

MEMBER UNITS EXHIBIT NUMBER 30

To: Santa Ynez River Technical Advisory Committee
From: Scott Engblom, Project Biologist, March 18, 1997
Re: Minutes from the February 26, 1997 Meeting of the Santa Ynez River Technical Advisory Committee

Review of Long Term Study Plan

The TAC has begun a process of review of the long term study plan by using the Synthesis Report to evaluate the last three years of field work in the Santa Ynez River. The information in the Synthesis Report was compared with the questions the TAC is trying to answer in order to better focus the long term study plan to areas where we do not have enough information.

The Synthesis Report examines areas in the long term study plan that the Biological Subcommittee would like to look at further. A series of technical meetings were set up evaluate field protocol and methods of data collection. The following topics were/will be discussed at each meeting:

- February 8: Migrant trapping protocol and where to focus gaining access for migrant trapping
- February 25: Evaluation of management alternatives to fine tune the long term plan to answer management questions
- March 11: Habitat-flow relationship meeting to evaluate what information we have and what additional information needs collecting with respect to access issues
- March 20: Habitat monitoring and snorkel survey meeting discussing methods and field protocol
- March 25: Take all the information from the above meetings and make revisions to the long term plan and then begin implementation of the plan.

Access Issues

Kate Rees identified and contacted approximately 20 land owners along the mainstem and tributaries requesting permission for the biologists to conduct a variety of field work on each property. Kate Rees met with Nancy Crawford on January 27, 1997 to discuss access to the property. At the meeting, Nancy denied access to the tributaries on her property, namely upper Hilton Creek and San Lucus Creek, but deferred a decision regarding habitat and spawning surveys on the mainstem. Kate will be in touch with Nancy in late February for her decision on the biologists' minimum request on one full day's access to the mainstem sometime in March. If downstream WR 89-18 releases are made this summer, Nancy will make a decision at that time whether to allow access for habitat surveys under varying flow regimes. Although access efforts will continue, Kate is of the opinion that it is most likely Nancy will deny all access for the duration of the fish studies. Kate, therefore, recommended that the Biological Subcommittee not plan on data being available from the Crawford reach of the river, and suggested the long term study plan be reevaluated accordingly.

Palmer Jackson has allowed access to the mainstem portion of his property for the duration of the field studies, but denied access to Alisal and lower Quiota Creeks. Don Hanson has denied access to the upper portion of Quiota Creek. John Weister, who has been cooperative in the past in allowing access, has recently denied access. Access continues for the majority of the mainstem, Salsipuedes, San Miguelito, Nojoqui, Alamo Pintado, and lower Hilton.

Kate added that some of the owners have expressed concern over how they will be affected by decisions being made as a result of the fish studies. Their concern may be based on a lack of information being provided to them. Kate will arrange a meeting with a few property owners in order to give them an

opportunity to ask questions and gain additional information, particularly regarding the proposed steelhead listing. It was agreed that regulatory agencies should not participate and that the owners should indicate who they would like to attend a meeting.

John Turner of the Department of Fish and Game stated that State and Federal funds are available to pay for mitigation and enhancement programs (i.e., fencing stream banks, planting riparian vegetation) on privately owned property, and that land owners do not have to bear the entire financial responsibility. John Turner will inquire about success stories in California in order to inform and develop dialog between land owners and resource agencies.

Project Biologist Report

Upstream and downstream migrant trapping is continuing in the Santa Ynez River, Hilton, Nojoqui and Salsipuedes Creeks. Trapping activities have been expanded to San Miguelito and Alamo Pintado Creeks. Upstream trapping results include one migrant captured in the mainstem, ten captured in Hilton Creek, and two captured in Salsipuedes Creek. One downstream migrating juvenile exhibiting smolting characteristics was captured in Salsipuedes Creek. No spawning or redd building activities have been observed to date.

The thermograph network is being monitored on a monthly basis as recommended in the Synthesis Report. Bimonthly habitat typing of permanent mainstem survey locations was initiated in February.

Future field activities include: 1) Migrant trapping to continue through June 1997, 2) Habitat surveys of the tributaries to begin in March, 3) Continue biweekly spawning and redd surveys in the mainstem and tributaries.

Synthesis Report

In December, 35 copies of the Synthesis Report, and 30 copies of the executive summary were distributed to TAC and Consensus members. Comments from DFG, USFWS, Scott Engblom, and Craig Fusaro were received. A final version of the report will be out sometime in late-April, which will incorporate comments from the technical meetings and any additional comments from the TAC members. The goal is to have a report that reflects input from TAC members. All comments not incorporated in the Synthesis Report will be appended to the end of the document.

As work is continuing on the evaluation of the long term study plan chapter of the synthesis report, the management alternatives section of the Synthesis Report will be removed and turned into a separate document scheduled for completion by April 15.

Management Alternatives Report

The Biological Subcommittee met for a conference call on February 25 to discuss a range of potential management alternatives for the Santa Ynez River. The range of alternatives were broken down geographically between the mainstem and tributaries both below and above Bradbury Dam in relation to habitat enhancement, flow-related measures, fish passage, predator removal, and fish supplementation. The Biological Subcommittee will gather information on each management topic to determine its feasibility for the Santa Ynez River. Jean Baldrige will work with Chuck Hanson and Paul Forsberg to develop an organizational chart for prioritizing and screening management alternatives. The screening process should be completed sometime in April.

Plan for the Future

The technical meetings serve to insure that the Biological Subcommittee is looking at all the information available in order to make necessary changes to

the long term study plan. The long term study plan will then be used to focus data gathering activities in the basin until the year 2000.

AGENDA**COMBINED TAC/CONSENSUS
COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 20, 1997****Location: Goleta Sanitary District****Time: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm**

1. Project Biologist Report (Scott Engbloom)
2. Current Study Plans (Ramona Swenson)
3. Management Alternatives (Jean Baldrige)
4. Steelhead Listing (NMFS / F&WS)
5. Hilton Creek (Steve Edmondson)
6. Fish Account Status (Steve Edmondson)
7. Water Rights Releases (Jim McNamara)
8. Bradbury Dam Seismic Work (Gary Egan/Barry Longwell)
9. Next Meeting

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5. 11. 1997

MEETING MINUTES-JULY 11, 1996 CONSENSUS COMMITTEE MEETING

Agenda Item #5. Budget Approval (Steve Mack)

The budget was previously approved by CCRB. The Reclamations agreement with the FWS is not a line item in the budget. The ranges of alternatives are still within this budget report.

Greg Sanders provided a video presentation of the Fish Salvage Operation.

Agenda Item #6. Bradbury Dam Seismic Activities (Barry Longwell)

Excavation will be complete in 10-12 days. Placement of fill has started and will be on-going.

Agenda Item #7. Hilton Creek (Steve Edmondson)

Current release of 4 cfs at a temperature of approximately 14.9 degrees Centigrade at the outlet.

Agenda Item #8. Water Rights (James Mcnamara)

Reclamation does recognize the impacts of reduced releases. Parent District has provided draft for estimating impacts of reduced flows.

Agenda Item #9 Steelhead Listing (Steve Edmondson)

Final listing is scheduled for August 9, 1997. There is a draft agreement between the State and NMFS that is currently being negotiated.

To: Santa Ynez River Technical Advisory Committee

From: Scott Engblom, Project Biologist, August 11, 1997

Re: Minutes from the June 11, 1997 meeting of the Santa Inez River Technical Advisory Committee

1. Synthesis Report

The purpose of the Synthesis Report was to compile in one location the information collected from 1993 through 1996 and use that information to identify gaps in available data or areas where there was sufficient data collected. The long-term study plan would then be modified given the information provided in the Synthesis Report.

Written comments were received from members of both the TAC and Consensus Committee and incorporated into the latest draft of the Synthesis Report. Fifty copies of the revised executive summary were distributed to members of both the TAC and Consensus Committee for comment. Later this month, approximately 20 copies of the completed Synthesis Report will be distributed to interested members.

2. Long Term Study Plan Revisions and Management Alternatives Report

During this past spring a series of technical meetings were held between members of the TAC and Biological Subcommittee to address those areas in the Synthesis Report where there were gaps in data. Revisions were made to the Long Term Study Plan and copies distributed to the Biological Subcommittee for comment. Once comments are received, the revised Study Plan will be distributed to members of the TAC and Consensus Committee. The ultimate goal of the study plan is to provide information for management alternatives in the Santa Ynez River, and present those management alternatives to the State Water Resources Control Board in the year 2000. The Management Alternatives Report is an evolving document where alternatives are being addressed for feasibility in the Santa Ynez watershed. A preliminary draft will be distributed sometime in July. A draft Management Plan for the Santa Ynez River will be completed in March, 1998.

Upcoming studies in the short term include:

- Algae flushing study prior to WR 99-18 releases to determine what flows will remove algae and improve water quality in the river
- Habitat mapping during WR 89-18 releases using CDFG habitat mapping criteria to monitor changes in physical habitat at specific flows levels (50, 20, 10 cfs)
- Biannual snorkel surveys of the main stem and tributaries in the summer and fall only

3. Project Biologist Report

See attached

Additional information not included in the attachment is the observation Of *Young Of the Year* rainbow trout/steelhead in Hilton Creek and the section of the Santa Ynez River between Hilton Creek and the Long Pool. Although spawning surveys were conducted in the region, no redds were observed.

4. Design Criteria for Permanent watering system for Hilton Creek

Inlets have been identified at elevation 700.0 and 734.0 which could be used for a gravity feed of water into Hilton Creek-. Water removed from this elevation during the summer may be a too warm for rainbow trout/steelhead. Additional designs include placing a snorkel on the gravity feed system in order to remove water at a greater depth where water is cooler. This possibility is still being investigated. Water temperature data is being collected by the Bureau of Reclamation to determine the optimum temperature allowable for rainbow trout/steelhead in Hilton Creek during various times of the year.

Attachment I

Summary of February through June 1997 field activities Scott Engblom, Project Biologist

1. Migrant Trapping Results

Upstream and downstream trapping for migrating rainbow/ trout steelhead was conducted in the mainstem Santa Ynez River, in addition to Hilton, Alamo Pintado Nojoqui, Salsipuedes, and San Miguelito Creeks. Only downstream migrant traps were deployed in Alamo Pintado and San Miguelito Creeks due to low flows which precluded any upstream migration. All traps were removed between May and June due to insufficient water (except Salsipuedes).

Mainstem: One 16 inch upstream migrant captured on 1/4/97

Hilton: I I upstream migrants (average length 13.5) were captured between 1/24-2/8.

One additional migrant was captured in a pool habitat on 4/3.

Salsipuedes upstream migrants: 34 upstream migrants (average length 8.7 inches) were captured between 2/15-4/20.

Salsipuedes downstream migrants: I I downstream migrants (average length 6.7 inches) were captured between 2/8- 4/10.

San Miguelito downstream migrants: One downstream migrant 5.8 inches was captured on 4/28.

2. Spawning/Redd Surveys

Redd surveys were conducted in the mainstem between February-May 1997. No spawning activity was observed in the mainstem, Alamo Pintado Creek, or Nojoqui Creek during the surveys. However, extensive spawning activity was observed in several of the tributaries.

- Salsipuedes downstream of El Jaro Confluence: 24 redds between Santa Rosa Road bridge and the confluence (3/12-4/24).
- Salsipuedes upstream of El Jaro Confluence: 8 redds identified (3/12-3/18).

- El Jaro Creek: 12 redds identified from the confluence to Cross Creek Ranch (3/12-3/27)

- San Miguelito Creek: 50 redds identified in approximately two miles of creek (3/20/98).

2. PIT Tagging Program and Spill Basin Fish Removal

Rainbow trout/steelhead that were captured during fish removal operations in the long pool and spill basin were tagged with PIT tags to monitor fish movements in the SYR system. Four rainbow trout/steelhead were captured, tagged, and released in the long pool. One of the fish was found dead the following day.

An additional 11 rainbow trout/steelhead were captured during fish removal operations from the spill basin on April 6, 1997. Eight of the fish were successfully removed from the basin, tagged, and transplanted into Hilton Creek. One of the fish escaped into Hilton, while the two remaining fish died as a result of stress during the removal from the spill basin.

Well over a thousand warmwater fishes (largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, catfish, sunfish, crappie) were captured and relocated to Lake Cachuma. The Bureau of Reclamation is currently compiling these numbers.

3. Water Quality

Two temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles (5/14 and 6/2) were performed in Lake Cachuma. This data is used to determine water quality before and after water is pumped into Hilton Creek. Lagoon profiles were measured in May. The lagoon was briefly surveyed to determine likely monitoring locations for passive sampling of steelhead/rainbow trout.

4. 1997 Snorkel Surveys

Mainstem snorkel surveys were initiated in the first week of June 1997 to census fish occurrence in the SYR. The river is intermittent throughout the lower drainage with significant dry stretches in all study reaches except the Highway 154 reach. The Avenue of the Flap reach between Baldwin and Solvang is essentially dry. One rainbow trout/steelhead was observed in a pool unit in the Alisal reach. No other trout were observed in any other reach except the Highway 154

reach (Long Pool). Largemouth bass were observed in small numbers in pool habitats only in the Highway 154, Alisal, Weister, and Cargasachi reaches, Stickleback and Gambusia were observed in moderate to high numbers in each reach, mainly in pool habitats.

5. Thermograph Network

Monthly downloading of the thermograph network is continuing at all monitoring locations. Two additional sites were established in Hilton Creek, one near the discharge point, and the other at the confluence with the Santa Ynez River to monitor temperature conditions in the creek during summer. This data will be useful in developing operating criteria for the Hilton Creek Pump.

6. 1996 Compilation Report

The 1996 Compilation Report updates the Synthesis Report with data from August through December 1996. It is essentially complete with the exception of labeling the graphs and tables and revising the methods section. It will be completed when time permits.

7. Future Field Activities

1. Diurnal dissolved oxygen and temperature Profiles
2. Algae flushing flow study
3. Habitat mapping by CDFG during peak " 89-18 releases
4. Habitat monitoring at selected flows during WR 89-18 releases
5. Trapping the lagoon for steelhead using passive trapping techniques

SCC-413
ADM-10.00/ENV-4.10

AUG 14 1997


Santa Ynez River Fisheries Consensus Committee
(See Attached List)

Subject: Santa Ynez River Fisheries Consensus/Technical Advisory Committee Meeting -
Cachuma Project - Santa Barbara, California

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is the proposed Agenda for the next combined meeting of the subject committees. It is scheduled for August 20, 1997, at 9:30 am at the Goleta Sanitary Water District. The District is located at 1000 Fowler Road, Goleta CA 93117, across from the Santa Barbara Airport.

Sincerely,


Steven Edmondson
Environmental Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Enclosure

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AGENDA

COMBINED TAC/CONSENSUS MEETING

March 19, 1998 - MINUTES FROM 12-11-97 MEETING

Location: Goleta Water District
4699 Hollister Avenue
Goleta, CA (805-964-6761)

Time: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Proposed Agenda:

TAC

1. Project Biologist Report
2. Management Alternatives Report
3. Hilton Creek
- ?

CONSENSUS

4. Bradbury Dam Seismic Update
5. Steelhead Listing
6. Other?
7. Next Meeting

**Minutes of Combined
TAC/Consensus Meeting
December 11, 1997**

Tony Buelna opened the meeting at 9:35 am. The agenda was approved and introductions were made around the room.

TAC Committee

1. Project Biologist Report

A habitat/flow relationship study was conducted during the WR 89-18 releases. A total of 23 habitats were surveyed for thalweg elevations of water surface, channel bottom, width, depth, and velocity at 50 cfs, 35 cfs, and 10 cfs releases from Bradbury Dam. Aerial photos of Santa Ynez were flown 0 at 35 and 10 cfs release levels.

A snorkel survey was conducted in Hilton Creek on October 14, 1997. A total of 19 rainbow trout/steel head were observed in the creek, of which more than half were less than nine inches.

Four thermographs were deployed in the Upper Santa Ynez River to monitor water temperature conditions during the Gin Chow water releases. Thermographs were deployed in run and pool habitats between Los Prietos campground, and 1/4 mile downstream of Gibraltar Dam. Units were deployed from August 4 through August 29, 1997. Water from the 15 day 15 cfs release never reached Lake Cachuma.

Regular water quality monitoring in Lake Cachuma and the Santa Ynez River Lagoon has continued through November. In addition, a trapping study using passive capture techniques was conducted in the lagoon from August 19 through August 21, 1997. Capture results included large numbers of staghorn scuplin, herring, tidewater goby, largemouth bass, and bullhead, and small numbers of starry flounder, pacific halibut, smelt, and perch. No steel head were captured during the trapping program.

An application for a collection permit for scientific studies of endangered steel head was submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on August 18, 1997. The permit is expected to be issued sometime in mid-January 1998. In anticipation of receiving the collection permit, trapping equipment has been shuttle to trapping sites and is waiting deployment.

A meeting has been scheduled on December 18, with Tom Hablett of NMFS to possibly expedite the issuing of the permit.

2. Management Alternatives Status Report

Comments were still being received for the screening and ranking of alternatives for the November draft of the Management Alternatives Report. A meeting will be scheduled in Santa Barbara (January 13) and Sacramento (January 15) with members of the Biological

Subcommittee to clarify and discuss the screening and ranking of alternatives which have the best change to benefit fishery resources. The final draft of Management Alternatives Report will be distributed to the TAC in March. This report will set the stage for the first draft of the Management Plan, which is scheduled for early June.

3. Future Study Plans

We are still awaiting approval by NMFS of the collection permit needed to allow trapping and handling of southern steel head. Based on the jobs outlined in the long term study plan, the only activity that can be conducted without a collection permit is the red survey to document spawning of rainbow trout/steel head. Migrant trapping equipment is currently ready on-site, pending approval of the permit. Additional work planned for the coming year include: monthly monitoring of temperature conditions through the thermograph network, analysis of the habitat/flow information collected during the WR 80-18 releases, southern steel head specific habitat requirement criteria, diel water quality conditions and possibly algae flushing studies in the summer, and snorkel surveys conducted two times/year (June and October). The TAC field crew will regularly monitor (3x/week) the lagoon for breaching and closure in order to determine the time frame when steel head can enter and exit the system.

4. Hilton Creek Siphon

The preferred design for the permanent pipeline is a system that uses the gate well, which includes a bifurcation with two discharge points, one at the upstream end of the BOR property, and the other at the potential passage barrier. The capacity of each pipe will be approximately 10.0 cfs. A design criteria along with specific biological questions regarding siphon operations will be drafted by Steve Edmondson and provided to the Biological Subcommittee for comment within the week.

The temporary watering system into Hilton Creek was proposed to end by December 31, 1997. If no background flows are present in Hilton Creek, the BOR will develop a ramping schedule to stimulate fish to leave the creek. In addition to the ramping schedule, a fish rescue program will also be implemented to relocate any stranded fish in Hilton Creek downstream to the long pool.

Consensus Committee

Tony Buelna briefed everyone on the current status of the Seismic construction work. Earth fill was currently at elevation 560. Another 30 feet of height required to complete the stability berm. There was actually another 10 to 14 working days needed to complete the work.

Tony Buelna explained the status of the Fish water account. Two handouts were referred to showing water quantities released from Bradbury Dam to date and the process used by Reclamation. When the TAC called for water to be released, it was credited to the fish account; however, if the water rights holder (SYRWCD) called for their water the accounting was switched to water rights. There was a long discussion by several people concerned with the process that Reclamation used. Jean Baldrige stated it was inappropriate to credit fish water releases to the fish account without the Biological subcommittee calling for that water. Tony

responded that he then needed a daily call (Telephone/fax) to ensure he knew when to shut it off. Art Kidman stated he had read Reclamation's written accounting paper and although it resulted in a "no harm, no foul" this year, there was a serious concern that Reclamation was jeopardizing the MOU process. Tony responded that the TAC needed to develop a Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) to be used for the fish account water releases.

Mikhail Ogawa of Santa Barbara County Water Agency spoke for Rob Almy on the status of the reservoir surcharge issue. He stated the County had signed an agreement with Reclamation to conduct the research study. Tony was asked about the time schedule. He stated Phase I was to develop a cost estimate. Phase II was to run the hydrology. He asked who would complete the required NEPA? Steve Edmondson stated the existing EIS/EIR (1995) could be used and tiered off from if a discussion of the surcharging was in the document. Chris Dalhstrom stated he was sure it was discussed. Someone stated there was a need to surcharge the reservoir this coming April 1998. A discussion surrounded the urgency of completing the environmental documentation prior to Spring 1998.

Steve Edmondson brought everyone up to date on the current status of formal section 7 consultation with NMFS. An initial letter will be used for the Cachuma Project. However, separate consultation will be conducted with NMFS on 5 projects (Bradbury Dam, Twitchell Dam, Casitas Dam, San Luis Dam, and Los Banos Dam). He stated a separate section 7 consultation would be conducted for the introduction of State of California water through CCWA facilities into Lake Cachuma.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 19, 1998.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.