

**FINAL
Meeting Notes**

Subject: Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup
Date: Thursday December 9, 2010 9am-12:30pm
Location: Zone 7 Water Agency, Livermore

Agenda:

1. Introductions & Agenda Review (Manny)

See sign in sheet and agenda

2. SBSP Progress Status update (John Bourgeois)

PowerPoint presentation

- South Bay Salt Ponds are divided into 3 complexes – Alviso, Eden Landing, and Ravenswood.
- Alviso Slough opened up to tidal action. Gates will open June 1. This will likely be a net sink and may also capture mercury laden sediments before they reach the Bay.
- Eden Landing ponds E8A/E9/E8X, project includes restoring meander. Two season construction window due to sediment needs and seasonal restrictions.
- Issues for Eden Landing pond complex include whether or not to maintain some high salinity ponds.
- It was noted that birds seem to be “moving” from from Alviso ponds to Eden Landing ponds.
- Additional restoration activities to include recreation and interpretation amenities such as old salt works, trails, and kayak launch sites.
- Logical next step for Phase II of SBSP Project may be to open the lower/southern portion of Eden Landing complex (between Old Alameda Creek and Flood Control Channel) to tidal action. First need flood control levees. Possible connection between pond E2 and Flood Control Channel.
- Key issues/ uncertainties for restoration project:
 - Wildlife use of changing habitats
 - Habitat evolution and sediment dynamics
 - Mercury
 - Water quality
 - Invasive species
 - Public access
 - Infrastructure support
 - Sea level rise and climate change
- UC Davis doing fisheries monitoring; 2 trappings thus far.
- Science symposium on February 3 at USGS in Menlo Park.
- More info: see www.southbayrestoration.org

3. Migration Flows (all)

- Calaveras BO will be finalized soon.
- ACWD, ACFCD, DFG, and NMFS continue discussions on migration flows below BART Weir and Flood Control Channel
- Recent visit to San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz to understand challenges in creating a low-flow vegetated channel
- Regulatory input key in determining essential migratory flows

4. Stonybrook Creek Recovery Planning (Manny & Xavier)

Presentation:

- Stonybrook Creek has been a place of interest for fisheries restoration, and historical presence is noted. Steelhead released to Alameda Creek, like Bonnie & Clyde have continuously entered Stonybrook.
- Studies show that spawning and rearing habitat are suitable. Additionally, restoration may have water quality improvements by upsizing culverts and allowing natural geomorphic processes to occur.
- Cold, perennial habitat, especially in lower “valley” reach.
- Many studies to date, including fish passage assessment and barrier removal assessment.
- There is an established population of rainbow trout.
- Some issues with homeowners taking measures to reduce erosion,
- 150K grant from EPA, but need matching funds
- RWQCB and CDFG are looking into possible use of fine and/or grant monies.
- ACPWA, SFEP, ACRCDD, NRCS, SFPUC, and Zone 7 are part of an ad hoc team discussing funding.
- Trash (dumping) issues.
- In summary, removal of barriers will benefit steelhead; prioritization of barriers is underway; and funding is being sought.

Discussion:

- Unclear when Caltrans will complete their bridge project.
- Fish Xing software is conservative (criteria is strict). May be identified as a barrier by software and yet it has been seen that fish can cross. Be sure it’s a barrier before spending money.
- Many of the projects call for full replacement at a cost of \$800,000 or more.
- Existing grant can be extended.

5. Arroyo de la Laguna Restoration & Salmonids (Terry & Leslie)

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) dates back to 1935. They are non-regulatory. Provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and managers to conserve natural resources. Work closely with Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCDD), but separate staff.
- In emergency situation they are charged to protect life & property. El Nino 1998 brought NRCS to Arroyo de la Laguna (ADLL). Thus, their initial work on ADLL was not what they would have done had they had time to plan and strategize.
- Goals for 2007 restoration project on ADLL: restore & stabilize; improve wildlife habitat; cost effective; promote softer fix (biotech). They did not find any

- endangered species. included Christmas tree revetments, rock barbs, vegetative barbs (did not last), rootwads, more. Went larger scale to ensure project would “stick”. Monitoring projects are available on RCD website.
- 2010 Arroyo Collaborative Study is underway. Includes Conservation Partnership, ACPWA, SFPUC, Zone 7, ACWD, City of Livermore, and City of Dublin. \$1.3M earmark. Next demo project site at Verona Bridge. Sediment studies are underway by NRCS, Zone 7. General project concept is to add lots of woody structure, woody vegetation, and minimal rock structures to keep water away from eroding bank. Unlike previous project, this will be more fish focused. Want to stabilize banks without laying them back.
 - Additional 1.3M earmark for 2011.
 - Project lead is Leslie Koenig at ACRCDD, in collaboration with Jackie Charbonneau at NRCS

6. Introduction of New Chair

- Thanks to Manny Da Costa for great work for 2 years.
- Elke Rank, Zone 7, selected as 2011 Chair.

Break for Lunch.

Flows Subcommittee, 12:30-3:30 (see separate meeting notes).