

## Meeting Notes

Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup

Meeting Date: June 10, 2010

Location: ACWD Office, Fremont

### I. Introductions

(see sign in sheet)

### II. Updates

#### a. ACFCWCD (Manny)

- i. Stonybrook Creek watershed strategic plan for barrier removal (by Mike Love) recently completed. Includes prioritized projects list and updated costs. Available from Manny.
- ii. Alameda Creek Assessment. Manny and Gordon (CEMAR) did a quick assessment recently. Found a relatively intact corridor, mature trees, and complex habitat. Culverts do not overtly appear to be barriers. Ongoing concern of head differential between FC Channel (Old Alameda Creek is about 2.5 feet higher); this will be a challenge in restoration. Next, will refine data needs.

#### b. ACWD (Patty)

- i. Rubber Dam #2. Decommissioned last fall. So far is working well. After 2 years, Flood Control District will assume ownership.
- ii. Bunting Pond Fish Screen. Project dedication ceremony is June 23.
- iii. BART weir / Rubber Dam #1 Fish Ladder. Project still underway. Currently working with resources agencies on design. Current design changes are:
  - Accommodate in and out migration of adults, smelts, kelts
  - Added plunge pool
  - Added exit gate
  - Added gates for outmigrants to enter ladder
  - Port for out migrants to enter transition pool

Project design would be operational by Dec 15 annually, which would be late for Chinook. Design could change in time to accommodate.

#### c. ACA

Jeff not in attendance. No other updates from ACA members.

#### d. SFPUC (Tim)

- i. Irvington Tunnel project has been approved by commission.
- ii. Much project work planned/in progress in Sunol Valley.

- iii. Calaveras Dam Project. Still working out agreements w/ CDFG and NMFS for operation of dam.
  - iv. Alameda Creek HCP. Modeling information from this workgroup is pending. Intending a Fall 2010 (approx.) public meeting. Also will complete an independent review of the fisheries work being done by the HCP team.
  - v. Sunol Valley Restoration Plan. No funding for implementation now, but do have scope of work. Includes 400K for tasks re: groundwater model, riparian and channel modifications, and other tasks. Location is roughly Walsh Creek to old Sunol Dam. This is not a CEQA doc, but rather a review of issues, setting, etc.
  - vi. Will be rebuilding one bridge and building two new bridges over next 1-2 years to accommodate many projects in the region. CEQA and permits to come. Geary Rd. bridge (re-build) will be done first.
  - vii. 10-Year Summary Report is complete. Shows biological data and monitoring summary. No new information. Brian will send to CEMAR to post.
- e. California Coastal Conservancy (Brenda)
- i. Conservancy will take request to their Board to fill the 30K they intended to give the Workgroup under the current MOU.

### III. Historical Ecology (presented by SFEI: Ruth Askevold and Bronwen Stanford)

- a. Project overview:
- i. Work is funded by SFPUC and ACFCWCD
  - ii. Study area boundary includes Bay to Fremont, Pleasanton, and Livermore areas within watershed.
  - iii. Data comes from libraries, agencies, archives, etc. Use reports, survey data, photos, lithographs, maps, newspapers, etc.
  - iv. They orthorectify / georeference whatever they can.
  - v. Must often make judgements on data (quality, accuracy, etc.).
  - vi. They evaluate four key elements: flow, morphology, riparian cover, and sediment/substrate (changes over time).
- b. Today's presentation is focused on their findings from Old Alameda Creek. They broke this sub-study area into 4 zones:
- i. 1<sup>st</sup> zone: nearest Bay
    - Old Alameda Creek in this zone was once up to 18 feet deep through a tidal marsh (1850s). Area was dense with side tidal channels, branches, etc. (172 miles in all). Numerous springs. Saline-brackish-fresh transition.
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> zone: approx Union City to West Fremont
    - Perennial flows. Sinuosity lost over time. Decoto Rd seems to be approx. limit of perennial flows. Much sugar beets grown in this

region. Crandall Slough would flood seasonally but not occupied with water rest of year. Around Decoto Rd., change from gravels to clays. Much riparian cover.

- iii. 3<sup>rd</sup> zone: Fremont BART weir / quarry lakes area
  - Reach was intermittent. Historically, summer flows above Decoto Rd were infrequent but approx 2.5 miles upstream the water appears again. In dry reach there were very large (50 x 200 feet, 5-15 feet deep) pools of cool water. Braided channel. Coarse substrate.
- iv. 4<sup>th</sup> zone: Fremont – Niles area
  - Perennial reach. Braided channel up to 500 feet wide. Coarse substrate. Boarded with willows and sycamores. Large gravel “islands” noted within the braided channel.

#### **IV. Steelhead Recovery Strategy / SF Bay Improvement Act (Carl Morrison)**

- a. Statements of Understanding (SOU) is a collaborative approach agreement with respect to the steelhead portion of the NMFS multi-species recovery plan. SOU states that agencies will exchange information and participate in preparing recovery actions. Signatories may also get to review a pre-public draft. Draft recovery plan expected next year. The SOU spurred conversations among top NMFS managers in Washington DC; they intend to implement such agreements across CA. Current Signatories: ACWD, ACFCWCD, CCCFSWCD, EBMUD, MMWD, NBWA, NMFS, SCWA, Zone 7
- b. SF Bay Improvement Act implements SFEPs Plan for SF Bay. The bill authorizes approximately \$100 million annually over 10 years to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to fund efforts to restore and improve the environmental health of San Francisco Bay. Jackie Spier is the sponsor. It has been referred to committee in congress. The Bill doesn't specifically give funding to NMFS but does fund some fisheries related work. Grants would require 25-50% match. Would open an EPA office in the Bay Area to manage funds/contracts. Similar to plans for Chesapeake Bay, the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain.

#### **V. Mitigation Flows**

(moved item to Flows Sub-Committee agenda)

End.