

**Alameda Creek Fisheries Work Group
Flows Subcommittee**

November 16, 2007 10 AM – 11:15 PM
Teleconference

Meeting Summary

Attending:

Jeff Miller, Alameda Creek Alliance
Andy Gunther, Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration
David Houts, Zone 7 Water Agency
Eric Cartwright, Alameda County Water District
Tim Ramirez, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Stuart Moock, representing Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Thomas Niesar, Alameda County Water District
Manny da Costa, Alameda County Flood Control District
Kwablah Attiogbe, Alameda County Flood Control District
Pete Alexander, East Bay Regional Park District

1. Announcements, review agenda

No changes were requested.

2. Program Manager's Report

Andy noted that he has now received three sets of comments on the last draft of the Phase 1 report from McBain & Trush, one from Gary Stern at NMFS, one from Jeff Miller, and one from ACWD. Eric noted that Dan Wilson DFG indicated that comments would not be available until the end of December.

The group agreed that the report is a “living document” representing a work plan that will be developed, and we will integrate DFG comments and others as they are available. The subcommittee will add a short forward to the document stating this intention. It was agreed that Andy will work with McBain & Trush to finalize the document using the available comments. ACWD will go ahead and approve the final invoice from McBain & Trush.

It was further agreed that Work Group approval of the revised report will be placed on the agenda for the December 6 meeting.

3. Update on Fish Passage Projects

Manny reported on progress for the fish passage work at the BART Weir. He noted that a list of seven qualified consultants has been identified, and a letter is going out to determine their interest in the fish passage work at the BART weir. In addition,

ACWD/Flood Control are likely to apply to NFWF on December 19th for a grant. There is a special category for projects in San Francisco Bay, which represents funds from the Bay Bridge mitigation.

4. New Zealand Mud Snail

The New Zealand Mud Snail has been positively identified in the Flood Control Channel below the BART weir, and at the old Sunol Dam site. This invasive freshwater snail is spreading rapidly in the Bay, and is capable of altering trophic relationships in local aquatic ecosystems.

It was agreed that everybody working in the watershed should implement appropriate protocols for limiting the spread of the snail in the Alameda Creek watershed. Tim indicated the SFPUC will continue to look for snails in the watershed and report sightings to the Work Group.

5. 2007-2010 Permit for Transportation and Monitoring of In-migrating salmonids

Jeff indicated that the application for the permit has not yet been submitted, but that the application will need to include protocols for preventing spread of the mud snail. The biggest change from last year is (1) requesting to transport a limited number of chinook salmon and (2) asking for a multi-year permit. The release location will likely be the pool in Niles Canyon below the Stonybrook Creek.

Tim noted that last year's letter for the permit indicated that signatories agreed not to use presence of rescued fish in the watershed as leverage for impacting current water district operations (*e.g.*, Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act). He expressed concerns that the Flood Control District's comments on the dPEIR were not consistent with this approach. Flood Control agreed to review the proposed letter for this year to determine if there would be any issues in being a signatory.

6. Agenda items for Dec 6 Workgroup & Flows Subcommittee meetings

Proposed agenda items for the Dec 6 Workgroup meeting include:

- Approval of the Phase 1 Flows Report
- New Zealand Mud Snail Update
- 2008 Monitoring and Transport Proposal
- Update on Fish Passage Projects and Funding Opportunities
- Review of SFPUC Habitat Conservation Plan Scope of Work

The Dec 6 Flows Subcommittee meeting will focus on developing a work plan to begin implementation of the Phase 1 report study recommendations. Subcommittee members were asked to review the "Priority Task Draft Matrix" (sent by Andy on 10/29) and be prepared to discuss: 1) prioritizing tasks; 2) responsibilities for implementation; 3) coordination with on-going/planned studies; and 4) schedule and budget.