, local vineyards (along with hops and barley) are replaced with other crops. In the 1930s the Combs family moves onto the property that will become the Cache Creek Nature Preserve to begin farming and raising sheep (Source: Wright, p. 8; Combs family correspondence).

1922: Tule elk are reintroduced into the upper Cache Creek watershed. Tule elk once roamed the Central Valley and surrounding hills in huge herds, but because they were easy targets, tasted good, and interfered with progress by eating crops and competing with cows, they were nearly extinct in the region by the 1860s. In 2012 about 500 Tule Elk roam the upper watershed (Source: Moyle, "Return of the Tule Elk" and timeline review).

1927: The Yolo Water and Power Company (YWPC) is purchased by the Clear Lake Water Company (Source: http://co.lake.ca.us/Government/Directory/Water_Resources/Clear_Lake_Information/How_Yolo_Obtained_Claim_to_Waters_of_Clear_Lake.htm).

1933: Construction of the Golden Gate Bridge begins. Mining in Cache Creek increases dramatically to provide materials for bridge construction (Source: "Timeline for Lower Cache Creek").

1940 and 1941: Flooding severely damages the Stevens Bridge on Road 94B adjacent to the Nature Preserve. It is not rebuilt until 1947. Cache Creek floods again in 1943, 1956, 1958, 1965, 1967, 1970, 1980, and 1986. (Source: Leathers, p. 17; "Timeline for Cache Creek").

1947: California Department of Fish and Game biologist Leo Shapovalov publishes the results of a survey of the fishes of Cache and Putah creeks. He finds Cache Creek largely dominated by native fishes and still maintaining small runs of anadromous fishes: Chinook (king) salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and American shad, which are mostly stopped by the Capay Diversion Dam. "During the wet winter of 1937-38 considerable numbers of king salmon reached Capay Dam and the caretaker at the Clear Lake Impoundment Dam stated that some of them got past Capay Dam at the time." (Source: Moyle, timeline review; Shapovalov, pp. 61-88.)

1951: Lloyd Lowrey, Representative in the California State Assembly, carries legislation that forms the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (YCFCWCD). (Sources: *Sacramento Bee*, 1-25-2006; Pollock).

1956: The I-5 bridge over Cache Creek is constructed in the same year that President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs the Federal Highway Act, authorizing the government to spend \$25 billion between 1957 and 1969 to create the Interstate Highway System. This act, along with the post-World War II construction boom, generates a tremendous need for aggregates. By 1963 the demand has increased so much that Yolo County now requires permits for all new gravel operations (Sources: Pollock; Leathers, p. 15; “Timeline for Lower Cache Creek”; Morrison).

1967: The Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (YCFCWCD) acquires Clear Lake Water Company. YCFCWCD becomes the first public entity to operate the dams and irrigation systems along Cache Creek (Source: YCFCWCD; Larkey, timeline review).

1970s: The amount of aggregate extracted from Cache Creek continues to far exceed the amount replenished each year. The creek bed becomes so low that residents become concerned that ground water levels on adjacent farmland will be affected (Source: Russo; Morrison).

1972: Cache Creek Aggregates is granted use permits to mine gravel in Cache Creek near the property which today is the Cache Creek Nature Preserve (Source: “Timeline for Cache Creek”).

1975: Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District constructs the 201-foot-high earth-fill Indian Valley Dam across the north fork of upper Cache Creek, creating the 301,000-acre-foot capacity Indian Valley Reservoir for water storage, irrigation, flood control, and power production. The reservoir floods miles of native fish habitat, replacing it with a reservoir that favors non-native fishes such as largemouth bass. A small cold-water trout fishery exists below the dam when flows allow. Summer releases from the dam provide flows for recreational rafting in summer and change the nature of the ecosystem (Source: Moyle).

1975: California legislators begin to revise mining laws and standards. In particular, they begin rethinking reclamation laws. On Cache Creek several mining pits have been abandoned, and the permits do not require operators to reclaim them. In 1979 Yolo County passes an Interim Ordinance that places a moratorium on mining in the creek by establishing maximum depth and width limits to extraction. This “Interim Ordinance” remains in place for 17 years. In response, the gravel industry proposes to move “off-channel” to deep pits adjacent to the creek. This proposal is met with alarm by neighbors and environmentalists, setting off the “gravel wars” that will last for the next 20 years (Sources: Russo; Adamo; Morrison).

1976: The Bureau of Indian Affairs documents only 11 remaining Patwin people in all of Yolo County. However, some of the approximately 50 members of the Rumsey Wintun Band (now known as Yocha Dehe Wintun people) living in the Capay Valley trace their lineage to the Patwin who first lived in the area (Source: “Putah – Cache Circumdrive” p. 3)

1979: The YCFCWCD and landowners along Cache Creek negotiate an agreement resolving the issue of riparian rights to divert water and the District’s right to charge for water diverted (Source: YCFCWCD).

1980: Eight mining permits are approved along Cache Creek by Yolo County (Environ EIR) under the 1979 Interim Ordinance (Sources: “Timeline for Lower Cache Creek”; Morrison; Adamo).

Early 1980s: Teichert Aggregates contracts to remove aggregate from the Fong property one mile west of Stevens Bridge. Teichert soon realizes that it has only eight feet of access in the streambed under the south side of the bridge. The remaining frontage is controlled by the Collet mining company on the west side and two Stephens sisters on the east side. Teichert has an ongoing arrangement to mine and use the Stephens property, so tries to get Collet’s permission to travel on the property he controls, which he rents from Coors Brewing Company (doing business here as Pacific International Rice Mills Inc or PRIMI). They are unsuccessful in getting such permission (Source: Hurd; Adamo)

Early 1980s: Interpretations of federal law allow Native American reservations to establish gaming operations, sometimes known as gambling casinos. Wintun people associated with the Rumsey Indian Rancheria in the Capay Valley, known as the Rumsey Wintun Band, build a bingo parlor and then a casino on Highway 16 near the town of Brooks. They institute a “good neighbor” policy, donating funds to support local charities. (Source: “Putah – Cache Circumdrive” p. 2)

1982: Farmer Joe Farnham finds the remains of a 92,000-year-old mammoth in the creek bed just west of what will become the Cache Creek Nature Preserve (Source: Larkey, p. 10).

Mid-1980s: The Friends of Cache Creek is founded to oppose the proposed Blue Ridge Dam and protect the creek from further gravel mining. The group includes residents from throughout Yolo County and meets regularly until the mid-1990s (Source: Wolf).

1986: The Cache Creek Basin Resource Coalition is organized by citizens concerned about the environmental impact of gravel mining in Cache Creek and the lack of citizen representation in the mining permit process. The group continues efforts in the 1990s, suing the County at the appellate court level over permits issued, forcing a comprehensive and detailed EIR on off-channel mining, and spearheading an initiative against deep-pit mining in 1996. (Source: “Timeline for Cache Creek”).

1987: Teichert Aggregates buys the land that Collet had been renting from Coors in order to move the Storz and Fong materials to the processing plant. The Collet company vacates the property in 1987-1988. By the early 1990s Teichert acquires the remaining section of Coors

land, the future site of the Nature Preserve. The site contains a historic barn, a packing shed, and a house occupied by a tenant, Jack Combs. After Combs moves out, Teichert has the Willow Oak Fire Department burn down the house and shed, but keeps the barn (Source: Hurd).

1989: Dr. Kenneth Gobalet publishes an analysis of fish remains from an archaeological site excavated as part of the Cache Creek Dam construction below Clear Lake. He writes that the Pomo people historically consumed virtually all species from the stream and lake, including prickly sculpin and three-spine stickleback. Other scientists speculate that the Patwin who lived downstream likely also consumed these fish (Source: Moyle).

1989-1990: On its new site (the future Nature Preserve), Teichert attempts to reclaim mined land for agricultural use. The bottom of one mining pit is graded, leveled, and loose rocks removed. Teichert contracts with Muller Farms to grow wheat there. Unfortunately, the soil contains more rocks than anticipated, while standing water, probably caused by seepage from the canal located north of the pit, causes significant drainage problems. In 1990 Teichert refocuses reclamation efforts, constructing a 5,000ft² pond for birds on the creek side of the levee bordering the south side of the pit. The pond is successful for two years, attracting mostly ducks. During the third year, however, it will not hold water. Teichert pumps water into it but to no avail, and the project is abandoned (Source: Hurd).

1990: YCFCWCD formulates its Cache Creek recharge/recovery project. The District files an application with the State Water Resources Control Board to appropriate winter water flows from Cache Creek, which includes a proposal for a reservoir just upstream of today's Preserve (Source: YCFCWCD: Morrison).

Early 1990s: Teichert realizes that certain sections of its property along the creek (excluding the pit site) have been severely neglected, some areas being used as trash dumps. Teichert begins cleaning up such areas and hires security to police the property against rampant trespassing. Teichert officials spend considerable time speaking with Joe Farnham, a neighboring landowner—and historian and environmentalist—who was instrumental in establishing a wildlife preserve on nearby land owned by the YCFCWDC. Farnham tells Teichert the history of the property, describing the brickyard in the northeast corner and asking them to “save the oaks.” Farnham also describes the property along 94B as a meadow, and from then on the site is known as “Teichert Meadows” (Source: Hurd; Morrison). Executives at Teichert begin to discuss various ways in which to renovate the site. (Source: Hurd).

1992: Yolo County officials continue to struggle over a policy to govern gravel mining on Cache Creek. The County sponsors a series of workshops where mining industry representatives and anti-mining activists can argue their positions and try to reach consensus. Six gravel companies mine Cache Creek and surrounding areas and contribute \$28 million a year to Yolo County's economy. A coalition of environmentalists and farmers oppose gravel mining because they claim it damages the aquifer and natural underground system that recharges local wells; they say that mining has lowered the stream bed 27 feet in some areas, profoundly altering the ecosystem (Source: *Daily Democrat*, 1-16- 2002).

1994: The Capay Diversion Dam is modified with the addition of an inflatable top section to increase efficiency. Because the dam diverts most of the flow from Cache Creek, the fish species above and below the dam are sharply different, with more native fish above the dam (Source: Moyle). In June the Board of Supervisors adopts a policy emphasizing that the creek must be viewed as a “total system” rather than as an appendage to mining (Source: Pollock). The County begins work on an Off-Channel Mining Plan to regulate gravel excavation on land next to the creek and a Cache Creek Resource Management Plan to govern all activities within the stream channel. (Source: Pollock)

1995: The Cache Creek Conservancy (CCC) is established. The CCC represents a broad spectrum of interests, including county government, agriculture, industry, and environmentalists, who all support protection, reclamation, and revitalization of Cache Creek. In February 1996 the CCC becomes a non-profit, public-benefit corporation, and the Board of Directors hires a half-time executive director, Ann Brice, to manage day-to-day operations (Source: “Cache Creek Conservancy Projects: 1995 to Present, 2005”).

1996: Citizens for Responsible Mining, a county-wide environmental action group, drafts an initiative aimed at preventing the aggregate industry from conducting deep-pit gravel mining, because of fear that mining in the aquifer will potentially contaminate ground water. The gravel industry claims that deep-pit mining is not harmful to the overall water supply. The group files the initiative with the County Elections Office and begins a signature gathering campaign. (Source: Morrison; *Davis Enterprise* 5-15-96). They need 4,900 signatures to get the initiative on the November ballot; in two weeks 200 volunteers gather 7,300 signatures. Opponents representing mining interests show up at storefront petition operations, intimidating some people into not signing. A restraining order is issued to keep the groups apart. The initiative qualifies for the November ballot as Measure C (Sources: *Davis Enterprise* 6-9-96; *Davis Enterprise* 6-21-96; *Davis Enterprise* 7-4-96; *Davis Enterprise* 7-23-96).

1996: In July the Board of Supervisors votes 4-1 to adopt the Off-Channel Mining Plan (OCMP). In August Yolo County adopts the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan (CCRMP). Together, the OCMP and the CCRMP comprise the Cache Creek Area Plan (CCAP), which it is hoped will end the “gravel wars.” At this time the aggregate industry is the second largest industry in Yolo County, employing between 80 and 100 residents and adding \$42 million annually to the local economy through direct purchase of goods and services. (Sources: *Daily Democrat*, 8-1-96; *Daily Democrat* 7-23-96; *Davis Enterprise* 7-31-96; Leathers, pp. 2, 6; “Cache Creek Conservancy Projects: 1995 to Present, 2005;” Pollock; Adamo; Morrison).

1996: In August the Board of Supervisors votes to put its Off-Channel Mining Plan (OCMP) on the ballot, Measure D, to compete with the citizen-drafted Initiative to Regulate Mining, known as Measure C. Measure C would prohibit gravel mining below the water table in order to protect the aquifer and groundwater from contamination. Measure C advocates intend the initiative to be a complement to the county’s recently approved Cache Creek Area Plan, which limits mining on the creek to 30 years and requires gravel companies to help pay

for creek restoration. Measure D would allow deep pit gravel mining outside of the stream channel (as per the Cache Creek Area Plan) combined with water quality monitoring. The gravel industry backs Measure D and spends nearly 100 times the campaign funds of those supporting Measure C. (Sources: *Davis Enterprise*, 7-31-96; *Davis Enterprise*, 8-11-96; *Sacramento Bee*, 11-2-96)

1996: In November Yolo County voters approve Proposition D (the Cache Creek Area Plan) with a 61% vote. Aggregate mining is thus moved out of the active stream channel. The measure also requires that aggregate companies support the Cache Creek Conservancy at the rate of five cents per ton of aggregate taken from the creek. After the election the Board of Supervisors approves five off-channel mining and reclamation permits for four companies, with a maximum of one million tons of material per permit that can be sold annually. Each company is required to provide land that can be used for recreation or habitat purposes in perpetuity after completion of mining (Sources: *Daily Democrat*, 8-1-96; *Davis Enterprise* 7-31-96; *Sacramento Bee* 11-6-96; Leathers, pp. 2, 6; “Cache Creek Conservancy Projects: 1995 to Present, 2005”; Pollock; Adamo; Morrison).

1998: Teichert donates 130 acres to the County to provide a sanctuary for wildlife and to be used as a center for environmental education. The site is named the Cache Creek Nature Preserve (CCNP). It includes nearly 30 acres of wetlands, another 30 acres of oak woodlands—including one of the oldest groves in the county—as well as a riparian corridor and a historic barn. (Source: *Daily Democrat*, 10-6-98; *Sacramento Bee*, 10-7-98).

1998: The Yocha Dehe Wintun Academy, a tribal school, opens in the Capay Valley, weaving together modern education with cultural traditions in art, music, and the Patwin language. After the CCNP opens in 2000, academy teachers and students use the Preserve for field trips and educational activities (Source: *Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation: The Story of Our Home by the Spring Water*, p. 10).

1999: Jan T. Lowrey, a local farmer from a long-time Capay Valley family, whose father Lloyd Lowrey pioneered the legislation creating the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, is named Executive Director of the Cache Creek Conservancy. The CCC Board of Directors agrees to manage the CCNP. At the request of Assemblywoman Helen Thomson and through the Wildlife Conservation Board, Yolo County receives \$200,000 for improvements to the Preserve, which will include the establishment of observation platforms, informational kiosks, and educational areas. The County also receives a \$200,000 grant from the State Water Resources Control Board, used in part to improve the wetlands area. Phase I in readying the Preserve for public use begins in 1999 and includes the construction of fences, rebuilding of the entry bridge, refurbishing of the barn, and construction of the Salisbury Spill and wetlands overlooks. (Sources: “Cache Creek Conservancy Projects: 1995 to Present, 2005;” *Sacramento Bee*, 1-25-2006).

2000: Phase II begins with the installation of modular buildings and a deck, and construction of a parking lot, entry road, and wood chip trails. Native trees and shrubs are planted. UC Davis researcher Shaun Ayers observes Chinook salmon spawning in the vicinity of the

Preserve, the first record since the 1950s documenting that these fish have found their way upstream through a tortuous series of canals and barriers. (Source: Moyle).

Early 2000s: In May 2000 the Cache Creek Nature Preserve holds its grand opening. The vision for the site is to provide a natural environment for youth and adults to explore the relationships among the human, natural, agricultural and industrial uses of the area. The CCNP begins holding a diverse series of events, including an annual Autumn Festival for staff, board members, and supporters, and an annual Riparian Workshop for landowners and managers. Other program events include an annual CCNP Fun Run, a Writer-in-Residence Program, and an annual Creek Cleanup Day. (Sources: “Cache Creek Conservancy Projects: 1995 to Present, 2005;” Pollock; *Daily Democrat*, 5-21-2000).

2000: The CCC Board approves a Tending and Gathering Garden Project initiated by UC Davis graduate student Shannon Brawley in partnership with a steering committee of Native American cultural experts. The Tending and Gathering Garden is funded by a Teichert Foundation grant and the Rumsey Community Fund (now Yoche Dehe Community Fund) for a total of over \$300,000. (Sources: “Cache Creek Conservancy Projects: 1995 to Present, 2005;” Pollock).

2001: The entire riparian zone at the Nature Preserve has become clogged with invasive plants called tamarisk (salt cedar) and arundo (false bamboo). Arundo is so abundant that it forms a solid wall 30’ tall along the north bank of the creek. A tamarisk and arundo eradication program begins with funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board and CalFed, aimed at removing both plant species along 12-15 miles of the riparian corridor (about 1,100 acres). John Watson is hired to manage the removal program (Sources: “Cache Creek Conservancy” two-pager, updated January 2010; “Cache Creek Conservancy Projects: 1995 to Present, 2005”).

2001: Plainfield Elementary School in Woodland partners with the Conservancy to help implement the school’s environmental science programs. Every student in every grade visits the CCNP twice a year to participate in a day of activities highlighting natural and cultural resources (Source: *Davis Enterprise*, 4-6-2008).

2002: The Cache Creek Watershed Forum is established to serve as an informal coordinating body for work in the Cache Creek watershed; its participants include representatives of various creek-related interests in Lake, Colusa and Yolo Counties (Source: Pollock).

2003: The first annual Cache Creek Conservancy scholarship is awarded to a Yolo County high school senior planning to major in an environmental or natural resource science field. The first of several Boy Scout Eagle projects are completed on the Nature Preserve grounds. (Source: Pollock).

2004: The CCC hires a Tending and Gathering Garden (TGG) coordinator to help establish the TGG education program and integrate it into the Nature Preserve’s environmental education program. (Source: Pollock).

2005: A gravel mining company uncovers a bone of a mastodon near the Preserve and donates it to Yolo County to be stored at the Cache Creek Nature Preserve (Sources: Wright, p. 9; Pollock; Adamo).

2006: The CCC hires Rae Gouirand as the second Writer-in-Residence to continue poetry workshops offered free of charge. The Conservancy also enters into a four-year contract with Yolo County to do invasive plant removal in the lower reach of Cache Creek.

2006: In September the Zamora wild fire burns through the eastern half of the Nature Preserve. Restoration following the fire includes a new bluff trail, a footbridge over Gordon Slough, and grassland plantings. (Source: Pollock).

2006: CCC Executive Director Jan Lowrey passes away unexpectedly. The name of the Preserve is officially changed to the “Jan T. Lowrey Cache Creek Nature Preserve.” The Conservancy Board approves a plan for a memorial grove and amphitheater on the grounds. Dedication of the Jan T. Lowrey Memorial Grove takes place at the 2007 Autumn Fest. Former Yolo County Supervisor Lynnell Pollock is selected as the third Executive Director (Sources: *Sacramento Bee*, 1-25-2006; Pollock; Morrison).

2007: The Board of Supervisors updates the gravel mining ordinance, increasing fees for companies that mine along Cache Creek to 10 cents per ton of aggregate sold to go to the Cache Creek Conservancy. The updates also include improved environmental safeguards and requirements for cleaner vehicles. With the changes supported by the County, the gravel industry, and environmentalists alike, former adversaries acknowledge the cooperative spirit that has developed in the 10 years since the gravel wars (Source: *Daily Democrat*, 3-26-2007).

2010: The UC Davis Art of Regional Change program partners with the Conservancy to develop a collaborative public history of the Cache Creek Nature Preserve. The project brings students, scholars, and artists together with a diverse array of local residents to document the changing cultural, economic, and physical landscape of the Preserve through an interactive public history website and site-based audio tour. (Source: ross)

2011: The CCNP’s education program continues to grow, serving 2000 elementary students per year and high school students affiliated with the Center for Land-Based Learning’s SLEWS program. The Preserve is also used for students participating in “Nature Bowl” competitions, for scout groups earning merit badges, and as a hands-on laboratory for UC Davis students in conservation biology. To help teach about the ecosystem, the Conservancy establishes the Cache Creek Resource Model, a replica of how water flows through the watershed (Source: Pollock).

2012: The Art of Regional Change program and the Conservancy unveil their collaborative *Restore/Restory* project at a series of public events held at the Nature Preserve. The project chronicles the history of the Nature Preserve through a variety of audio-visual media including audio stories, digital murals, an interactive timeline, and audio tour. The project involves about 100 university students and another 100 community members. (Source: ross)

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