

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

**San Luis Obispo County Government Center
1055 Monterey Street, Room #271, San Luis Obispo
Thursday, October 27, 2005
1:00 to 3:00**

Minutes

Participants

Robert Almy, Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Russ Baggerly, Casitas Municipal Water District
Dennis Harper, Matilija Fly Fishers
Jeff Peters, Questa Consulting
Eric Wier, San Luis Obispo County Public Works
Kay Mercer, SLO/SB counties Watershed Coalition
Kate Rees, Cachuma Conservation and Release Board
Tim Robinson, Cachuma Conservation and Release Board
Tim Duff, California Coastal Conservancy
Neil Havlik, City of San Luis Obispo
Jeff Rodriguez, Central Coast RC&D Council
Matt McGoogan, NOAA/NMFS

Welcome and Introductions

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

Administrative Changes, Grants

Mr. Almy reported that a transfer of administrative responsibility from the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, the current administrator, to the County of Ventura has been approved by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and that the transfer will be made by July 1, 2006. Mr. Almy noted that the current grant offered by the State (2nd grant request to DFG for this program) was approved by the county of Santa Barbara and the contract executed. This grant provides funding through March 2007. The grant proposal that was submitted in the spring of 2005 (3rd grant request to DFG for this program) was applied for by the Santa Barbara County Water Agency but has been transferred into the name of Ventura County. The state will consider the 3rd grant in November.

The hard work by Steve Offerman, Ventura County Supervisor Bennett's Office, was noted and the TCFT members expressed their thanks to Steve.

Program Work Plan Overview

Jeff Peters, Questa Engineering, provided an overview of the current work program:

Existing Grant Status

This is the grant under which TCFT has been working for the last year. The current Questa contract is for \$85,000 and extends to August 2005; Questa has invoiced to date \$72,441.

2004-2005 Work Plan Status

- Update Regional BMPs: (95% complete), BMPs completed for:
 - a) Site clearing,
 - b) Bridge and low water crossing construction and maintenance,
 - c) Livestock grazingQuesta expects this document to undergo additional revisions as refinements in BMPs and format/presentation are incorporated.
- Permit Streamlining Work Plan and Agency Coordination (95% complete) (Draft Work Plan has been prepared assuming an approach which is a combination of RCD Permit Coordination Program, Fish and Game SF Bay Area Programmatic Permit, perhaps with annual work plan elements like the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District Maintenance Program Permit)

Jeff Rodriguez of the CCCRCD provided an overview of their proposal to the CCWQCB to prepare ag oriented permit streamlining in SLO and SB Counties. A comparison of the CCCRCD and TCFT concepts was outlined on the chalkboard (see attachment). Mr Rodriguez indicated that the CCWQCB will not consider their grant proposal until December and the actual start-up date is uncertain, probably not until sometime in CY 06.

Considerable discussion occurred about opportunities to make the two processes complementary. Mr Havlik urged caution in going too fast of taking on too much.

- Conduct Training Workshops (100% complete) three trainings were held:
 1. biotechnical bank stabilization,
 2. vegetation management, and
 3. fish friendly culvert design/retrofit
- Fish Passage Barrier Prioritization, (70% complete; Questa hopes to complete by January 2006)
 - a) methodology developed, reviewed last meeting, keystone barrier and watershed approach)
 - b) database compiled- waiting only on info. from Santa Clara River, expected in November, the Santa Clara team is compiling comments from NOAA. The results needed by TCFT are not available until the Conservancy releases the Final Report

Work Plan for new grant

This is the grant (DFG #2; "P0450013") which the County of Santa Barbara approved on October 11.

The Grant provides for expenditures during the period May 1, 2005- March 15, 2008.

- Total Fish and Game Grant is \$94,792.00
- Tri County FISH TEAM contribution is \$20,250.00

Major Work Tasks

- Update BMP Manual using existing BMP template (3 new BMPs by Jan. 2006)
 - a) basin/channel repair,
 - b) new channel design/construction,
 - c) earthwork/grading/riprap occurring along stream channel

Questa is aware of the need to be certain that BMPs remain relevant in the Tri-Counties area, and specifically where in the region.

- Continue Work on Permit Streamlining Program, (June 2006)
 - a) especially coordinate with Central Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council
 - b) Note that no new specific line item budget for this 2005-06!
- Conduct 2 training workshops
 - a) Bridge/low water crossing construction (Dec. 2005?)
 - b) Site clearing & livestock grazing (March 2006)
- Finalize Fish Passage Barrier Prioritization Report (Draft-Jan. 2006, Final April 2006)
- Prepare at least 4 grant requests for Barrier Removal/Restoration (by June 2006)
- Contract with Engineering Firm to plan/design at least 4 projects from priority list (by June 2006)
- Prepare educational materials, flyers for creek day- etc., update Creek Care guides (by Nov. 2005)
- Maintain website with info. items, links, TCFT workshops and publications, announcements, etc. (on-going task)
- Design/install Steelhead signs on important creeks (10 each County by Dec. 2005)

Due to the time needed to approve the contract and finish the work under the prior contract, some adjustment of the schedule in the "newly approved" grant (DFG # P0450013) will be necessary. Santa Barbara County and Ventura County will discuss the schedule with DFG staff.

Salmonid Restoration Conference in February

The Salmonid Restoration Federation is holding its "Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference" in Santa Barbara February 22 through 25, 2006. Several TCFT members have submitted papers and will participate. In addition, the City of Santa Barbara and the County are planning to hold their annual "Creek Week" at that time to take advantage of public interest. In addition to the conference, public outreach and a public forum are planned by local interests.

Participant Updates

Process discussion

Participants of the TCFT will implement a new meeting format to encourage more efficient meetings. The executive committee will hold consideration of any business (such as discussion of future grants, consultant contracts or changes to work plan schedule) until the end of the meeting so that all potential discussion may be heard and new attendees will have a better idea of any action proposed.

Wrap-Up

The next Public Meeting of the TCFT will be held Thursday, January 19th at 1:00 in Santa Barbara County. Mr. Almy will reserve a meeting space for this meeting.

Conceptual Comparison
Permit Streamlining

Scope of General Permit (Project Types)	Project Beneficiaries ("ownership")	"Master" Permit holder	Agency Process "streamlined"	Design Standards	Form	Geographic area
Farm Priorities: Bank stabilization Low water crossings	Land owners (private property)	RCD (With NRCS support)	USACOE, NOAA/NMFS, F&WS, CFG, RWQCB, CCC, Local Agencies	NRCS manuals	?Regional General Permit	San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties
Fish habitat improvement: Bank Stabilization Passage barrier modifications, vegetation control, sediment removal	Land owners, local agencies, NGOs	Counties and Cities	USACOE, NOAA/NMFS, F&WS, CFG, RWQCB, CCC, Local Agencies	NRCS, DFG manuals	?Regional General Permit	Ventura, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties