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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
South-Central California Area Office
2666 N. Grove Industrial Drive
Suite 106
Fresno, California 93727-1551



IN REPLY
REFER TO:

SCC-414
ADM-10.00

RECEIVED

MAY 10 1999

MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT

To: Santa Ynez River Fisheries Consensus Committee
(See Attached List)

Subject: Santa Ynez River Consensus/Technical Advisory Committee Meeting -
Cachuma Project

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is an agenda for the May 19, 1999 meeting. There is a location change for the next scheduled meeting. The meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Goleta Water District; the address is listed on the agenda. Also, enclosed are the minutes from the meeting held on February 24, 1999. However, the minutes from the working group will be sent out in a subsequent mailing.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (559) 487-5299, or for the hearing impaired (TDD) at (559) 487-5933. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Carter
Contract Repayment Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Enclosures

2-24-99 MEETING

AGENDA

Santa Ynez River TAC/Consensus Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Location: Goleta Water District
4699 Hollister Avenue
Goleta, CA 93110
(805) 964-6761

Time: 9:30 am. to 12:00 pm.

Proposed Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Project Biologist Report
3. Discussion of Draft Fish Management Plan
 - Overview of Plan
 - Technical Appendices
 - Public Meetings
4. Hilton Creek
 - Watering System Update
 - Habitat Improvements
5. Fish Account Releases
6. Other Business
7. Next Meeting

ENTRIX

MEMO

ENTRIX, Inc.
300 Esplanade Drive, Suite 900
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 981-3972

To: SYRTAC and Consensus Committee
From: Jean Baldrige, SYRTAC Study Coordinator
Date: May 4, 1999
Re: Laura Riege

After three and a half years of diligent work coordinating the activities of the SYRTAC and overseeing the production of the SYR Fish Management Plan, I am sad to announce that Ramona Swenson will be taking a leave of absence to pursue other challenges. She will be sorely missed.

At this time, I would like to introduce Laura Riege who will be taking over many of Ramona's coordination duties and providing support to the SYRTAC. Laura is an aquatic ecologist with over eleven years of experience managing projects and analyzing environmental data. She worked closely with Ramona and me in the last few months to complete the Fish Management Plan and technical appendices. Some of you may have had the opportunity to meet her at the February SYRTAC meeting.

Laura works out of our Oxnard office. Please feel free to contact her with any questions, comments or needs you have on the project. Her phone numbers are:

phone: (805) 981-3972
fax: (805) 981-3952
lriege@entrix.com

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (TAC)
FEBRUARY 24, 1999 MINUTES**

Project Biologist Report

General Conditions

Rainfall has been insufficient to generate significant runoff in either the mainstem or tributaries. Brief rain events slightly increased flow in the tributaries and mainstem for several days; however, the runoff has not maintained continuity with the Santa Ynez in Nojoqui, Hilton, or Alisal Creeks.

The Lagoon has been in a state of flux for the winter of 1999. Flow from the river along with tidal action has sporadically opened and closed the lagoon this year. Currently the lagoon is open. Fish account releases from Bradbury are currently set at 5.0 cfs. Flow conditions in the mainstem range from approximately 8 cfs at mile 3.4 to over 30 cfs at River Park in Lompoc.

Migrant trapping

Migrant trapping was begun in Salsipuedes and San Miguelito Creeks on December 30, 1998. Both upstream and downstream traps were installed in Salsipuedes Creek, while only a downstream trap was installed in San Miguelito Creek. Hilton and Nojoqui Creeks have had insufficient/no flow to deploy migrant traps to date. Four upstream and one downstream migrating steelhead/rainbow trout have been captured in Salsipuedes Creek from February 1 through February 24, 1999.

Redd Surveys

Redd surveys are currently being conducted biweekly in the mainstem and all tributaries where the project has permission to access. Redds have been identified in the mainstem between the spill basin and long pool, Salsipuedes Creek, and San Miguelito Creek.

1998 Compilation Report

The 1998 Compilation Report is currently in progress. The first working draft will be submitted to the Biological Subcommittee for comment by mid-April.

Draft Management Plan

Comments on the draft plan have been received from California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Santa Ynez River ID # 1, and Lompoc, City of Santa Barbara, Reclamation, NMFS, Stetson Engineers, Scott Engblom (COMB), and Nancy Crawford. The next draft will be released for public review at the end of March, with public meetings following in late-April.

Four technical workgroups were developed to make recommendations and to prepare technical appendices for the Management Plan: 1) Conjunctive use and Surcharge group, 2) Hilton Creek Workgroup, 3) Tributary Workgroup, and 4) Upper Basin Workgroup. The Conjunctive Use Group is developing recommendations on surcharge feasibility within Lake Cachuma. Additional surcharge would be allocated directly to the Fish Account to maintain fishery habitat downstream of Bradbury. This group is also looking at ways to use Water Rights Releases to benefit fish as well as downstream water users. The Hilton Creek Group is working on solutions to maintaining stream flow to support juvenile rearing, improving passage at impediments in Hilton Creek, and increasing the amount of habitat available for rearing. The Tributary Group is working on solutions to protecting areas where conditions for fish are good, enhancing areas where habitat conditions can be improved and maintaining passage to suitable habitats. The Upper Basin Group is evaluating opportunities to address issues with respect to anadromous steelhead in the area upstream of Bradbury Dam. Several actions may provide opportunities to protect or enhance their populations.

The technical groups are to finalize the solutions to their respective objectives which will be included in the March Draft of the Management Plan. The Management Plan will be using an adaptive management approach to see what does and does not work within the watershed. Some fine tuning may be required with some of the alternatives in order for their benefits to be realized.

Additional discussions generated by this topic include:

- County Fish and Game Commission not agreeing with the scope of work proposed in the upper basin
- NMFS is working closely with BOR with respect to steelhead needs downstream of Bradbury Dam (i.e., removal of passage barriers, riparian enhancement)

Hilton Creek Project Update

Barry Longwell (BOR) reported that the pipeline construction is complete. However, leaks exist in a portion of the line within the dam structure. These leaks are estimated at 50-60 gallons/minute. Underwater video was taken of the internal structure to determine the best way to fix the leaks. Alternatives under consideration include slip-lining the existing pipe, or constructing a parallel pipeline adjacent to the existing one. Depending on what is observed on the video, the pipeline may be online by the end of April. Decisions regarding the type of fix occur in mid-March.

Fish Account Releases

Since October 1998, 5 cubic feet per second (cfs) or 10 acre feet (af) per day has been released from the outlet structure at Bradbury Dam. Due to the limited amount of rain this year, there will probably be 2000 af of water allocated to the Fish Account. Approximately 500 af has been used to date. Ali Shahroody of Stetson Engineering indicated that WR 89-18 Water Right Releases will probably happen this year.

NMFS Critical Steelhead Habitat Determination

Eric Shott of NMFS discussed the recent designation of critical habitat for steelhead. NMFS has designated all freshwater streams below major dams or large waterfalls as critical habitat for steelhead. Areas upstream of dams or waterfalls were not listed as critical habitat due to insufficient information. NMFS is a strong proponent of buffer strips (riparian areas linked to stream channels) and will be evaluating riparian areas on a site by site basis. The critical habitat determination is a 'heads up' for federal agencies to consider the need for consultation with NMFS with respect to funding or implementation of a project.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held 0930 May 19, 1999 at the Goleta Water District.

To: Jean Baldrige and Larua Riege, Entrix

From: Scott Engblom

Re: Draft TAC Meeting Minutes *-(5-19-99 MEETING)*

Project Biologist Report

- Upstream and downstream migrant trapping was conducted on Salsipuedes, San Miguelito, and Hilton Creeks during 1999. During 1999 in Salsipuedes Creek, migrants were captured moving upstream between February 1 through April 9, 1999. Up migrants ranged in size between 265-690mm (10.4 inches-27.2 inches). Downstream migrants were captured between February 19 through April 9, 1999, and ranged in size between 158-350mm (6.2 inches-13.7 inches). Four of the six down migrants exhibited typical smolting characteristics. One downstream migrant was captured in San Miguelito Creek and measured 140 mm (5.5 inches) and did not exhibit smolting characteristics. No migrants were captured in Hilton Creek.
- From January through May, 40 redds were identified in Salsipuedes Creek, and 20 were identified in San Miguelito Creek. Three redds were also identified in the Highway 154 reach, and one was identified in the Refugio Reach.
- Mainstem and tributary snorkel surveys are scheduled for June 1999.
- Lagoon water quality is scheduled for May.
- Lagoon trapping will be conducted in June as part of a quarterly monitoring to determine steelhead usage within the lagoon.
- Both the mainstem and tributary thermograph network were re-established in April 1999.
- The 1996-1997 Compilation Report is being reviewed by the Biological Subcommittee. The first draft of the 1998 Compilation Report has also been distributed for review.

Fish Management Plan

Jean Baldrige addressed the various aspects of the Fish Management Plan. Volume I (Fish Management Plan) and Volume II (Technical Appendixes) of the Plan were distributed for general comment. The Plan has relied a great deal on the Management Alternatives Report and on the activities that can be accomplished in both the short and long term. Aspect of the plan include:

- Creation of new habitat in the system (i.e., Hilton Creek Channel Extension)
- Improvement of existing habitat (i.e., Fish Reserve Account, , Conjunctive Use of

WR 89-18 Releases, Conservation Easements, Riparian Vegetation Enhancement, Mainstem and Tributary Pool Enhancement)

- Upstream and downstream passage improvements (i.e., Hilton Creek Passage Improvement, Modify existing culverts and aprons within the mainstem and tributaries)
- Public Education (Public Outreach Program, Public Meetings, Technical Assistance for Volunteer Actions)

All technical analysis with respect to aspects of the Fish Management Plan is provided in Volume II (Technical Appendixes). Subjects within the Technical Appendixes include:

- Conjunctive Use of Fish Account and WR 89-18 Water Releases
- Hilton Creek Passage and Habitat Enhancements
- Assessment of Tributaries Downstream of Bradbury Dam
- Upper Basin Actions for Protection and Enhancement of Southern Steelhead in the Santa Ynez River

Laura Riege (Entrix) spoke about regarding the types of discussions generated at the public meetings. Two meetings were held to discuss aspects of the plan with the public, and to solicit comment about the Fish Management Plan. The first meeting was held in Buellton on May 12 and was attended mostly by local landowners that were well informed with the various aspects of the plan. Input from the Buellton meeting includes:

- Are the objectives of the plan clearly stated?
- How do pumping and water rights releases from Bradbury Dam relate to NMFS definition of take?
- What type of management is being considered in the tributaries?
- Why is the plan only focusing only on steelhead?

The Santa Barbara meeting was held on May 13 and was attended mostly by local citizens and local environmental groups. Input from the Santa Barbara meeting includes:

- What is the genetic makeup of rainbow trout/steelhead upstream of Bradbury Dam and what happens to progeny when hatchery fish mix with wild steelhead stock?
- How much participation do we have from local landowners?
- What will happen if the NMFS does not like the Fish Management Plan?
- Where will we focus our emphasis with respect to the limited monies involved?

Written comments on the Plan are due on June 15. The Biological Opinion from NMFS will be reviewed prior to finalization of the Fish Management Plan. The Biological Opinion from NMFS is expected out sometime in November or December 1999.

Hilton Creek Watering System Update

David Young (BOR) addressed the issues with respect to the Hilton Creek Watering System. There was some initial leakage problems in the pipeline that goes through the dam. An eight-inch diameter pipe was slip-lined into the original 10-inch diameter pipe to stop the leaks. That fix has apparently worked and the pipeline has passed the pressure tests. The entire pipeline will probably be tested sometime in June. The capacity for water deliveries has not been significantly reduced with the slip-lined fix. Scale buildup is expected to be in the 36-inch supply line pipe. That material needs to be evacuated (during the testing) to decrease future problems.

Maruice Cardenas (DFG) informed the TAC that the grant for Hilton Creek habitat improvements is currently in Sacramento and that the money for the matching grant (~\$50,000) will be encumbered soon. DFG will evaluate the work progress and expenditures every three months until the project is completed.

The final design for the passage modification is currently being discussed by members of the TAC and instream specialists from DFG and NMFS. Additional survey information regarding channel morphology is also being collected and evaluated.

Fish Account Releases

No information was available regarding the Fish Account Releases.

Other Issues

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in WR 94-5 mandated that an environmental document be completed. The decision is that an EIR will be done. The BOR has begun informal discussions with CCRB and ID #1 in terms of hiring consultants to write the environmental document. SWRCB staff has agreed with the recommendation of BOR and CCRB that Woodward-Clyde with John Gray as the program manager will be the consultant writing the EIR. Approximately 80-90% of the information from the Cachuma Contract Renewal EIR/EIS (December 1995) will be relevant to the WR 94-5 environmental document. Public comments on a proposed project description are due on June 18, 1999. The WR 94-5 mandated draft will be due to the SWRCB in July 2000. Public hearings will happen in December of 2000.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SYRTAC/Consensus Committee will be on September 1, 1999 at 0930 at the Goleta Sanitary District.

AGENDA

Santa Ynez River TAC/Consensus Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 1, 1999

Location: Goleta Sanitary District (across from Santa Barbara Airport)
1000 Fowler Road
Goleta, CA 93110
(805) 967-4519

Time: 9:30 am. to 12:00 pm.

1. Welcome (Paula)
2. Project Biologist Report (Scott)
3. Fish Management Plan and Implementation Schedule (Jean)
4. Status of various grant applications (Laura)
5. Fish Account Releases (Laura)
6. Hilton Creek Project Update (David)
7. NMFS Consultation Update (BO and seismic work) (Eric)
8. Update on EIR under Water Rights Order 94-5. (John)
9. Other?
10. Next Meeting (Paula)

To: Jean Baldrige, Laura Reige, Entrix

From: Scott Engblom

Re: Draft TAC Minutes for your Review

Project Biologist Report

- Trapping activities were discontinued at the end of June in Both Salsipuedes and San Miguelito Creeks. A total of 37 upstream migrants and 6 downstream migrants (3 were smolts) were captured in Salsipuedes Creek. One downstream migrant was captured in San Miguelito Creek (non-smolt).
- Redd surveys conducted in the mainstem and tributaries resulted in 48 redds being identified in Lower Salsipuedes Creek, 16 in upper Salsipuedes Creek, 35 in San Miguelito Creek, one in the Refugio Reach of the mainstem, and 4 in the Highway 154 Reach of the mainstem.
- Lagoon trapping was conducted for seven consecutive days at the end of May and resulted in one steelhead/rainbow trout (350 mm) being captured.

Mainstem and tributary snorkel surveys were conducted in June and July. The majority of steelhead/rainbow trout were observed in pool habitats. The results are as follows:

<u>Reach</u>	<u>0-3 inches</u>	<u>3-6 inches</u>	<u>6-9 inches</u>	<u>9-12 inches</u>	<u>> 12 inches</u>
Highway 154	5	4	2	16	28
Refugio	0	0	8	1	0
Alisal	0	2	46	4	2

<u>Creek</u>	<u>0-3 inches</u>	<u>3-6 inches</u>	<u>6-9 inches</u>	<u>9-12 inches</u>	<u>> 12 inches</u>
Lower Salsipuedes	12	0	4	0	1 (18-20 inches)
Upper Salsipuedes	42	1	0	0	0
El Jaro	8	1	25	2	3

- Diurnal water quality measurements were conducted in the mainstem on June 14, August 4, and August 30. Sample locations were in pool, riffle, and run habitats at miles 0.5, 3.4, 7.8, 10.5, and 13.6. Low dissolved oxygen concentrations were recorded in most of the habitats downstream of the Highway 154 Reach.
- Water releases from Bradbury are continuing at 2.5 cfs (5 acre feet/day). Weekly flow measurements downstream of Bradbury Dam at miles 0.5, 3.4, 7.8, 13.9, 24.0, and 30.0 show that the mainstem SYR had dried at several of the monitoring locations and that flow is fragmented throughout the mainstem Santa Ynez River. Water temperatures collected in the mainstem show surface temperatures typically ranging between 23-28 C depending upon location. Bottom monitoring locations are typically several degrees cooler depending if stratification or coolwater upwelling is happening.
- Water quality lake profiles were measured in May, July, and August. Anoxic conditions have yet to develop in the hypolimnion of Lake Cachuma

Fish Management Plan implementation Schedule

The latest draft of the Fish Management plan was released spring 1999. Two public workshops were held, and comments from the participants of those workshops was provided at the TAC meeting. The next draft will be released November 1999, after the Biological Opinion from NMFS is released. The various working groups will continue meeting periodically to discuss and continue moving forward on the various aspects of the Fish Management Plan.

Much progress has been made on the conservation easements with the local landowners on El Jaro Creek. The beginning steps in determining conservation easements include:

- Do we want a conservation easement on the property? (Initial survey)
- What actions can be taken on the property?
- Is the property owner still interested?

If the property owner is still interested, a formal appraisal will take place where a monetary value will be applied to the area where a conservation easement will be constructed.

Currently, actions within the Fish Management plan that can be implemented (i.e., actions which do not need environmental permitting) are being implemented, such as, Fish Account Releases and the 0.75 foot surcharge of Bradbury Dam. Other actions which have a high level of priority for implementation include the 1.8 and/or 3.0 foot surcharge of Bradbury, Conservation Easements, Conjunctive Use of the WR 89-18 Releases, and Tributary Passage issues. The 1.8 and 3.0 foot surcharge are still being evaluated with respect to impacts on County Park facilities at Lake Cachuma.

Status of Grant Applications

Three outstanding grant applications are currently being processed. The first grant is a non-point source (erosion) grant which will include three demonstration projects taking place on the Isacsons' property. After these projects on Isacsons' property are completed, there will be three follow-up workshops for other landowners who are interested in participating in the Conservation Easements program. Funding is expected to occur in November or December of 1999.

The second grant is a DFG grant to supply a pump for the Hilton Creek watering system. The application has reached the next level of review. If approved, the grant will provide money for services, not capital costs (\$49K).

The third grant is from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation and will fund the capital costs for the Hilton Creek Pump (\$138K). The application was submitted two weeks ago.

Fish Account Releases

Allocation for the Fish Account in 1999 was 2000 acre feet. As of August 30, 1999, 1766 acre feet has been used. At the current rate of release, there will be a shortfall in the account, mostly as a result of a 6 week, 10 cfs release earlier this year. In order to continue Fish Account Releases, CCRB, and ID #1 have approved a 550 acre-feet advance on the Fish Account which will be paid back over the next three years. About half of the additional water will be used to flush and test the Hilton Creek watering system. Releases will continue at 5 acre-feet/day (2.5 cfs). No WR 89-18 releases will occur this year.

Hilton Creek Project Update

The Hilton Creek pipeline has been completed, however, three tests need to be implemented before the pipeline is operational. The first test is a hydrologic pressure test at all three release points to verify accuracy of flow being released. The second test is to flush the debris out of the pipeline at all three locations and make sure the screening system is working properly. The third test is a operational or biological testing which will entail measuring of instream flows and habitat analysis (how the flow is affecting Hilton Creek). Testing will not occur until the river outlet works has been repaired. Repairs are expected to be completed on September 9, 1999 with testing happening within one or two weeks after. Fish Account releases are currently being made into the spill basin through the lower chute release of the Hilton Creek Pipeline.

Several fishermen were escorted from the BOR property last weekend and their names forwarded to DFG enforcement officials. BOR will look into possibility of posting their property boundary with no fishing signs to help deter the general public from trespassing for fishing purposes.

NMFS Consultation Update (BO and Seismic Work)

An internal draft of the BO is currently being written. Once the draft is reviewed within NMFS, it will be released to BOR probably by the end of September.

Update on EIR under Water Rights Order 94-5

The State Water Resources Control Board is directing the preparation of a draft EIR to determine whether any modifications to BOR's water rights permits are necessary to protect public trust resources and downstream water rights of the Santa Ynez River downstream of Bradbury. Woodward Clyde Consultants, with Dr. John Gray as the project manager, was selected by the SWRCB to prepare the EIR. The BO from NMFS needs to be received in order to fully determine the alternatives and scope of work to be analyzed in the draft EIR. The administrative draft of the EIR is scheduled to be completed in May, with a final draft out in the Fall of 2000, in time for the SWRCB November hearings.

Stetson Engineering will provide the hydrologic analysis for the EIR. Both the BO and the hydrologic analysis need to be completed before the actual impact analysis can take place.

Other Issues

Jim Stove, USFWS fish passage engineer looked at the Highway 154 culvert and indicated it would be easy to install a baffle system in the culvert to improve fish passage. Glen Greenwald (USFWS) is coordinating with Eric Shott and John Mann (NMFS) to evaluate the potential impacts of a baffle system within the culvert.

In May, Glen G. put in a grant application (\$49K) with the Restoration and Sport Fishing Funds of the Fish and Wildlife Service (Reverted Dingle Johnson Funds). The purpose is to study the genetics of Santa Ynez Upper Basin trout population. Jennifer Nielson and Bill Spearman will be conducting the microsatellite and mitochondrial DNA analysis.

The plan is to sample 10 creeks in the upper basin and obtain 40 samples per creek (400 fish samples total). The purpose of the project is for a genetic population analysis to determine where residual steelhead may be located. The project would benefit the analysis of a brood stock program for the theorized hatchery (Fish Management Plan) in the upper basin.

The SWRCB, as part of WR 94-5, required a vegetation study to be completed by the BOR before February of 2000. The BOR is currently waiting for the final write-up (authored by Jones and Stokes) which is expected to be out by September 27, 1999.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the TAC/Consensus will be Wednesday January 12, 2000 at 0930 at the Goleta Sanitary District.