

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

**City of Ventura, City Hall,
501 Poli St., Ventura
Santa Cruz Conference Room, 2nd floor in the West Wing
January 28, 2004
1:00 to 4:00**

Minutes

Meeting Participants

Robert Almy, Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Jean Baldrige, ENTRIX, Inc.
Matt Carpenter, ENTRIX, Inc.
Michael Clarke, City of San Luis Obispo
Don Davis, City of Ventura
Pete Fallini, Canyon Irrigation District
Meredith Hardy, CCC
Dennis Harper, Matilija Fly Fishers
Richard Hawley, Greenspace – The Cambria Land Trust
Rory Lang, Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Mary Larson, Department of Fish & Game
Leo Lentsch, Casitas Municipal Water District
Michael Marzolla, UC Cooperative Extension
Kate Rees, Cachuma Conservation Release Board
Margaret Roper, Department of Fish & Game
James Studarus, Conception Coast Project
Don Villeneuve, Cambria Community Services District
Karen Waln, City of Ventura
Eric Wier, San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department
Darla Wise, Ventura County Watershed Protection District
Chip Wullbrandt, Law Offices of Price, Postel, and Parma

Item 1: Introduction

Ms. Lang welcomed everyone to the meeting at approximately 1:10 pm and began the meeting by introducing herself and having all attendees do the same.

Item 2: TCFT Elections Update

Ms. Lang provided an update to the 2004 Elections process by noting that the 2003 Executive Committee had finalized the Elections Process to provide an annual timeline for the Executive Committee Elections. The Elections Process document is posted on the TCFT website at www.tcft.org. Ms. Lang then reviewed the schedule and eligibility

requirements for voting and for holding seats on the TCFT Executive Committee as outlined by the Elections document:

Elections Schedule

- Nominations Period opens first full week of January and lasts 2 weeks
- Ballots sent out and 2 weeks are allowed for voting

Eligibility

- Signatory of the MOU
- Attended at least 2 meetings the prior year

Ms. Lang explained that due to eligibility requirements and the nominations process, a ballot and voting procedure were not necessary this year. The 2004 Executive Committee is as follows:

SLO County

- Eric Wier, Local Government Rep.
- Don Villeneuve, Sponsoring Agency Rep.
- Rick Hawley, Public Member Rep.

Santa Barbara County

- Rob Almy, Local Government Rep
- Kate Rees, Sponsoring Agency Rep.
- James Studarus, Public Member Rep.

Ventura County

- Darla Wise, Local Government Rep.
- Leo Lentsch, Sponsoring Agency Rep
- Dennis Harper, Public Member Rep.

Item 3: Update on the NOAA Technical Recovery Team

Mr. Clarke provided an update on the NOAA Technical Recovery Team for the group. Technical Recovery Teams (TRTs) are composed of 6-9 scientists with a mix of expertise in salmon biology, population dynamics, conservation biology, ecology, and all other disciplines necessary for setting recovery standards and for measuring recovery efforts. TRT members have been appointed by the NMFS based on their ability to assess factors responsible for the decline of each of the 26 salmon populations that have been identified as at risk of extinction. They also will develop recovery goals for the fish and their habitats. The TRTs will work in coordination with teams of existing scientists from state, federal, tribal, and local agencies, and in concert with ongoing conservation planning efforts in each region. The South-Central California Coast Technical Recovery Team includes: Peter Adams Ph.D., Eric Anderson Ph.D., David Boughton Ph.D., Michael Clarke Ph.D., Craig Fusaro Ph.D., Edward Keller Ph.D., Elise Kelley Ph.D., Leo Lentsch, Jennifer Nielsen Ph.D., Katie Perry, Helen Regan

Ph.D., Jerry Smith Ph.D., Camm Swift Ph.D., Lisa Thompson Ph.D., and Fred Watson Ph.D.

The TRT will use life history traits, geographic information, genetic attributes, migration rates, habitat characteristics and population dynamics to identify independent populations, abundance and productivity goals to assure sustainability, and desirable spatial structures, diversity goals and threats. This information will then be used to develop criteria for delisting under the Endangered Species Act and the development of a recovery plan. The final step in the process will be the implementation of the recovery plan. The efforts of the TRT will be focused on the steps leading up to and including the development of the recovery plan, with implementation of the recovery plan left to agencies and organizations involved in fisheries restoration efforts.

Item 4: California Fish Passage Assessment Database Project

Ms. Lang provided an overview of the California Fish Passage Assessment Database Project, which is sponsored by the State Coastal Conservancy, DFG, DWR, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. These agencies are developing a statewide inventory of existing barriers to fish passage. Ms. Lang announced that TCFT participants have been asked to help in correct and verify the information for the tri-county area. Ms. Lang distributed a series of spreadsheets depicting current data in the Fish Passage Assessment Database. The main focus right now is to verify the existing information, to obtain some judgment on the PASSAGE STATUS and OWNERSHIP, and to record any new fish barriers that are missing from the list.

To obtain a copy of the spreadsheets, please contact Ms. Lang at (805) 568-3545. The deadline for submitting revisions to Ms. Lang is February 20, 2004.

Item 5: Santa Barbara County Prioritization Criteria Development Workshop Update

Ms. Lang reported that Santa Barbara County Water Agency received a Block Grant from the California Coastal Conservancy for planning, design, and permitting of a select number of fish passage improvement projects on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County. The tasks associated with this project include establishing watershed priorities, conducting watershed assessment and cost-benefit analyses, selection of specific projects for completion, engineering, permitting, and environmental review of selected projects, and identification of potential funding opportunities for construction of projects.

In December, the first Public Workshop for Criteria Development and Project Selection Input was held at the Community Environmental Council in association with the Santa Barbara Task Force of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project. Approximately 50 representatives from federal, state and local agencies and NGO's

attended the meeting and began the development of selection criteria and a watershed prioritization strategy. At the request of workshop attendees, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was developed to guide the process. The first meeting of the TAC was held January 26. At this meeting, the TAC selected priority watersheds and continued to develop a method for selecting specific projects. The next meeting of the TAC is scheduled for March 1, 2004 and will continue the barrier selection and criteria development efforts.

Item 6: UCCE Salmonid Restoration Curriculum Development

Mr. Marzolla provided an overview of the Los Pescadores/Agua Pura Curriculum Project that was recently funded by the University of California's Renewable Resources Extension Act Program. The purpose of the Los Pescadores/Agua Pura Curriculum Project is to develop an educational unit that helps young people learn about anadromous fish, and the vital relationship these fish have to healthy watersheds. The intent in developing this curriculum is to enhance the participant's understanding of this topic, engage them in their surrounding, provide them with "hands-on" and "heads-on" learning activities as well as encourage their active leadership in addressing related issues in their community. The developed curriculum from this project will be distributed through ANR publications and available in PDF format on the web.

Tasks associated with this project include: securing commitments by partners, identifying key topic areas in regard to watershed and fish related issues, gathering, surveying, describing and evaluating selected curriculum and programs in regard to best practices, developing a draft of the Los Pescadores/ Agua Pura Curriculum Manual, field testing and evaluating the manual, and finally revising and publishing the manual. In addition, a workshop to train educators on the developed curriculum will be held.

The survey sent out with the TCFT Public Meeting agenda will help both the TCFT and Mr. Marzolla direct future educational development efforts into areas, which are currently underrepresented. Please complete the survey and return it to Ms. Lang by March 1, 2004.

Item 7: Participant Updates

Meeting attendees provided brief overviews of current projects underway by their agencies.

Item 8: Wrap-Up - Next Meeting and Announcements

The next TCFT Public Meeting will be held at the City/County of San Luis Obispo Public Library on April 29, 2004. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Margaret Roper from the Department of Fish and Game announced that the *Atlas of the Biodiversity of California* is now available for ordering. Visit <http://atlas.dfg.ca.gov/> for information and ordering or contact Rory Lang at (805) 568-3545 to request an order form. In addition, DFG has released the Restoration Grant Program: *California Coastal Salmon and Steelhead Restoration . . . shaping solutions through partnerships since 1981*, which is an overview of accomplishments in restoring salmon and steelhead.

Meredith Hardy announced that the Los Padres Center (San Luis Obispo) of the CCC is scheduled for closure on or around July 2004 due to state budget cuts. She asked TCFT participants to write letters of support for the local CCC and send them to decision makers in Sacramento in an effort to prevent this closure.

Meeting Handouts:

- Recovery Planning For West Coast Salmon
- California Fish Passage Assessment Database Tables for Ventura, SLO and Santa Barbara Counties
- Curriculum Survey
- CDFG Fisheries Restoration Grant Program: *California Coastal Salmon and Steelhead Restoration . . . shaping solutions through partnerships since 1981*
- Order Form: *Atlas of the Biodiversity of California*
- Fact Sheet: Closure of CCC's San Luis Obispo Center
- Operation Show the Love: Support effort for CCC's

To obtain meeting handouts, please contact Rory Lang at (805) 568-3545.