

FINAL
Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup

Zone 7 Water Agency
December 10, 2009
9:30 AM– 12:00 PM

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Amod Dhakal, SFPUC
Jerry Smith, San Jose State
Jeff Miller, ACA
Josh Fuller, NMFS
Brian Sak, SFPUC
Krissy Atkinson, DFG
Stuart Moock, Garcia Associates
(representing PG&E)
Tim Ramirez, SFPUC
Scott Chenue, SFPUC
Ellen Nadesan, SFPUC
Scott McBain, McBain & Trush

Krissy Atkinson, DFG
Andy Gunther, CEMAR
Evan, Buckland, ACWD
Eric Cartwright, ACWD
Pete Alexander, EBRPD
Leigh Ochikubo-Chan, EBRPD
Manny da Costa, ACFC&WCD
Elke Rank, Zone 7 Water Agency
Darrell Bridgeman, Tri-Valley Fly
Fishermen
Josh Kaplan, ICF/Jones & Stokes

Meeting Summary

I. Introductions

Self introductions and updates to the Workgroup contact list.

II. Planning for 2010

1. Many studies to date. The January 2008 Population Recovery and In-Stream Flow Assessment is a key tool in outlining where we are and our path forward. Workgroup should make sure that we are reviewing and completing items. Andy will update master spreadsheets with new information (request that agencies send him any updates). Tim suggests that perhaps we need to track all activities in the watershed; not only the Workgroup's task list. Suggestion that we need a new task evaluating food sources. EBRPD is evaluating macroinvertebrates at Camp Ohlone and other locations.
2. Workgroup meeting dates for 2010:
 - March 3 @ ACFC&WCD Turner Court
 - June 10 @ ACWD
 - Sept 9 @ SFPUC Sunol
 - December 9 @ Zone 7
3. Manny da Costa re-elected as Chair for 2010

III. Updates

1. BART weir (Manny & Eric)
 - Complexity of design, including a fish monitoring system, resulting in project delay; completion pushed to 2011. No details yet on specific operational and bypass flows
2. ACWD (Eric)
 - \$20 M in project work
 - 2009: lower inflatable dam removed and foundation notched (done). Notch in lower inflatable dam operates at 20cfs. Dedication ceremony will be planned for this Spring. Andy suggests the Workgroup create a simple movie for press.
 - 2009: fish screens installed at bunting pond (done)
 - 2012: fish ladder at middle inflatable dam
 - 2012: fish ladder and screens at upper inflatable dam
3. ACA Updates (Jeff)
 - CDFG and NMFS are onboard for fish rescues. ACA has 130 volunteers to help. Pete (EBRPD) needs to modify permit to include SFPUC to assist with rescues, although likely no handling for SFPUC. Asked if 2011 be the last year that rescue will be necessary? Ideally yes.
4. Supplementation & Genetics (All)
 - Suggestion that we need a Workgroup task force for supplementing the steelhead population. Krissy suggested that Carlos from NMFS get involved for genetic analysis and supplementing. Tim reminds that Carlos is already working for SFPUC and they are addressing some of these issues through their HCP.
 - Brian and Scott report that SFPUC has a 2009 study identifying fish counts (rainbow) in Calaveras reservoir. Biologists were catching many each day and the fish looked much healthier likely due to HOS system.
5. Sunol quarry lease has been approved by SFPUC for Da Silva.
6. Christmas bird counts to take place December 18. Call Jeff Miller, ACA. (Jeff)
7. SFPUC Updates (Tim)
 - Calaveras HOS has been in place for a few years now and fish look remarkably better. San Antonio HOS is now up and running.
 - Irvington Tunnel and Treated Water projects are two s major projects that will be progressing in Sunol Valley for next 5 years.
 - Calaveras Dam EIR comment period closes this month.
 - Input on modeling is still coming in for HCP. The EIR/EIS for the HCP is still in progress; updated chapters 1-3 will be available soon.
 - Steve Ritchie is now at SFPUC as Asst General Manager of Water Enterprise.

- PG&E crossing project has initial design. SFPUC has this project on hold. One issue is what to do with all the material behind the pillow dam. Also need Da Silva financing before moving forward.
8. Fishing Regulations in Alameda Creek (Jeff, Krissy)
- Regulations proposed for adoption that would ban fishing year-round below the 3 reservoirs. Some fly-fishing would be allowed above the reservoirs. Concern for limited steelhead population. Jeff suggests that we ask the County Fish & Game Commission for sign with these new regulations.
9. Stonybrook Creek Projects (Manny)
- Rescued steelhead have previously been placed in Stonybrook
 - A 2001 report by Michael Love describes fish barriers on Stonybrook Creek. There are 7 public (County), 5 private, and 1 Caltrans culverts on Stonybrook. Stonybrook Creek is in Zone 7 jurisdiction but the County roads department is responsible for those public crossings. Mostly need complete replacement of culverts, which can be expensive.
 - Have grant; need additional funding.
 - Stonybrook is mostly perennial but some areas are dry in upper area. The perennial habitat is up to the 1st or 2nd public works culvert. Rainbow trout have been seen in Stonybrook. Josh noted there is a lot of trash in this creek, and Jeff has noted illegal diversions.
 - Manny is also looking at Welsh Creek and Sinbad Creek for fisheries restoration.
 - Melissa Escaron is the CDFG person assigned to Caltrans projects.
 - CDFG and NMFS grants may be available. Contact Kit Krump at NMFS.

END.

(See separate minutes of Flows Subcommittee.)

Action Items Resulting from this Meeting:

1. Determine if and how to track activities in the watershed
2. Andy to update task spreadsheets with new information; agencies to provide updates
3. Follow up on suggestion to create a simple movie on lower inflatable dam removal project and dedication ceremony.
4. Follow up on suggestion to ask the County Fish & Game Commission for sign with these new regulations
5. Andy Gunther will set up a meeting to initiate a task force/subcommittee on supplementation and genetics