

**Supplementation Subgroup
Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Workgroup**

**Minutes of Meeting on
January 14, 2004**

Attendees:

Pete Alexander, EBRPD
Gordon Becker, CEMAR
Eric Cartwright, ACWD
Erika Cleugh, DFG
Dan Corcoran, ENTRIX
Andy Gunther, CEMAR
Craig Hill, ACWD
Laura Kilgour, ACFCWCD
Jeff Miller, Alameda Creek Alliance
Brian Sak, SFPUC
Jim Salerno, SFPUC
Bill Snider, ENTRIX
Gary Stern, NOAA Fisheries
Tom Taylor, ENTRIX

Discussion Items

This meeting of the Supplementation subgroup focused on plans to conduct a study of migrant steelhead potentially occurring in the Alameda Creek watershed. Gordon Becker reviewed the study outline, including trapping method, release location, smolt trapping procedures, and staffing. The remainder of the meeting was comprised of “question and answer” and suggestions regarding the study elements.

Participating agencies including ACFCWCD, ACWD, and SFPUC have agreed to develop descriptions of the activities they conduct in the watershed that could result in “take” in the event that adult steelhead are moved into upper watershed areas and/ or smolts are produced and out-migrate. Gary Stern will use these descriptions in preparing the Biological Opinion (BO) for the Migrant Study. Gary indicated that he would provide considerable leeway for “normal” operations, and that the most likely operational changes necessary would involve ACWD’s inflatable dams. Gary has had discussions with ACWD staff regarding possible operational changes. The subgroup also noted that terms and conditions associated with conducting the Migrant Study would be available for review prior to submittal in a permit application.

The general approach to be taken in analyzing the program is to consider “take” resulting from unlikely events as acceptable in that it would not conflict with the goals of the project. For example, an adult released in Stonybrook Creek that “fell back” into mainstem Alameda Creek would not require extraordinary measures such as Calaveras water releases. Gary said that unforeseen circumstances wherein NOAA Fisheries determines the necessity of terms and conditions not included in a BO typically are addressed through a “re-opener” clause. Gary recommended re-visiting the study objectives to be certain that they are consistent with the proposed trapping, tagging and monitoring activities.

Tom Taylor suggested that existing conditions likely would be favorable to conducting the program with the possible exception of flows for smolt out-migration. He noted that beginning discussions about operational scenarios to provide out-migration flows in this context would serve the long-term interests of the water agencies since such flows will be necessary with the planned future re-establishment of an Alameda Creek steelhead run.

Gary said that the proposed Army Corps permit process does not require public notice, and that a NOAA Fisheries permit to conduct the program could be granted in as little as two or three months. Gordon Becker suggested a possible goal of constructing a smolt trap in time to catch the last rains of the season so that a robust system could be in place at the start of water year 2004-2005.

Brian Sak of the SFPUC will advise the process of creating the smolt trap. The group also noted possible donations of equipment and expertise by DFG including staff members Rob Titus and Kevan Urquhart. CEMAR will follow up with these individuals. CEMAR also will circulate to the subgroup for review the draft application materials prior to submittal to NOAA Fisheries.