

# Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee

## Don Pedro Project – FERC License 2299

Modesto Irrigation District  
Turlock Irrigation District  
City & County of San Francisco  
California Department of Fish & Wildlife  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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### TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

12 DECEMBER 2019 AT 9:30 AM

Turlock Irrigation District, Room 152

#### *MEETING NOTES*

#### 1. INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Participants made self-introductions
- Allison Boucher announced that she had received \$250,000 grant funding for Phase III of Bobcat Flat.
- Cramer Fish Sciences is working for the Zanker Family on their river restoration project. The project is on the DWR contingency list.
- JD Wikert announced that Mark Guard is retiring from USFWS and going to work for CDFW.
- JD Wikert announced that the Otolith Study has been published and that he also has a copy of the Cramer Fish Sciences Radio Tracking of Juveniles report. JD to send by email to Patrick Maloney for posting to the TAC website.
- Gretchen Murphey announced that she can send a copy of the Harrison et.al. Riffle Study where use by salmonids was examined.
- Gretchen Murphey announced that she had been promoted to the position of Senior Water Specialist. Gretchen stated that she would continue to work on the Tuolumne River flow schedule with JD Wikert, Patrick Maloney and Monica Gutierrez.
- JD Wikert noted that the Salmon Festival was a success.
- Patrick Maloney announced that three floats occurred during the peak of spawning and that all went well, though two paddlers tested the water temperature.
- Brook Watkins announced that she is now working on the Riverine Stewardship program under Kristine Atkinson at DWR.
- Allison announced that the Trust had applied for DWR grant funding and that they are working with McBain and Flow West.
- Maggie Boberg announced that River Partners is working on a grant at the Grayson property and one at Dos Rios/Hidden Valley Ranch.
- The East Stanislaus RCD submitted a grant application to DWR for a project that is intended to remove invasive plants from numerous locations along the lower river.
- Chris Guptill announced that the temporary homeless shelter under 9<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge is being removed and cleaned up. He also noted that between 160 and 180 beds are being set up at the Bavarian Shelter and that the Salvation Army and Kansas House Shelters are open.
- JD Wikert suggested that a group float be conducted with the purpose of cleaning up a section of the river through Modesto. Chris Guptill supports a summer float for this type of event.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

- Review/revise agenda –
- Jason Guignard asked that the September Notes be revised to show that the catfish caught in the Dos Rios area was actually a Blue catfish and that its weight was 61lbs.

3. MONITORING/REPORTS:

- Jason Guignard noted that weir data showed that 2089 salmon had passed the weir to date and that only 11% were ad clipped. In addition, one Chum salmon had passed the weir as well as one O. mykiss, though it was less than 16 inches in total length. Jason also noted that the CDFW CWT data report indicated that the majority of hatchery fish found on the Tuolumne were from the Mokelumne and Merced River Hatcheries, although all local hatcheries were represented.
- JD Wikert noted that the Stanislaus was running around 4000cfs due to encroachment.
- Jason Guignard stated that redd surveys were ongoing and conducted bi-weekly and even though turbidity was up last week surveys were successful.
- Peasley Creek was noted to be quite turbid during the rain events of last week.
- Gretchen noted that secchi depth was between 3 ½ and 4 feet during the rain events of last week.
- RST's will be deployed by Fishbio on or around January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Gretchen has some data from the otolith study that indicated some of the smolts captured at Mossdale are from the Tuolumne. A request for the report will be made by Patrick for posting to the TAC website.
- Gretchen noted that carcass surveys are ongoing. Additionally, she mentioned that she had found 2 deceased unspawned O. mykiss in the 480mm range.

4. FLOW OPERATIONS:

- TID will be working with CDFW, USFWS and NOAA to schedule spring pulse flows. Fishbio will be kept informed of all changes to the flow schedule in order to prevent problems with weir, RST and seine operations.
- Wayne adjusted the snorkel survey data set in order to more precisely group O. mykiss. This changed the number of O. mykiss >150mm in Riffle 2 from 8 to 10.
- Gretchen asked to be notified if flows will be increasing to above 450cfs on Mondays.
- TID will attempt to keep pre-flood release flows below 4,000cfs in order to prevent scouring.
- TID will look into varying daily peak flows during pre-flood releases in order to prevent spawning on flood plains.
- If pre-flood releases occur and 800cfs is required, then it was suggested that we day step from ~400cfs to 800cfs.
- If it occurs that Dry Creek is flowing at ~1,500cfs and the Tuolumne is making pre-flood releases in the order of 2,000cfs, Chris Guptill requested that TID reduce flows to around 500cfs until Dry Creek flushes out. The goal would be to keep the Tuolumne below 2,000cfs so as not to blow out foot trails etc. in the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge area.
- Allison suggested that we add, "How flow impacts gravel movement" to the Agenda for the next meeting.

5. AGENCY/NGO UPDATES: NONE

6. ADDITIONAL ITEMS: NONE

7. NEXT MEETING DATE: MARCH 12, 2020

### **TRTC Meeting Attendees**

	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organization</u></b>
1.	Patrick Maloney	TID
2.	Allison Boucher	TRC
3.	JD Wikert	USFWS
4.	Gordon Enas	MID
5.	Jason Guignard	Fishbio
6.	Roger Masuda	Griffith & Masuda
7.	Brook Watkins	DWR
8.	Bernard Aguilar	CDFW
9.	Gretchen Murphey	CDFW
10.	Chris Guptil	9 to 99
11.	Noah Hume	SWS
12.	Wayne Swaney	SWS (by phone)
13.	Maggie Boberg	River Partners (by phone)
14.	Fred Meyer	McBain Assoc. (by phone)
15.	Peter Drekmeier	TRT (by phone)
16.	Daniel Nylén	River Partners (by phone)
17.	Michael Kwong	State Parks (by phone)