

Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup

FINAL

Meeting Notes March 12, 2009 Meeting

Participants:

Thomas Niesar, Patti Dustman, Eric Cartwright, Emmalynne Hu, Therese Wooding (ACWD); Leigh Ochikubo Chan & Pete Alexander (EBRPD); Brenda Buxton (SCC); Jeff Miller (ACA); Andy Gunther (CEMAR); Kristine Atkinson & Wes Stokes (CDFG); Derrell Bridgman (ACA/TUFF); Michael Love (MLA); Chuck Hanson & Natalie Stauffer (Hanson Environmental); Kozmo Bates (Kozmo, Inc.); Emmanuel da Costa (ACFC&WCD); Steven Allen (Winzler and Kelly); Elke Rank (Zone 7 Water Agency); Tim Ramirez & Brian Sak (SFPUC); Stuart Mook (PGE/Garcia)

Via telephone: Gary Stern and Josh Fuller (NMFS)

Agenda

Update on the Phase 2 flows studies (Andy Gunther)

Andy Gunther gave an update on the flows studies. The ACFCF authorized a small amount of funding to keep CEMAR working on managing the flows studies after the state funding stop work order. Funding that was left over from phase 1 was used to conduct the aerial balloon surveys of creek study reaches. The field team met for calibrations of suitable spawning habitat and did survey cross sections – they are ready to gather data when it rains.

ACWD approved a contract with McBain & Trush for the start of the field work. In the short term, there is \$57,000 available to finish the base map, and for field team calibration. McBain & Trush will initially do an analysis of at least two flow situations. There will be a new contract prepared when the initial field work is done. They will do six flow scenarios overall.

The MOU amendment needs to be approved by all agencies so that funding can be approved.

BART Weir/Rubber Dam 1 Fish Ladder Presentation

Project Goals (Dustman)

Patti Dustman, ACWD program manager for all of the ACWD fish passage projects, went over the goals of the fish ladder project.

The goals are to:

Provide fish passage for adult steelhead and salmon to migrate over the BART Weir and middle inflatable dam;
Provide fish passage for smolts and kelts to migrate to the bay;
Maintain the beneficial uses of the flood control channel (flood protection, water supply, groundwater percolation, and recreation); and
Be mindful of the economic impacts to ACWD customers.

Introduction of Project Team (Dustman)

Patti introduced the project team:

Winzler & Kelly for project management, structural design, and civil design
Hanson Environmental for CEQA and Biological Assessment
Kosmo Bates for fish passage design and hydraulics
Mike Love & Associates for fish passage design, hydraulics and hydrology
Kleinfelder for geotechnical work

Schedule (Dustman)

Patti gave an overview of the schedule for fish passage projects on the lower creek:

Fish screens at Alameda Creek pipeline (completed 2008)
Remove lower rubber dam and notch foundation – 2009
Fish screens at Bunting Pond – 2009
Fish ladder at middle rubber dam/BART weir – 2010
Fish ladder at upper rubber dam – 2011-2012
Fish screens at Kaiser and Shinn Ponds – 2012-2013

Patti gave an update on current status, potential grant funding and project cost estimates. A total of \$21 million in work is being proposed.

Projected costs:

Fish screens at Alameda Creek pipeline - \$3.6 million (completed)
Remove lower rubber dam and notch foundation – \$1.5 million
Fish screens at Bunting Pond – \$1.7 million
Fish ladder at middle rubber dam/BART weir – \$5.4 million
Fish ladder at upper rubber dam – \$2.5 million
Fish screens at Kaiser and Shinn Ponds – \$6.2 million

\$2.6 million in grant funding has been secured for projects so far, from NFWF and Prop 50.

The project schedule for the BART weir/middle rubber dam fish ladder:

Complete Preliminary Design –August 2009
Complete CEQA –June 2009

Complete Biological Assessment –July 2009
Permit Applications –September 2009
Complete Final Design –January 2010
Construction –Summer / Fall 2010

Background (Dustman and da Costa)

Manny da Costa gave a presentation on the background and history of the Workgroup and a chronology of efforts leading up to the fish passage project, including previous reports, design work by participating agencies, and milestones to date.

Environmental Process (Hansen)

Chuck Hansen gave a presentation on the environmental review for the project. The approach will be a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project. Permits will be required from RWQCB, DFG, and the Army Corps. The Corps will need to do a Section 7 consultation with NMFS. The COE will be issuing a permit for construction and the Biological Assessment will support the related Section 7 consultation. It is expected that the COE will use an existing programmatic NEPA document for the construction permit.

There will be analyses of the potential impacts of constructions and operations relating to steelhead, interim operations of water system and flood control, and flows for the fish ladder.

The CEQA initial study will be complete by June 2009.

Fish Ladder conceptual plan (Bates and Love)

Consultants Mike Love, Cosmo Bates, and Steve Allen gave a presentation on the fish ladder conceptual plan.

This included discussions of:

Flood Control Channel Hydrologic Conditions
Rubber Dam / Diversion Operations
Advantages of a Vertical Slot Fish Ladder Design

Winzler & Kelley gave a presentation on the conceptual design for the fishway. They discussed the design status and design criteria, highlighting the decisions needed on: selecting an option from the fishway concepts, and operating plan, fish passage design flow, and fishway flow.

They went through the design criteria for the roughened channel and vertical slot portions of the fishway. They discussed timing of fish movement related to fishway flows, and the challenges of design to accommodate the full range of middle rubber dam operations.

They presented two options for fishways, with trade-offs in operating flow, sediment management and location and complexity of fishway exits.

Q&A

After the technical presentation by the ACWD, ACFCD and their consultants, the meeting was followed by a question and answer session.

There was a discussion regarding outmigrating smolts and kelts over the inflatable dam. The issue was that outmigrating salmonids may miss the fishway and injure themselves. The response was that the safest route for outmigrating fish is indeed through the fishway. Modifications to the ACWD and ACFCD structures will be looked at to reduce injury to downstream migrating salmonids.

The fishway design, a combined roughened channel and vertical slot fishway, will not be a barrier to lamprey. However, it is not the best option for lamprey. The fishway design presented is best suited for salmonids under the operational constraints of both the ACWD and ACFCD.

There was a request that a public viewing system be integrated into the design of the fishway. Additionally, there was a request that a monitoring device (fish counter) be integrated into the fishway design.

The meeting presentations are posted on the CEMAR web site at:
<http://www.cemar.org/alamedacreek/alamedacreekindex.html>