

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

**Ventura County Government Center, 800 South Victoria Ave. Ventura,
Hall of Administration (HOA), Watershed Protection District Offices (WPD),
Main Plaza, Room 263.
Thursday, April 20, 2006
1:30 to 3:30**

Minutes

Participants

Laura Riege, Entrix
Jeff Peters, Questa Engineering
Joanne Schellhase, Ventura County
Don Davis, City of Ventura
Karen Waln, City of Ventura
Wendy Cole, David Magney Environmental Consulting
Russ Baggerly, Casitas Municipal Water District
Robert Almy, Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Tim Robinson, Cachuma Conservation and Release Board
Tommy Liddell, Ventura County Watershed Protection District
Liz Chattin, Ventura County Planning
Stevie Adams, California Conservation Corps
Nancy Settle, Ventura County
Helena Wiley, Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Eric Wier, San Luis Obispo County Public Works

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Item 2: Final Products from 04-06 work and Website Presentation

The final report for the 04-06 grant was distributed. Ms. Wiley reported that the State has begun to process reimbursals for the work, indicating satisfaction with the work products. The major deliverables, available on the website (www.tcft.org) were reviewed. These included the 2005 BMP Report, the Draft Methodology for the Prioritization of Fish Barriers, a new education webpage (to include new education materials created for TCFT), and a new fact sheet page for creekside homeowners.

The end of Questa's contract was discussed. One deliverable was not finished (methodology for the prioritization of fish barriers) due to delays in the availability of data on the Santa Clara River, as well as comments by EC and DFG members on the methodology. As discussed with DFG, comments made by DFG will be the first step in the new contract, followed by the completion of the methodology and calculation of the prioritization of barriers. Jeff Peters

commented that Questa is continuing to work on the methodology and filling additional information on some of the stream criteria. This information will be provided to the TCFT without additional charge, since the Questa contract has expired.

Item 3: New Schedule for 06-07 work

A draft work plan for 2006-2007 was distributed and reviewed by the group. The deliverables in the work plan are those required by the upcoming grant (#0013) which has a time frame of May 2005-March 2008. This work was originally planned for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, but has been delayed by one year (and is still within the grant's timeframe). The major tasks were discussed and reviewed. Tim Robinson noted that technical workshops being developed by the Cachuma Resource Conservation District could dovetail with workshops planned by the Tri-County Fish Team on livestock grazing. The timing of the technical workshops was discussed. Karen Waln suggested that the Arizona crossing workshop be timed to precede grant opportunities for landowners, in order to arm landowners with knowledge of techniques to then use in grant applications. The installation of signs as part of the public outreach deliverables was also discussed. Several participants agreed that once signs are designed, the graphics should be made available to other agencies outside of the Tri-County Fish Team, in order to promote a consistent message across the tri-counties on the presence of fish in our streams, and the importance of protecting them.

Item 4: Grant Application Update for 07-08 work

The outcome of the 2007-2008 funding request to DFG for TCFT was announced: TCFT's grant request was placed on the contingency list. Ms. Wiley explained that DFG's funding was cut drastically. Liz Chattin also mentioned that next year, the funds will be cut even further. Stevie Adams suggested there may still be a chance for funding in Region 5 due since some funded projects may be funded from an alternate source (Wildlife Conservation Fund), freeing up funding for contingency projects. Members agreed that the contingency list placement was likely at least partially due to the delay in TCFT's work plan over the last year, and the fact that TCFT has funding for the 2006-2007 work plan out of the next grant, #0013. The members agreed that DFG should be contacted to see whether timing was the main factor in the contingency listing, or whether there should be any changes made to the content of the proposal to make it more competitive.

Item 5: Ventura County Transfer: Staff and Schedule
Nancy Settle, Ventura County Planning Division

Ms. Settle described Ventura County's plans for staffing and scheduling the 2006-2007 workplan. Ventura County is hoping to bring Joanne Schellhase on staff to carry out a majority of the local coordinator duties. The County may use other staff for the website portion of the duties, or in other ways spread the work among a few staff members.

The schedule of the work will depend on how quickly a consultant is brought on contract with Ventura.

Item 6: Contractor Process in Ventura County
Nancy Settle, Ventura County Planning Division

The group discussed the issue of sole-source or going out to bid for a contractor. Ventura County is able to do either. Sole-sourcing to Questa would require a written justification, and would depend on the EC's satisfaction with Questa's work thus far. Going out to bid would take more time, but would give more options to the group in terms of a high-quality contractor. Ms Wiley suggested that the EC be polled via email as to their preference and to voice opinions and concerns about each option. The group agreed to this plan.

Item 7: Participant Updates

The next TCFT meeting will be in San Luis Obispo on Thursday, July 20th from 1:30 to 3:30. The meeting location is Room #361 of the New County Government Center, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo.