

**Tri-County F.I.S.H. Team Public Meeting
(Funding for Improved Salmonid Habitat)**

**Santa Barbara County Engineering Building
Public Works Conference Room Number 1, 1st Floor
123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara
Thursday, January 19, 2006
1:00 to 3:00**

Minutes

Participants

Robert Almy, Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Dennis Harper, Matilija Fly Fishers
Jeff Peters, Questa Consulting
Nancy Settle, Ventura County Planning
Eric Wier, San Luis Obispo County Public Works
Kate Rees, Cachuma Conservation and Release Board
Margaret Paul, Department of Fish and Game
Mary Roper, Department of Fish and Game
Lew Riffle, Santa Barbara Flyfishers
Mauricio Gomez, Community Environmental Council
Bob Thiel, SC Wetlands Recovery Project

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Wiley called the meeting to order and welcomed the group to the meeting. All participants introduced themselves. No additions to the agenda were made.

Item 2: 2006 TCFT Elections Update

Helena Wiley, Santa Barbara County Water Agency

Ms. Wiley reviewed the Elections Process and Nominations. Lew Riffle was nominated by the Santa Barbara County Water Agency for the open public position. Mr. Wier seconded the nomination. Ben Boer of Cambria CSD's resignation was announced, and his replacement discussed. Ms. Settle announced that the alternating City of Ventura and County of Ventura spot on the EC would move to two County personnel, Darla Wise and Tommy Liddell. Ms. Wiley explained that the voting period would begin once a replacement for Mr. Boer's position was nominated. Voting would be conducted by all eligible parties via email and be completed in early February. The issue of whether an agency or person was being elected was also discussed.

Item 3: Timeline and Work Plan Summary

Helena Wiley, Santa Barbara County Water Agency and
Jeff Peters, Questa Engineering

Ms. Wiley described the status of the current grant (#0020) and its close on March 15th, 2006. A summary of the remaining tasks was outlined as follows:

- BMP Development and Tech Training: complete
- Regional Restoration: compile GIS data, finish calculating prioritization of barriers (waiting for data)
- Public Ed and Outreach: flyers have not been prepared, press release will be finished in Feb, PSA has been drafted and will be sent to DFG, UC Extension Curriculum complete
- Info Clearinghouse: developing new webpages (fact sheets) currently- done by February

The current contract with Questa ends on February 15th and covers the first two tasks outlined above.

The new grant (#0013) timeline was originally proposed for 05-06 fiscal year, but is likely to instead cover the 06-07 fiscal year, which is within the timeframe outlined in the contract. The grant goes through March 2008. A new scope of work for the consultant tasks associated is currently being drafted by Questa. This will be disseminated to the EC and DFG when prepared.

Item 4: Fish Passage Barrier Prioritization Update
Jeff Peters, Questa Engineering

Mr. Peters explained that the final data from the Santa Clara River was received and that Questa was moving toward the final report on the barrier prioritization. Mr. Almy asked that the draft methodology for the prioritization be circulated once more for final comments before prioritization using the model was calculated. Consensus on this plan was obtained, and a deadline set for comments on the methodology.

Item 5: Permit Streamlining Update
Jeff Peters, Questa Engineering

Mr. Peters described the Central Coast Resource Conservation District's parallel work with permit streamlining. The RCD, partnering with Sustainable Conservation, received funds to begin a project on permit streamlining primarily for private landowners. The RCD plans to include State, federal, and local permit requirements in an overall general permit. There will be permit conditions that limit the amount of land eligible for this type of general permit. Comments were made that the TCFT should be involved in the list of activities developed for eligibility under the general permit that is created. Mr. Peters noted that the RCD does not currently have a work plan for the project. Mr. Thiel noted that if the RCD project is limited to SB and SLO counties, the Ventura RCD's program only covers part of Ventura county, there will be some watersheds within the tri-county region (in northern Ventura County) not eligible under any of the general permit plans being developed. Ms. Larson noted another permit streamlining project which is the Department of Fish and Game's streamlined permit program for projects funded by the department. The scope of the DFG program is currently available from their staff. It was noted that project had to be at least partially funded by DFG to qualify for this program.

Item 6: BMP Manual Update
Jeff Peters, Questa Engineering

Mr. Peters described the new BMPs added to the 2005 Manual- bank stabilization and livestock grazing. The next three BMPs to be added to the manual will be new channel design and

construction, basin and channel repair, and earthwork and grading. The group discussed the scope of the earthwork and grading BMP. Ms. Paul noted that the work needed to have direct connection to a stream in order to be included in the BMP. The group also discussed the need for education of contractors as well as plan reviewers in designing projects needing sediment control. Mr. Peters described the next two technical training events would focus on site clearing and livestock grazing, as well as low water crossings.

Item 7: Public Outreach and Education Update
Helena Wiley, Santa Barbara County Water Agency

Ms. Wiley described some new materials available for public outreach and education. A new webpage titled "Steelhead Education" has been added to the TCFT website, www.tcft.org. Comments on the page are to be sent to her at hwiley@cosbpw.net. A new PSA has been drafted, and will be forwarded to the group for approval and comments. A draft webpage will be available soon targeted at creekside landowners, which will also be forwarded to the group for approval. The new materials will be finished in February 2006.

Item 8: Administrative Transfer to Ventura County Update
Rob Almy, Santa Barbara County Water Agency and
Nancy Settle, Ventura County Planning Division

Ms. Settle and Mr. Almy discussed initial conversations about the administrative transfer to Ventura County. This will take place in July, 2006. An agreement between the two counties will be developed, and the next consultant contract will be developed with input from both counties.

Item 9: Participant Updates

DFG staff discussed the need for southern California representatives for the DFG Citizens Committee, which helps to decide the direction of DFG programs and funding. More information on this opportunity can be obtained from Ms. Roper at mlarson@dfg.ca.gov.

Bob Thiel announced the upcoming wetland symposium, March 8-10 in Santa Barbara. Information is available at www.scwrp.org.

Mauricio Gomez announced the upcoming Salmonid Restoration Conference (February 22-25) and Steelhead Festival (February 26th). For more information on the SRF conference, go to www.calsalmon.org. For information on the Steelhead Festival, visit www.communityenvironmentalcouncil.org.

The next TCFT meeting will be held in Ventura County on April 20th from 1:00-3:00 as a joint Public Meeting/Executive Meeting.