

Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Work Group Meeting
Alameda Co. Public Works, Turner Court Building
June 1, 2006

Meeting Notes and Action Items

Announcements

Jeff Miller announced that the Alameda Creek Alliance, EBRPD staff and other volunteers moved 6 adult steelhead, 5 males and 1 female, from below the BART weir in March 2006. One adult was over 11 lbs.

Agenda Items

Calaveras Dam replacement

Dave Olsen from Surface Water Resources Inc. (a subconsultant to URS) made a presentation on what he'll be studying as part of a Southern Alameda Creek watershed fishery study. For this phase of the study, Dave will be focusing on 1. assessing passage barriers, 2. screening and operational changes and 3. migration flows.

The purpose of the study is to provide technical information for the PUC including the Calaveras Dam replacement project alternatives, the PUC's HCP effort, and to help develop stream flow alternatives. The power point presentation is available at the Alameda Creek website.

The consulting team will return in late summer or early fall with more information and review drafts.

During the discussion Jeff Miller asked that removal of the Alameda Crk. Diversion dam be considered in the studies and project alternatives. Tim Ramirez replied that for now the PUC was only considering passage at the Diversion Dam

Jeff Hagar, a fisheries biologist, also gave a presentation about the work he's doing for the PUC. Jeff is writing a technical memo on the existing condition of the fisheries and the potential fishery impacts of Dam replacement alternatives. While his report focuses on the entire reach of stream between Calaveras Dam and SF Bay, he will focus on the area above the confluence of Alameda Creek and Arroyo de la Laguna. In addition to steelhead, he'll look at Sacto. Perch, River and Pacific Lamprey, and native Trout. Jeff will use mostly existing information but will also undertake a spring habitat assessment, a spring spawning assessment, and late summer habitat assessment in the area between Arroyo de la Laguna and the filter plant.

Status of the Work Group MOU

MOU is nearly complete with some revisions by Alameda County, Zone 7 and the SCC. The MOU changes should be completed and sent to Eric Cartwright by June 9th.

Organization of Work Group

Mary Selkirk noted that this was the first meeting of workgroup under the of the MOU. Brenda Buxton volunteered to Chair the meetings through 2006 and suggested we rotate taking notes. Brenda will work with Mary Selkirk and CEMAR to update the Alameda

Creek Fisheries email notices and website. Brenda distributed a sign-in sheet in order to update current work group member list. This list will be distributed soon.

The work group discussed current focus and agreed to keep activities focused on the Flows Studies and to put off larger watershed planning effort until Flows Studies were underway.

Next meeting was set for Sept. 7 and Dec. 7, 2006. Brenda will look for a room at the State Building in Oakland.

BART Weir Passage Update

Alameda County hired Wood Rogers through their contract with CEMAR to provide a critical analysis of the 2 fish passage alternatives, the CH2MHill fish ladder and the CEMAR fishway. Laura Kidd will try to arrange for Wood to make a presentation at the Sept. 7 meeting.

ACWD fish screen and rubber dam removal projects update

Eric Cartwright updated the workgroup on ACWD's progress on removing or modifying barriers in the Creek. The Inter-tie pipeline is turning out to require more engineering work (and it will be more expensive) than expected. CEQA has been completed and both projects are currently scheduled to be constructed by Fall 2007.

Niles and Sunol dam removal

Alameda County has contested the PUC's environmental documentation of the dam removal and has threatened to sue over the issue of sediment behind the dams. Tim Ramirez is working to come to an agreement with the County.

SFPUC Environmental Stewardship Policy (handout)

Tim is working with SFPUC staff and the Bay Area Water Stewards (which includes the Alameda Creek Alliance) to draft a comprehensive environmental stewardship policy for the SFPUC Water Enterprise. A discussion copy of this policy document was attached. Work group members should get their comments on this draft to Tim.

USGS stream gage report

Norm Ploss presented the results of the Federation of Fly Fishers' analysis of the USGS steam gauge. The conclusion was that it was a complete barrier (although a radio-tagged Steelhead did make it over this barrier in 1999). Copies of the report were distributed to the workgroup members and is available on the Alameda Creek website. Contact Norm at steelhead@nccff.org for additional copies. The workgroup agreed that the first step in addressing this issue was to find out who actually owned the structure – Norm was going to investigate.

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