

**Alameda Creek Fish Restoration Work Group**  
**State Coastal Conservancy**  
**September 13, 2007**  
**Summary**

**Attendance:**

Andy Gunther, CEMAR  
Eric Cartwright, ACWD  
Tom Ramirez, SFPUC  
Pete Alexander, EBRPD  
Jeff Miller, ACA  
Derrell Bridgman, TUFF  
Mann Dacosta, ACFCD  
Dave Houts, Zone 7  
Thomas Niesar, ACWD  
Stuart Moock, consultant for PG&E  
Diane Ross-Leach, PG&E  
Dan Wilson, DFG  
Chris Kern, City of San Francisco  
Mary Selkirk, CCP

**1. Status of MOU**

DFG still to sign.

USFWS still to sign

**Action Items:**

Put MOU on website, with list of who is signed with dates, to date.

*Lead:* Andy

**2. Chair succession**

No volunteers yet to replace Brenda. Brenda will appoint if no one volunteers!

Discussion of re-appointing the County. Laura Kilgour.

**3. Updates**

***Flows Studies***

First draft of Phase 1 Flows Studies report completed. Everyone had chance to review.

Comment letter sent to consultants in late June. Working on revisions. Revised draft

And Phase 2 will be discussed later today by Flows Subcommittee.

Approximate \$1.5 million for capital and about \$110k/year monitoring etc. □

McBain and Trush reviewed existing data, came up with set of management issues for consideration by group, with suggestions for the Work Group. 10 items that need to be studied, with estimated costs, first cut at schedule.

They focus on importance of whole watershed in creating steelhead run. E.g., creating habitat in Niles Canyon where fish can grow.

### ***ACWD Instream Projects (Thomas/Eric) Updates***

- **Fish screen above upper rubber dam.**

All heavy lifting completed. Now screens will be installed on September 24<sup>th</sup>, completed within 5 days. Will begin 2 month testing process. ACWD will host some sort of celebration.

You can see project from Mission Boulevard bridge.

- **Intrereconnection between quarry lakes and the T pits**

On hold.

- **Lowest rubber dam**

Out of operation for past 2 years. Funding to modify foundation of the dam.. Approached Flood Control District, have completed analysis for flood control if foundation is removed. FCD wants to see stabilizing structure in there.

If we can work out with them and with Corps, would prefer to take it out rather than notch it. Still a primary channel even within impoundment. Question as to whether downstream and upstream primary channels would connect. Not identified as barrier to fish, more issue of out migration.

**Action Items:** Manny will bring up issue with Hank Ackerman, make sure he is aware, let him know for fisheries concerns, probably best to remove the foundation.

**Discussion:**

Would it be worth McBain and Trush to assess additional 2600 feet of natural channel, as opposed to shallow pond? We just paid for hydraulic studies, not any additional fishery study.

Andy: Stretch of creek from BART weir to Eden Landing: consultant report points out importance of considering role of low flow estuarine waters.

- **Fish screen project on other side of FCC**

Smaller diversion into Bunting Pond. 20 cfs diversion, getting funding from Prop 50 grant. Total cost \$1.1 million, about \$600k from Prop 50. Expect to complete by 209-2010. Contract pending.

- **2007 Fish Capture/Transport (Pete and Jeff)**

Plan for 2007 not in place yet. Default is to get separate annual permits again from DFG and NMFS.

Do we need to continue with annual permitting? Section 10 permit would allow us to have multi—year, gives Gary more comprehensive description of what we are actually doing.

**Action Item:**

Tim, Jeff , Pete and Eric will meet with Gary to get annual permit and also 2008 Section 10 permit under way.

Could be also coverage for DFG.

**Lead:** Jeff

**Action Item:**

2007 annual permit: Parks/County/Alliance sent letter last year for annual permit.

**Lead:** Jeff, Pete, Tim

Jeff suggested also talking with McBain and Trush re useful studies with tagged fish.

**SFPUC Updates**

- **USGS Niles Canyon Gage**

Tim: SFPUC talked with USGS. SFPUC contract with USGS for gages needs to be renewed, going to Commission at end of month. Paying for flow information, new agreement with include temperature information. SFPUC owns the land, looks like responsibility for maintenance falls to PUC.

County has hired SFEI to monitor sediment transport, has had SFEI organize meeting with FCD, ACWD, SFPUC, USGS to sort out what needs to be covered in Niles Canyon gage. Whatever we do to, will consider fish passage issues.

More to come.

- **Alameda Watershed HCP**

Tim: Introduced Chris Kern, SF City planner assigned to Alameda Watershed WSIP projects and Dan Wilson, DFG staff assigned to WSIP projects. Their attendance will help connect this work to the HCP for the Alameda watershed. Contact amendment for HCP approved. Added money and scope, added fish into the HCP. Still waiting for notice to proceed. Consultant: Jones and Stokes.

HCP fisheries work to be done by SFPUC staff and consultants - SFPUC intent is to connect the HCP work with McBain and Trush work being done for the Work Group. Hope to have Work Group be the forum for working out HCP fishery issues so we are all in same universe.

Tim's intent is to "connect the dots" among Work Group members. SFPUC plans to complete their Alameda Watershed HCP before Calaveras Dam is reconstructed and before fish have access restored to the upper watershed. The Alameda Watershed HCP will not cover construction of Calaveras, but will cover operations of dam when steelhead are restored to the upper watershed.

The Alameda Watershed HCP plans to include steelhead, and Pacific lamprey. NOI/NOP will include a draft list of covered species. Non-anadromous fish and terrestrial species come under auspices of USFWS.

Want to make sure ACFRWG, especially the Flows Subcommittee, is providing feedback to the HCP.

Jeff: ACA has different interpretation of Calaveras Dam permitting requirements.

Anticipated completion of HCP: 2009-2010.

Jeff: Maybe SFPUC and ACA should sign some kind of agreement about letting Calaveras construction proceed, while HCP process underway, and how we will deal with Section 7 consultation.

Tim: Let's talk.

**Action Item:** Jeff and Tim will meet.

Dan Wilson, DFG : DFG could write conditions/triggers into DFG 1600 permit to address "switching" to the HCP steelhead flow schedule from the 1997 DFG MOU (as described in the Calaveras Dam projects.

- **Arroyo Hondo**

Tim R: Got letter from DFG asking to move fish stranded in Arroyo Hondo above Calaveras. Sent response letter, to be distributed to the Workgroup. Approximately 15 fish were moved from the Arroyo back to the reservoir.

***State of the Estuary Conference***

Plenary Session: Program on Wednesday 10/17 on steelhead in the estuary.

Rob Leidy, Andy Gunther, Eric Cartwright and Jeff Miller.

***ACWD/ACFCD Fish Passage Project (Manny, Eric)***

Signed agreement on July 31 to proceed with preliminary design of fish passage over both the BART weir and the middle dam. Share goals of constructing project by 2010. FCD and ACWD will share cost for consultant. Intent: get through preliminary design, about 30% design. While doing that, looking to amending or new agreement to go to final design. We will use all data already generated, including CEMAR fishway studies done for the County.

Brenda: Re funding: The way Conservancy is typically involved: do preliminary design, do CEQA document, then we can participate in construction funding. Situation right now: Prop 84 largely spoken for, lot of fish money in Prop 84 went to DFG. When you have

costs identified, you should sit down with us and with DFG. Our Board would like to see construction project.

**Action:** Brenda will put agreement on the website. Brenda will talk with Manny and Eric and work out timeline to get process rolling.

***Fish Passage Facility at Upper Dam***

Andy: Must be designed in concert with this one.

Eric: We understand, agreement with FCD just covers the joint facility. We are also looking at the upper dam. Even if designed at same time, will not be constructed at the same time.

**Action item:** Tim suggested as next Steps for Flows Subcommittee: Consider how fish passage designs will interface with flows studies. Group agreed.

***StreamWISE (Dave Houts)***

Zone 7 re-doing Stream WISE. Focused meetings with stakeholders going on currently, looking at 20 conceptual projects from original master plan in their area. Looking at habitat/water management/flood protection possibilities.

End of 2008: implementation plan for new projects in the Zone 7 service area, primarily the Livermore Valley.

Re-forming the Alameda Creek Watershed Steering Committee, in process of re-conceptualizing to possibly be forum for these projects.

SCC trying to develop network of all watershed groups, to feed into the Bay area IRWMP.

**Next ACFRWG Meeting:**

December 6, 2007 at Zone 7, 10:00-12 noon.

**2008 meetings:**

Thursday, March 13, 2008

SFPUC

Thursday, June 5, 2008

ACWD

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Coastal Conservancy

Thursday, December 4, 2008

EBRPD