

Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee

Don Pedro Project – FERC License 2299

Modesto Irrigation District
Turlock Irrigation District
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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 AT 9:30 AM

VIA ZOOM

SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Participants made self-introductions, a list of attendees follows.
- J. D. Wikert announced that the Stanislaus River Salmon Festival will take place on 11/11/23 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- Andrea Hamilton announced that construction on Bocat Flat is scheduled to go through the first week of October. She will send out the suitable habitat appendix for Reclamation.
- Chris Guptil announced that on October 14th there will be a river cleanup in conjunction with CA Climate Corp, where they will also be removing invasive species in preparation for Rec Fest. Rec Fest is a free family event scheduled for 10/21/23 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

- Today's agenda and notes from the June 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- J. D. Wikert asked Pat to send out a full calendar year of invites for future meetings and Pat agreed to do so.
- Peter Drekmeier advised that the State Water Board adopted the Biological Goals baseline for the lower Tuolumne, San Joaquin and Merced rivers. Also the Paddle with the Salmon trips are coming up the first two weekends in November.

3. MONITORING REPORTS:

- Pat Maloney advised that the routine snorkel surveys will be postponed due to the high water levels and the thermographs will be available to download after the fall pulse.
- Chrissy Sonke advised that this week they have been putting in at the weir and the panels are in and should be on-line today. They plan to do redd surveys prior to the fall pulse, probably in the next two weeks. They just completed calculations for the juveniles out migration for 2023 and the numbers came back a lot better than they have in the last few years. Waterford came back at 176,967 juveniles and Grayson, after three years of not being able to do an estimate because of so few fish, came back at 56,858. This is about a 32% survival rate.
- Pat Maloney shared data and photos for the ramp down study for the cottonwood/willow recruitment and discussion followed.

4. FLOW OPERATIONS:

- Peter Drekmeier asked if there is any chance that the fall pulse will be higher and Pat advised that it will be.
- Pat Maloney shared the Final Basin Index, the Annual Fish Flow Volume and the Fall Flow Schedule. Discussion followed.

5. AGENCY/NGO UPDATES:
 - Chris Guptil shared that they have noticed issues with large, mature cottonwood trees. They have been dying or have browning of leaves that occurred soon after the high water receded between the 9th Street Bridge and 7th Street Bridge.
 - Andrea Hamilton will reach out to John to see if he has any information regarding this.
 - Pat Maloney asked Peter if they will be starting the upstream project next summer. Sara Sacks advised that they will be starting next summer, if conditions allow.
6. ADDITIONAL ITEMS:
 - none
7. NEXT MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2023

TRTAC Meeting Attendees

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1.	Patrick Maloney	TID
2.	Dana Ortolan	TID
3.	Bernard Aguilar	CDFW
4.	Peter Drekmeier	TRT
5.	Sara Sacks	TRT
6.	CeCe Hurst-Hart	TRT
7.	J. D. Wikert	USFWS
8.	John Mauterer	MID
9.	Andrea Hamilton	McBain & Associates
10.	Chris Guptill	9 to 99
11.	Chrissy Sonke	FishBio
12.	Chris Carr	State Water Board
13.	Stephen Louie	State Water Board