

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

**San Luis Obispo City/County Library  
995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo  
Community Meeting Room  
Thursday, January 27, 2005  
1:00 to 4:00**

**Minutes**

**Meeting Participants**

Stevie Adams, PSMFC  
Rob Almy, Santa Barbara County Water Agency  
Ben Boer, Cambria CSD  
Bruce Bonifas, CCC  
Mark Cassidy, Essex Environmental  
Jerry Czarnecki, Cachuma RCD  
Dennis Harper, Matilija Fly Fishers  
Rick Hawley, Greenspace  
Phillip LaFollette, CCC  
Rory Lang, Santa Barbara County Water Agency  
Marla Morrissey, Steelhead and Stream Recovery Coalition  
Cathy Murillo, Santa Barbara Independent  
Connie O'Henly, Central Coast Salmon Enhancement  
Jeff Peters, Questa Engineering  
David Pritchett, SoCal Steelhead Coalition  
Kate Rees, Cachuma Conservation Release Board  
Margaret Roper, DFG  
Stephanie Wald, Central Coast Salmon Enhancement  
Eric Wier, San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Lang called the meeting to order and welcomed the group to the meeting. All participants introduced themselves.

**Mission Creek Steelhead**

David Pritchett provided photos and video of the pair of steelhead trout that tried to spawn in Mission Creek in downtown Santa Barbara in January following heavy rainfall that yielded the highest creek flows in the region since 1998. Mr. Pritchett discussed their efforts to spawn in lower Mission Creek. The larger of the two fish was a mature female estimated at nearly 27 inches long. During the first day she was observed, she appeared to be digging out a redd in the gravel. The smaller fish was a 12-inch male fish and together they exhibited spawning behavior. However, no one saw any actual spawning before the fish disappeared, but the redd

did appear to show the gravel mounded up as if spawning had occurred and the fertilized eggs were covered. Photos and videos of the recent Mission Creek steelhead can be found on the Community Environmental Council site:

<http://www.communityenvironmentalcouncil.org/waterprograms/steelhead.htm>

**Questa Engineering/TCFT Permit Streamlining Project Overview**

The TCFT has begun a permit streamlining project based on requests from TCFT participants in April 2003. The project will use BMP Development efforts to provide a streamlined permitting process by developing a “menu” of BMPs that would be applicable within a designated geographic area and involves state and federal permitting agencies throughout the process to ensure that the BMPs meet their specifications.

Jeff Peters of Questa Engineering presented the draft Permit Streamlining Work Plan for the TCFT. The Work Plan contains eleven tasks to be completed for permit streamlining efforts – they include: Establishing a Subcommittee; Contacting Permitting Agencies; Determining Project Eligibility; Defining Authorized Activities; Determining Permitting Partners; Establishing a Permit Vehicle; Conducting Technical Studies; Developing a Planning and Reporting Process; Finalizing the BMPs; Determining a process for CEQA/NEPA Documentation; and Finalizing the Agreements.

A request was made for the preparation of a Permitting Matrix that would help with the selection of the activities to be covered by the permit, who would hold the permit and the type of permit to be sought. Several suggestions from TCFT participants were put forth including – finding a way for grant timelines to mesh with permit approval timelines, suggestions for different types of permit streamlining strategies used by RCDs, and the LA District of the Army Corps of Engineers, and the State of Pennsylvania; a broad approach that covers a wide range of projects; and a common application form accepted by all permitting agencies.

**TCFT Work Plan Revision and Development**

Ms. Lang provided an overview of the TCFT Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP); Department of Fish and Game 2004/2005 and Multi-Year Work Plans.

<b>1. BMP Development and Technical Training</b>		
Meet with Permitting Agencies on BMP report	In Progress	CIAP
Workshop Curriculum for BMPs 1-3	1 and 2 Complete – 3 In progress	CIAP
<b>2. Regional Restoration Projects Plan</b>		
Road Crossings and Barrier Assessment Framework and Protocol	In Progress, Grant request for assessments sent to DFG	CIAP/DFG
<u>Develop Region-wide Restoration Projects Inventory</u>	In Progress with PSMFC	CIAP
<b>3. Public Education and Outreach</b>		

Public and Youth Outreach Program	Posters and Flyers available for Public Events	CIAP
Salmon and Steelhead Awareness Month	Enacted in SLO and SB counties	CIAP
Media Outreach	N/A	CIAP
<b>4. Information Clearinghouse</b>		
TCFT Website	Complete for CIAP	CIAP
Information Sharing with Regional Agencies and Groups	Complete for CIAP	CIAP
<b>5. Administrative Support</b>		
Meeting Coordination	Complete for CIAP	CIAP
Contact List	Complete for CIAP	CIAP
<b>6. BMP Development, Permit Streamlining and Technical Training</b>		
Develop BMPs	In Progress	DFG
Technical Training Workshops	1 Complete – 2 <sup>nd</sup> workshop scheduled	DFG
Permit Streamlining Program Development	In Progress	DFG
Technical Training Curricula for newly developed BMPs	In Progress	DFG
<b>7. Regional Restoration Projects Plan</b>		
Prioritization Protocol	In Progress	DFG
Inventory Update	In Progress	DFG
Project Plan	Not started	DFG
<b>8. Public Education and Outreach</b>		
Educational Outreach	In Progress	DFG
Media Outreach	As needed	DFG
<b>9. Information Clearinghouse</b>		
TCFT Website	Updated Quarterly	DFG
Information Sharing	As needed	DFG
<b>10. Administrative Support</b>		
EC/Public Meetings	2 of 4 complete	DFG
Contact List	Updated regularly	DFG
Elections	Complete for 2005	DFG
Work Plan Development	In Progress	DFG
Reporting	In Progress	DFG

Suggestions from meeting participants regarding tasks that the TCFT could undertake to provide additional assistance to participants were requested for incorporation into an updated Multi-Year Work Plan. Some suggestions were:

- Provide a cooperative funding effort for permit streamlining
- Provide information sharing for Arundo removal efforts on the TCFT website
- Link efforts with other entities to provide support with regional permits for DFG.

- Provide a model letter for the development of a regional permit similar to LA District of the ACOE
- Conduct more outreach to private landowners in concert with other groups conducting these efforts
- Focus on moving forward with the regional restoration projects plan for barrier removal.

### **TCFT Election Review**

Ms. Lang announced the results of the 2005 election for the TCFT Executive Committee. 2005 EC Members include:

#### San Luis Obispo Representatives

Local Government – Eric Wier (County of San Luis Obispo)

Local Sponsoring Agency – Ben Boer (Cambria Community Services District)

Public Member – Richard Hawley (Greenspace, The Cambria Land Trust)

#### County of Santa Barbara

Local Government - Rob Almy (County of Santa Barbara)

Local Sponsoring Agency – Kate Rees (Cachuma Conservation Release Board)

Public Member – To be appointed.

#### County of Ventura

Local Government – Don Davis (City of Ventura)

Local Sponsoring Agency – John Johnson (Casitas Municipal Water District)

Public Member – Dennis Harper (Matilija Fly Fishers)

### **Participant Updates – (Brief 3-5 minute summary)**

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

### **Wrap-Up**

Ms. Lang announced the next meeting would be held on April 21, 2005 in Santa Barbara. In addition, the next TCFT BMP workshops would be held on April 26 and April 27 in San Luis Obispo.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:10 pm.