

# 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

MARCH 16, 2023 AT 9:30 AM

VIA ZOOM

#### *SUMMARY*

#### 1. INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Participants made self-introductions, a list of attendees follows.
- Gretchen Murphey advised that with the high flows through the summer, river restoration will be challenging.
- Allison Boucher said that in 2011 they worked in flows over 3,000cfs for the entire period and the flows go down the last week of September which when they can build the riffles. Contractor is ready to do it again and is happy for the high flows because it will help with his turbidity limitation. Discussion followed.

#### 2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

- Today's agenda and notes from the December 2022 meeting were reviewed and corrections made and approved.

#### 3. MONITORING REPORTS:

- Chrissy Sonke went over the monitoring reports, weir status, RST monitoring, Rotary Screw Trap & Seining. Discussion took place.
- Chrissy will update graphs and send to Pat and he will send out to the group.
- Wayne Swaney advised that the FERC report is on schedule and the summer monitoring reports & thermograph downloads will most likely be postponed until September due to high flows.

#### 4. FLOW OPERATIONS:

- Pat Maloney went over the Daily Monitoring Report, Current Watershed Conditions, Runoff & Flow Volume Forecasts, Tuolumne River Flow Schedule and Spring Flow Schedule. Discussion took place.
- Stephanie Millsap asked if there might be some way to proactively work with all agencies to get a variance with the Core to hold onto some of the water to be able to do a fall pulse flow later in the season past the October 7<sup>th</sup> date. There would be greater biological and temperature benefits to bring fish into the system. Discussion followed.
- Pat shared the Infiltration Gallery & SRWA photos and Projects updates.
- Stacie Smith advised that the long term operations plan still hasn't been submitted and is required.
- Pat will advise Bill Penney.
- Peter Drekmeier said that while we are waiting for the details on the new Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement, that there was some preliminary information suggesting there would be

about \$64 million of investments and of that \$13 million was associated with the infiltration gallery and he is curious how that \$13 million would be spent.

- Noah Hume said that he believes that might have been for a second infiltration gallery, to build additional capacity for higher summer base flows.
- Pat Maloney concurred and said he does not know where that stands or where the \$13 million was allocated and will look into it.

5. AGENCY/NGO UPDATES:

- Kevin Marr advised they have submitted 65% of designs to DWR and comments were provided for the Basso La Grange Project. They are still reviewing the monitoring & maintenance plan and hope to have those comments out to TRT soon. Also the CEQA exemption justification has been submitted and they are working on how to concur with CDFW on that.
- Chrissy Sonke advised that the water levels on the Tuolumne are too high for overhead at Waterford so they had to take it down for safety purposes and they are trying to figure out a backup plan to secure the trap.
- Chris Diviney asked if we can plan on another 9,000cfs for a few weeks.
- Pat advised that we are actively reacting to the Dry Creek flows so this will be extended most likely until September, but not necessarily at 9,000cfs. Discussion followed.
- Kevin Marr asked how the Dennett Dam removal project is holding up.
- Pat advised that prior to the flood event it looked fantastic.
- Chris Guptill said that the two outfalls on both sides of the 9<sup>th</sup> St. Bridge from the south side have carved fairly large gashes down toward the river, about 10' to 15' deep. The east side is worse than the west side with significant erosion. Discussion followed.
- Kevin Marr advised that the Fish Passage Project received a \$6 million grant to continue the study of reintroducing winter run chinook above the Shasta reservoir.

6. ADITIONAL ITEMS:

- none

7. NEXT MEETING DATE: JUNE 8, 2023

**TRTAC Meeting Attendees**

	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organization</u></b>
1.	Patrick Maloney	TID
2.	Dana Ortolan	TID
3.	Chris Diviney	CDFW
4.	Gretchen Murphey	CDFW
5.	Suzanne Deleon	CDFW
6.	Peter Drekmeier	TRT
7.	Stephanie Milsap	USFWS
8.	Kevin Marr	DWR
9.	Wayne Swaney	SWS
10.	Noah Hume	SWS
11.	Allison & Dave Boucher	TRC
12.	John Mauterer	MID
13.	Fred Meyer	McBain & Associates
14.	Chris Gupstill	9 to 99
15.	Bella Cardenas	ESRCD
16.	Chrissy Sonke	FishBio
17.	Jon Ambrose	NMFS
18.	Hilary Glenn	NMFS
19.	Stacie Smith	NMFS