

Tri-County F.I.S.H. Team Meeting
(Funding for Improvement of Salmonid Habitat)

Minutes from the July 29, 2003 Public Meeting
City/County of San Luis Obispo Public Library

Meeting Participants

Robert Almy, Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Andy Caldwell, COLAB
Matt Carpenter, ENTRIX, Inc.
Michael Clarke, City of San Luis Obispo
Richard Hawley, Greenspace – The Cambria Land Trust
Leo Lentsch, Casitas Municipal Water District
Lisa Mash, ENTRIX, Inc.
David Pritchett, Southern California Steelhead Coalition
Kate Rees, Cachuma Conservation Release Board
Don Villeneuve, Cambria Community Services District
Steph Wald, Central Coast Salmon Enhancement

Item 1: Introduction

Mr. Almy opened the meeting at approximately 1:20 pm by introducing himself and requesting that everyone else do the same. Ms Mash announced that the City of San Luis Obispo had recently signed the TCFT MOU.

Item 2: Funding Update

On behalf of Mr. Wullbrandt, Ms. Rees provided an overview of recent happenings at the federal and state levels regarding appropriations for salmonid restoration funding for this fiscal year and next. For FY 2003, just under 22 million dollars is available for the DFG Program. Of the 22 million, 8 million will come from prop 40 funds and approximately 14 million (13.8) from Federal funds. The same amount of funds is expected to be available for next year. The DFG Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled to meet the first week in November.

Item 3: Draft Activities Assessment Report

Ms. Mash provided a presentation reviewing the completed TCFT Draft Activities Assessment Report. She discussed the purpose for conducting the activities assessment and the different sections of the report. The purpose of the report is to identify and compile current project activities conducted by TCFT participants that may have adverse effects on steelhead or their habitat. The report also serves as the basis for developing a series of BMPs for implementation of routine land use or stream maintenance activities to be incorporated into a Regional BMP Manual to protect,

enhance, and restore the stream ecosystem. Meeting attendees were asked for their input regarding the report.

Mr. Caldwell asked what the underlying purpose was of the recommendations provided in the report. He recommended that the recommendation's section be deleted from the report or in some way incorporated into the concluding remarks. Mr. Almy responded that the inclusion of recommendations in the report be brought up to the Executive Committee.

Ms. Mash stated that there would be a 30-day public review period, starting July 29th, to provide comments in writing either by fax or email. Comments should be directed to Lisa Mash at lmash@entrix.com or at (925) 935-5368 no later than August 27th.

Item 4: Draft Regional BMP Report

Mr. Carpenter provided a presentation reviewing the completed Draft Regional Best Management Practices Report. He discussed the purpose for developing a Regional BMP Report and the different sections of the report. The purpose of the report is to provide a framework for the implementation of routine stream maintenance activities within the Tri-county area watersheds and is the first step toward creating a Regional BMP Manual. The primary goal for developing these BMPs is to incorporate resource protection and mitigation measures into routine stream maintenance activities to:

- 1) Protect, enhance, and restore the stream ecosystem;
- 2) Balance watershed natural resources benefits with public health and safety concerns; and
- 3) Streamline the permitting process.

He briefly discussed the different types of BMPs included in the report such as general BMPs, species protection measures, and BMPs for specific stream maintenance activities including bank protection, vegetation management, and culvert repair and construction. Meeting attendees were asked for their input regarding the report.

Ms. Mash stated that there would be a 30-day public review period, starting July 29th, to provide comments in writing either by fax or email. Comments should be directed to Lisa Mash at lmash@entrix.com or at (925) 935-5368 no later than August 27th.

Item 5: Public Outreach Efforts

This item was continued to the next meeting due to the absence of Ms. Lang.

Item 6: Participant Updates

Cambria Community Services District

- Potential Santa Rosa Creek Restoration Project (revegetation and bank stabilization work proposed for a foot bridge over Santa Rosa Creek connecting with the Cross Town Trail)
- Master Water Plan approved

City of San Luis Obispo

- Waste Water Reuse Program (just completed a 3 year fish study between the City and the ocean; may have to survey entire watershed next)

Central Coast Salmon Enhancement

- Arroyo Grande Water Management Plan (conduct an assessment of resources; a very public process; will be training volunteers to conduct a majority of the work)

Greenspace, The Cambria Land Trust

- road crossing assessments (75)
- Santa Rosa Creek Restoration Project (Upper Basin)
- Barrier removal project(s)

Cachuma Conservation Release Board

- Demonstration Projects on El Jaro Creek to improve habitat conditions for steelhead (i.e., Floodplain Enhancement Project, Culvert Removal Project, and Side Draw Erosion Project)
- Salsipuedes Creek—Jalama Road Fish Passage Enhancement Project
- Qiota Creek Projects (enhance structural integrity of existing road crossings for fish passage)

Next Meeting

Ms. Mash stated that the next meeting would take place in October in Santa Barbara. Two potential meeting dates were suggested for the next TCFT meeting:

October 29 (Wednesday), 1:00 pm

October 30 (Thursday), 1:00 pm

Meeting Handouts

The following items were distributed at the meeting. Copies of the documents will be posted on the TCFT website (www.tcft.org):

- Draft TCFT Activities Assessment Report
- Draft TCFT Regional Best Management Practices Report

Announcements

- Rory Lang from the Santa Barbara County Water Agency is serving as the local coordinator for the activities of the TCFT and can be contacted at rlang@co.santa-barbara.ca.us or 805-568-3545.
- A Watershed Forum in Santa Maria has been scheduled for this November, check the TCFT website for dates and locations.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 pm.