

Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup/PAC

Minutes of Meeting

March 9, 2006

Bay Conservation and Development Commission offices, San Francisco

Attendees

Pete Alexander	EBRPD
Gordon Becker	CEMAR
Derrell Bridgman	TriValley Fly Fishers
Michael Carlin	SFPUC
Eric Cartwright	ACWD
Laura Kidd	ACFCWCD
Mary Lim	Zone 7
Jeff Miller	ACA
Stuart Moock	PG&E
Erik Olafsson	City and County of San Francisco
Paul Piraino	ACWD
Tim Ramirez	SFPUC
Diane Ross-Leech	EBRPD
Brian Sak	SFPUC
Monty Schmitt	NRDC
Carla Schultheis	ACFCWCD
Mary Selkirk	Center for Collaborative Policy
Gary Stern	NMFS
Larry Wise	ENTRIX

Updates from Workgroup members

Eric Cartwright told the Workgroup that he was waiting to hear about advancing to the “short list” for Prop 50 money administered by the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board. His agency also submitted a concept proposal to the State Board for a \$5 million project of fish screens. He expects to hear about the fate of this proposal in the next six weeks.

Tim Ramirez announced the promotion of Brian Sak to be lead of the SFPUC’s fisheries section in the Natural Resources Division. Tim noted that the draft “Strategy to address the restoration of steelhead in Alameda Creek” document would be formalized and taken to the SFPUC for adoption. The strategy responds to a need for a policy statement to allow release of some funds. Finally, Tim mentioned that the environmental impact report for the Sunol and Niles dams

removal project would be heard by the San Francisco planning department during the week of March 13.

Carla Schultheis updated the Workgroup on her agency's efforts to secure funding for flood control channel projects related to steelhead restoration. She expressed pessimism about federal support in the near term. Carla said, however, that the Resource Conservation District's appropriation request would contain language about the Alameda Creek fishery. The RCD project is a bioengineering approach to control Arroyo de la Laguna erosion near Foothill Boulevard.

Jeff Miller announced a successful "rescue" of two steelhead from the BART weir area. The larger of these fish measured 31 inches and weighed 11 pounds. In another interesting aspect of the rescue, the fish were first noticed by a Webcam viewer in Wisconsin. Jeff mentioned another rescue that would occur on March 11. [This event has since occurred, and resulted in another four steelhead being moved upstream of the flood control channel.]

Agenda items

Draft memorandum of understanding (MOU). Mary Selkirk and Tim next led a discussion about the draft MOU to guide flows studies to be conducted on behalf of the Workgroup. Various Workgroup members contributed suggestions about wording and content, and Tim said he would revise the MOU accordingly. Changes to be made to the MOU appear to be mostly clarifications or minor revisions and the document seems to be well received overall. Tim will add PG&E and the flood district (ACFCWCD) to the Flows Subgroup. He and Gary Stern also agreed to speak with staff at the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Regional Water Quality Control Board about those agencies' roles in the flows studies process and to update the Workgroup on the results of these conversations. Gordon Becker said he would contact Steve Rothert to solicit American Rivers' involvement.

Action: The drafters will re-circulate draft by e-mail, for consideration by group member Boards in the next 60 days.

Master Plan Timeline and Vision. Mary distributed draft Master Plan task descriptions, responsibilities, and a schedule for implementation. She expressed her interest in the Workgroup advancing development of a shared goals and objectives statement, noting that the shared goals would influence the scope of work to be carried out by the flows studies consultant.

Action: Mary agreed to work with the various stakeholders to combine the goals and objectives of various organizations into a workable joint statement. She will send out e-mail instructions to the Work Group. Group will discuss together at the next meeting.

Action: Mary will revise timeline and distribute.

Bay Area Watershed Plan. Mary spoke on behalf of Brenda Buxton regarding the watershed plan. The firm of Jones and Stokes is preparing a plan that focuses on 14 principal watersheds

feeding the Bay, and is soliciting input from various agencies and organizations regarding on-going watershed projects. [Mary, you may want to add more here. I must have been fading.]

Next steps. The next joint Workgroup/PAC meeting will be June 8th at 9:30. The location has not been determined but will be announced at least a week before the meeting. The meeting will focus largely on goals and objectives for Alameda Creek watershed restoration. Workgroup members wishing to add topics to the agenda should contact Mary or Gordon.